

EUROPEAN REGION NEWSLETTER

Unlocking the Future



December 2008, Vol. 3

<http://www.aapg.org/europe/newsletters/index.cfm>

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Instructions to authors

Editorial correspondence and material submitted for publication should be addressed to the Editor to hmatias@repsol.com. All materials should be sent by the 15th of the month before issue publication. All submissions are subject to editorial review and revision.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Readers,

The Late General DeGAULLE, one of the most charismatic political leaders of Europe in the second half of the 20th Century, when asked what had been the greatest challenge in his life replied:

"To govern a country with almost 365 different types of cheese".

Looking at developments of the global economy in the past months, including the oil industry, a modified version of this "bon mot" came to my mind and certainly to most of the industry executives' minds:

"How to govern an industry with future projects spanning five to thirty years in an economic and financial environment producing a seventy percent drop in oil price within 6 months".

Recently it has been an amusing experience for me to watch a DVD summary of the keynote presentations of the 19th World Petroleum Congress (Madrid, June 2008) with lengthy lamentations about the damaging impact of the actual 160USD/barrel and future 200 USD/barrel oil price on the world's economy... and go back to the hotel and watch the BBC Newsreel with a dramatic report about the adverse impact of the extraordinary low oil price 50 USD/barrel.

Additionally, senior management of oil companies needs to cope with the impact of the financial crisis

combined with extra taxes ("Robin Hood" tax) imposed by a number of governments chasing cheap popularity. Everybody swears that there will be no return to short term solutions, but realistically thinking, survival in such an environment demands a reconsideration of corporate plans including CAPEX and OPEX. Unfortunately the usual first and fastest step is a drastic reduction of "soft money", including business trips and conference budgets. It is predictable, that this situation will have an impact upon scientific organizations including but not limited to the AAPG.

In this situation, it is very probable that the larger conferences with more general topics will suffer more than the specific events focusing on a particular technical subject or geographical area, as well as training courses. We have to encourage the decision makers of the need to retain skilled professionals and to keep on training young professionals. It must be made clear, that the dramatic shortage of skilled professionals endangers a smooth "crew change" and only a short term reduction in demand for their knowledge and skill will result from a temporary drop in the number of new projects. Furthermore, the number of new projects can not be kept low for a long time without risking the supply of oil and gas in 10 to 15 years time.

The first reactions of responsible leaders in the oil industry are in line with the above mentioned principles, they want to maintain long term goals, recruitment, training and education.

We have to support them to do so. ■

István BÉRCZI
 President 2007-2009
 AAPG European Region



Geosequestration of CO₂

John G. Kaldi

Cooperative Research Centre of Greenhouse Gas Technologies (CO2CRC)
Australian School of Petroleum, The University of Adelaide

Fossil fuels such as coal, oil and natural gas, currently supply around 85 per cent of the world's energy needs, and according to predictions by the International Energy Agency, will continue to do so for many years to come. However, the burning of fossil fuels is a major source of CO₂, the gas most blamed for the increased concentration of greenhouse gases (GHG) in the atmosphere. Such GHG build-ups are linked to rapid, human-induced climate change, leading to growing public demand for reduction of atmospheric GHG emissions. Most anthropogenic CO₂ is emitted by coal fired power plants, though significant additional CO₂ is emitted from production and separation of large CO₂ – rich oil and gas accumulations, cement and mineral processing plants. Carbon management planning will have to include not only the technical aspects of carbon capture, transportation and storage but also issues of public acceptance, environmental, regulatory and liability constraints and the economics associated with carbon management

There are various suggested options for global GHG reductions, including improving the conservation and efficiency of energy use; utilising non-fossil energy forms such as renewables (solar, wind, tidal, nuclear) and increasing the uptake of Carbon Capture and Storage (also known as Geosequestration). Whilst no one technology will be the "silver bullet" solution to make the necessary reductions to GHG buildups, a portfolio comprising all the options will be the most likely response.

