

# *Historic Oil Meeting in Cuba Set for October*

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Havana, July 28 (RHC) -- A first-of-its kind oil summit in Cuba organized by U.S. energy-industry heavy hitters is expected in October, media in the U.S. announced.

The meeting, set for Havana from October 18-21, comes amid the re-establishment of diplomatic links between the U.S. and Cuba, and the expected loosening of trade and financial sanctions on the Caribbean island.

"The symposium is both historic and unique, the first-ever bringing together of high-level experts and leaders from the U.S. to join in discussion with parallel experts and leaders in Cuba and other Gulf and Caribbean nations," reads the mission statement of the Safe Seas -- Clean Seas conference.

It is organized by two former high-ranking executives of the International Association of Drilling Contractors -- Lee Hunt and Brian Petty -- former president and executive vice president of global government affairs for the trade group.

Hunt and Petty said the purpose of the conference is to work on establishing uniform environmental and safety policies for offshore drilling throughout the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea.

Although, the future of bilateral economic relations looks brighter now, experts involved in the event say the more than 50-year-old economic blockade on Havana still bars efforts for closer cooperation in the

energy field and other areas.

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