



Force of good' Shell working to keep its nose clean

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Safety comes before money – that is the motto in Shell's top office, a visiting company boss said yesterday.

The Singapore-based executive vice-president of Shell Integrated Gas, Maarten Wetselaar, is in Taranaki for the company's worldwide safety day today.

Among the benefits the gas industry brought to the region, safety was the most important, he said.

"We work with the very highest standards in both safety and environment.

"If we don't get that right there'll be no dollars to discuss."

As well as safe practice, the gas industry brought direct and indirect jobs into Taranaki and made the region a stage for high-tech cutting-edge processes, he said. But safety could always be improved, he said.

In his visit to the Maui A platform today he will discuss how un-

necessary it is to have accidents and how easy it is to prevent them.

"It's not so much to try and find fault but to engage with people on the front line. What is their feeling on safety, how do they integrate it into their work and how do we support them?"

"We've been here 120 years globally, and our licence to exist another 120 years will come from the continued acceptance from society that we are a force of good.

"That can only come with top quality environmental performance."

Oil and gas are dangerous substances but Shell sites are clean and the aim was always to be cleaner, he said.

Mr Wetselaar said Shell employees in Taranaki were running an operation they should be rightly proud of.

He said skills cultivated in the Taranaki gas industry were

sought after by Shell operations worldwide.

"Taranaki is a long-established business for us for more than 55 years. New Zealand is an exporter of talent into the rest of the Shell group."

Mr Wetselaar said the number of exciting exploration opportunities in New Zealand over the coming years had the potential to turn New Zealand from self-sufficient into an exporter.

He said global energy demand is expected to have doubled in 2050 from the start of the century.

"Even if solar, wind and biofuels grow really fast and nuclear makes up 10 per cent, they will struggle to keep up with demand.

"By 2030 the gas business will be 60 per cent bigger."

He said gas was the cleanest option for consumers in Asia, where air quality was a major problem.



Maarten Wetselaar:
Executive vice-president of Shell Integrated Gas.



On board: Shell's Maarten Wetselaar will visit the Maui A platform today. Photo: FAIRFAX NZ