Geosequestration is technology that exists today and can be deployed commercially to make significant cuts in GHG emissions. Geosequestration involves the long-term storage of captured CO₂ emissions in subsurface geologic formations. The technology comprises a number of steps: first, the CO₂ is captured at the source (eg a power plant or gas production facility); the captured CO₂ is then compressed to a supercritical state and transported, typically via pipeline, from the source to the geologic storage site; next, the CO₂ is injected via conventional wells into the geologic reservoir; and, finally, the CO₂ is stored (trapped) in the geologic reservoir, where any movement is

carefully monitored and the quantity stored is regularly verified. Commercial-scale geosequestration projects already exist in several places around the world. One has been in operation at Statoil's Sleipner Field in the Norwegian North Sea since 1996. Other fields of note include Algeria's In Salah Field (operated by BP, Statoil and Sonatreh) and Encana's Weyburn Field in Saskatchewan, Canada, which is using CO₂ for EOR operations. At present, a demonstration-scale geosequestration project (the CO2CRC Otway Project) is in progress in Victoria, Australia where a total of 100,000 tonnes of CO₂ is being injected into a depleted gas field.

The storage of CO₂ involves keeping the CO₂ secured deep underground in an appropriate geologic formation. The main geological conditions for this include: a porous and permeable reservoir rock, a trap, and an impermeable caprock. Expertise in locating such formations is well established within the exploration side of the oil and gas business, and geoscientists and engineers utilise mature technology to identify and evaluate specific sites for their geosequestration potential. Each site is evaluated for its potential storage capacity, its potential injectivity and containment properties so as to ensure that conditions for safe and effective long-term storage are present.

Since the injected CO₂ is originally less dense than the formation water, it will naturally rise to the top of the reservoir, and a trap is needed to ensure that it does not reach the surface. The most common traps found in Australia are structural (anticlinal or fault juxtaposition), stratigraphic (pinchout of reservoir rock against non-reservoir) or hydrodynamic (CO₂ is entrained in the groundwater flow and is constrained above and below by impermeable seal lithologies). An impermeable top seal (caprock) is required to keep the CO₂ within the trap. Such seals are generally very fine grained rocks with low porosity and, even more importantly, low permeability. Typical caprock are shales and mudstones. The caprock must be of sufficient thickness and ductility to prevent microfractures and through-going faults from developing as possible CO₂ leakage pathways.

