

Pakistan, India discuss gas pipeline project

Pakistan and India Thursday held discussions on various issues, including price and security, on a proposed multi-million tri-nation pipeline project that seeks to bring Iranian gas to India.

The Pakistan and India Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting, which began Thursday, was attended by Iranian petroleum experts as observers, Online news agency reported.

While Indian Petroleum Secretary M.S Srinivasan led a 10-member delegation, the Pakistani side was led by Secretary Petroleum Ahmed Waqar. Ahmed Mukhtar, adviser to the prime minister for energy, also attended.

The meeting reviewed the progress of the pipeline project and discussed the laying of pipes, transit fee and issues relating to security of the pipeline from the Iranian border to India.

A joint statement is to be issued at the concluding session of the talks Friday.

India Wednesday banned the export of nuclear equipment and technology to Iran that could contribute to its nuclear weapons programme. But the talks on the pipeline indicate it is keen to go ahead with the project despite US opposition.

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