

# DAILY ENERGY MARKETS FORUM

## NEW SILK ROAD



Consultancy  
Intelligence  
Publishing

## EXCLUSIVE SERIES

# VIEWS YOU CAN USE

**Laury Haytayan**  
**MENA Director**  
**Natural Resource Governance Institute**



### High oil prices are exacerbating the pressure on Lebanon to fund its fuel needs.

Our power issue has been a problem for 20 years and the shortage of dollars in the country today means we're now seeing the consequences of that. Our ambition today is not to have 24-hour government grid electricity, but just five or six hours, in order to minimize the use of private generators. These use diesel which is no longer subsidized and so getting very costly for individuals.

### Has the Lebanese government agreed on an approach for an IMF rescue plan?

The government is drafting a plan to present to the IMF, but many politicians aren't interested in this. Instead, they are trying to highlight the humanitarian crisis, hoping that the money which comes in to solve that will remove some of the pressure on resolving the financial crisis. We also have General Assembly elections in March next year so no political party wants to take unpopular, hard decisions on increasing taxes and removing subsidies today. They're hoping that getting humanitarian aid will be sufficient to hold people in place.

### Any progress on Lebanon developing its gas reserves in the Eastern Med

Not really. Efforts have differed from country to country in this regard. Egypt for example has never stopped working on this and Israel can't find an export market for the gas it's producing. We need to create synergies to export Eastern Med gas both to the region and beyond but this requires collaboration. So far, the region has been reactive rather than planning for the long term. ■

*\*Paraphrased comments*

**Series Supported By:**



Copyright © 2021 GULF INTELLIGENCE FZ LLC. All Rights Reserved.

Registered at Dubai Creative Clusters Authority. Registered Address: DMC 9, Office 310, Dubai Media City, PO Box 502466, Dubai, UAE.