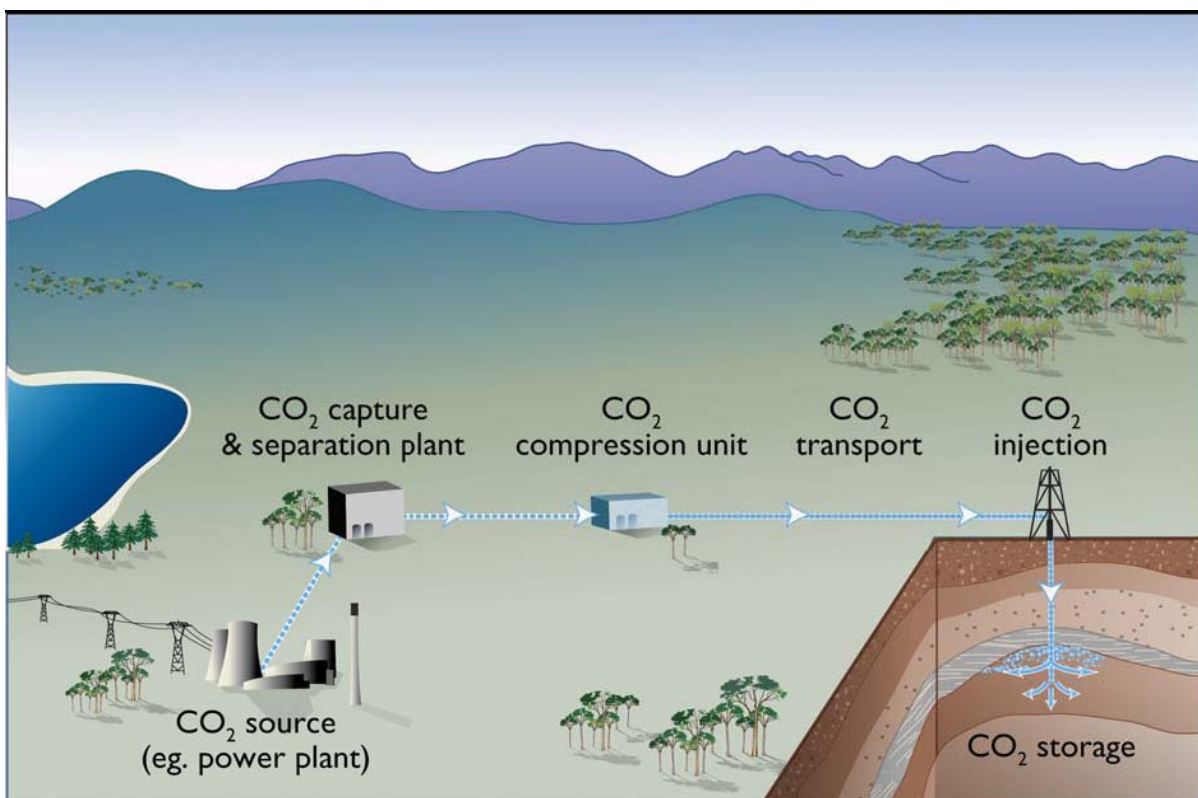


Figure 1. A simplified view of the steps involved in the geosequestration process (image courtesy of CO2CRC)

Active and depleted oil and natural gas fields, which generally have proven geologic traps, reservoirs and seals are ideal sites for storage of injected CO₂. In such fields, it is important to ensure that hydrocarbon resources do not occur or have already been produced from the specific target formation. Also, care must be taken that all existing wellbores are adequately cemented with CO₂ resistant cements (to prevent CO₂ reaction) before sequestration operations begin.

Two other important trapping mechanisms, which are not applicable to oil and gas occurrences but are significant for CO₂ storage, are solubility and mineral trapping. Solubility trapping involves the dissolution of CO₂ into the reservoir fluids. Recent research has shown that as the CO₂ moves through the geological formation along the flow path, a proportion of the CO₂ dissolves in the formation water. Modelling has shown that with time the CO₂ dissolved in the water increases its density and causes downward fingering of CO₂ rich waters. Mineral trapping involves the reaction of CO₂ with unstable minerals present in the host formation to form stable, solid compounds such as carbonates. Once the CO₂ has formed such minerals it is permanently locked.

Monitoring of the activities of stored CO₂ includes an extensive array of established direct and remote sensing technologies that are deployed on the surface and in the borehole. These are generally planned for repeat assessments from a reservoir, containment, wellbore integrity, near surface and atmospheric perspective. These technologies record properties such as pressure, temperature, resistivity and sonic responses in both injection and observation wells. Other monitoring involves seismic, microseismic, petrophysical well logs and geochemical sampling such as tracer and isotope analysis will allow tracking of movement of CO₂ in the subsurface. Baseline

surveys of the distribution, type and origin of any existing CO₂ in a potential storage site is carried out through soil gas sampling prior to injection. Areal CO₂ migration and trapping are addressed through characterization of the hydrodynamic properties of the region. Geochemical sampling at surface localities will allow rapid detection of any seepage or leakage in the unlikely circumstance that this should occur.

While subsurface storage of CO₂ is not without risk, a systematic risk assessment for all geosequestration sites considers both the engineered and natural systems. The engineered systems consist of the wells, the plant and the gathering line; the natural system includes the geology of the site, the reservoir formation, the overlying and underlying formations and the groundwater flow regimes. These criteria need to be agreed in conjunction with the relevant regulatory authorities and apply to the project through all phases to address responsibilities, liabilities and to provide assurance of safe storage to the satisfaction of the public at large.

