

# S'pore 'can play bigger role in Asia's energy sector'

By ALVIN FOO

SINGAPORE could add to its position as an energy trading hub to become the centre of operational excellence for Asia's energy sector, said a newly appointed sector expert at KPMG.

The country could also play a more significant role in energy financing and thought leadership for the region, noted Mr Pek Hak Bin, head of KPMG's energy and natural resources practice here.

He told The Straits Times: "We can be more than an energy trading hub. We can also play a bigger role in pursuing operational excellence for the industry in Asia."

Areas covered by this wider role include helping energy firms improve refinery operational performance, enabling them to better understand their supply chain, and gaining stronger access to regional markets, said Mr Pek, 48.

Other aspects involved include risk management and managing the construction of mega-petrochemical plants.

Mr Pek, who stepped down as country president of oil major BP Singapore last month to join KPMG, has about 20 years of experience in the oil and gas sector.

Mr Tham Sai Choy, managing partner at KPMG in Singapore, said: "Hak Bin brings with him a wealth of experience in the oil and gas sector. With his strong credentials as a finance and industry specialist, he will help deepen and broaden the range of services we offer our clients."

Mr Pek will lead the KPMG energy



**KPMG's Mr Pek said Singapore could play a more significant role in energy financing and thought leadership for the region.**

team to provide consulting, business transformation, risks management, performance improvement and mergers and acquisitions and market research services to clients in the Asia-Pacific region.

One key area of his responsibility is overseeing the new KPMG Global Energy Institute for the Asia-Pacific region.

Based in Singapore, the institute is the first regional expansion of the original institute in the United States.

It will serve as a knowledge-sharing platform, through which KPMG's pool of energy specialists can reach out to the sector.

Mr Pek said: "The Asia-Pacific region sees the fastest consumption of energy, ahead of Europe... it makes sense for us to focus on Asia."

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