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REPORTER:	Farouk Abdel Aziz



PRIME Minister Sherif Ismail during his talks with Iraqi and Jordanian oil ministers in Cairo, yesterday.

Egypt, Iraq, Jordan poised to implement gas deal

Farouk Abdel Aziz

EGYPT, Iraq and Jordan yesterday discussed implementation of a gas deal signed last November under which Baghdad would supply the other two countries with its surplus of crude oil and natural gas.

The Egyptian, Iraqi and Jordanian oil ministers held expanded talks yesterday to push forward oil co-operation between the three countries and to boost oil and gas projects.

During the meeting, the three ministers discussed how best to export Iraqi crude oil to Egypt and Jordan through a pipeline connecting the Iraqi city of Basrah to the Jordanian port of Aqaba. Oil Minister Tarek el-Mulla said that the gas pipeline would be extended to the Iraqi city of Ramaila and on to the Jordanian city of Ma'an which would supply gas to Egypt through the Arab Gas Pipeline. Egypt and Jordan are linked by the Arab Gas Pipeline built originally for export flows from Egypt.

The Iraqi and Jordanian ministers also held a meeting with Prime Minister Sherif Ismail yesterday. During the meeting, they said that the project would be carried out in accordance with a set schedule and it would bolster development and provide more job opportunities for young people in the three Arab countries.

Oil Minister el-Mulla said that a slew of recent gas deals would raise production levels and allow the country to stop importing by 2020.



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