In conclusion, successful geosequestration of CO₂ requires top quality science, appropriate regulation, clarity on liability issues and acceptance by the community. Individual storage sites need to be well characterised with respect to the physical and chemical processes which will take place during and after injection. Similarly, all the technologies available for monitoring the stored CO₂ need to be evaluated and the most appropriate ones selected and the risks associated with all phases of the process must be identified and understood. ■

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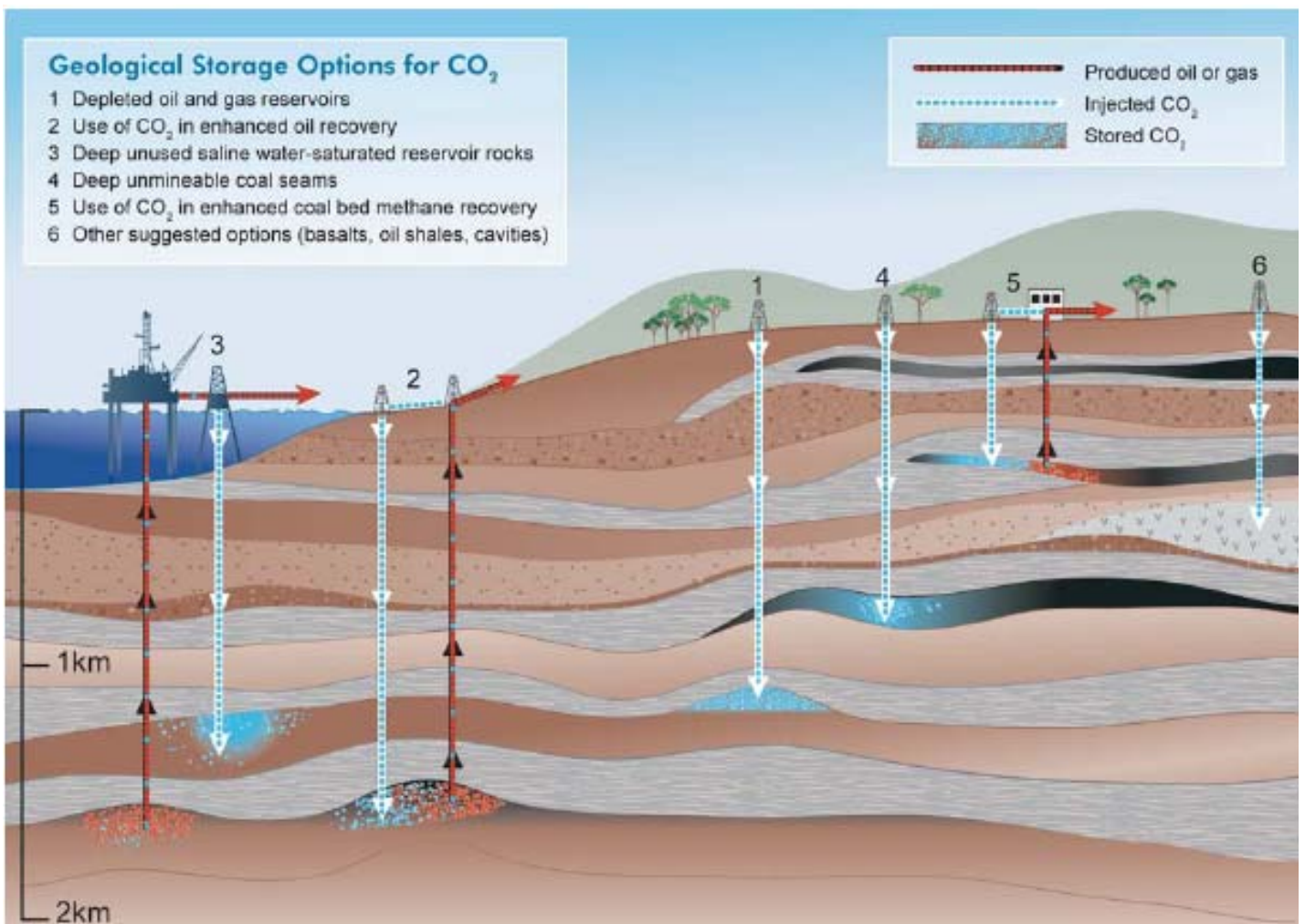


Figure 2. Options for the geological storage of CO₂ (image courtesy of CO2CRC)

Exploration Country Focus: The Netherlands

Jaap Breunese & Douwe van Leverink

TNO Built Environment & Geosciences, Advisory Group for the MEA

INTRODUCTION

With 44 discovered oil fields and 406 discovered gas fields The Netherlands is typically a gas country. Due to the excellent exploration conditions many plays can be considered as mature. With major gas reserves and its central position The Netherlands has been one of the major gas exporting countries in the world for many years. Lately, other countries have passed by the Dutch who are however still positioned in the top ten (#9 according to BP review 2008).

EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION HISTORY

Exploration and production during the early 20th century was primarily focused on coals in the Southern part of the Dutch onshore. Commercial exploration and production of onshore oil and gas fields started only halfway the previous century and it took until the 1960s that exploration started in the offshore.

First oil was found in 1923 near Corle in the province of Overijssel. In 1938 a new indication for oil was discovered when a demonstration well drilled in the centre of the city of The Hague discovered oil stains at 460m depth. Five years later, in 1943, the Schoonebeek oil field was discovered, which still is the largest onshore oil field in Western Europe. The first big oil hit was also the last, as other oil fields that were found could not be compared to Schoonebeek in size. Production from the Schoonebeek field was ceased in 1996 after producing 25% of the viscous oil. The only Dutch oil field that comes close to the Schoonebeek field in size is the 'De Ruyter' oil field, which was discovered a few years ago in the southern offshore west of The Hague as a result of a high risk exploration strategy. Its production covers nowadays half of the total Dutch oil production (1.49 million Sm³ out of 2.5 million Sm³ per year or 9.37 million barrels out of 15.64 million barrels per year).

The first commercial gas discovery was made in 1948 Coevorden. Eleven years later, in 1959, the giant Groningen gas field was discovered in the Permian Rotliegend sandstones under the province of Groningen (Fig. 1). This initiated large scale gas exploration in The Netherlands. Next year its 50th anniversary will be celebrated and expectations are that more gas will be recovered from the field for the next 50 years. Due to the underestimation of the size of the field the estimated reserves grew throughout several years to a final GIIP of almost 102.5 trillion cubic feet (±17.1 billion b.o.e.). This was the largest known gas field in the world at the time of discovery and is still among the largest. Due to the excellent reservoir characteristics the Groningen gasfield can be used as a swing producer, by increasing the production during the winter and cutting down production during the summer. This is very rare for gas fields of this size. With more than 1000 bcm of remaining reserves the field is of major importance to the Dutch gas supply.

POLICY

The 1973 oil crisis made the Dutch government more aware of the importance of the large reserves of the Groningen gas field which could ensure the country's energy demand for a very long time. Therefore the Dutch government developed a policy which is known as the "policy of small fields". According to this policy exploration for and production from small/medium sized fields has been encouraged and the Groningen gas field is used as a swing producer. This will ensure that The Netherlands have a security of gas supply, that small fields will be developed and that international fluctuations in energy supply have less impact. In this way the Groningen gas field should exist until the last small gas fields in the Netherlands are exhausted.

This policy has led to the drilling of more than 1100 exploration wells and has proven to be successful in finding new reserves. Of the 406 proven gas fields (both on- and offshore) 215 are in production, 4 are being used for gas storage, whereas the production from another 60 fields has already ceased (Fig. 1). The exploration activities have led to an extensive coverage of the Dutch sub surface with 2-D and 3-D seismic (3-D coverage is ca. 56% of the Dutch on- and offshore). Together with the thousands of exploration and production wells the Dutch subsurface may be one of the best explored.

The Dutch Mining Act implies that copies or samples of all data which are acquired from the subsurface (seismic, drilling results and cores) need to be handed over to the State. Since 2003 the release period to the public domain was reduced to 5 years for most of the data. Since two years a new website portal (www.nlog.nl) provides easy access to much of this information. In this way the Dutch E&P market can be more easily approached by new companies.

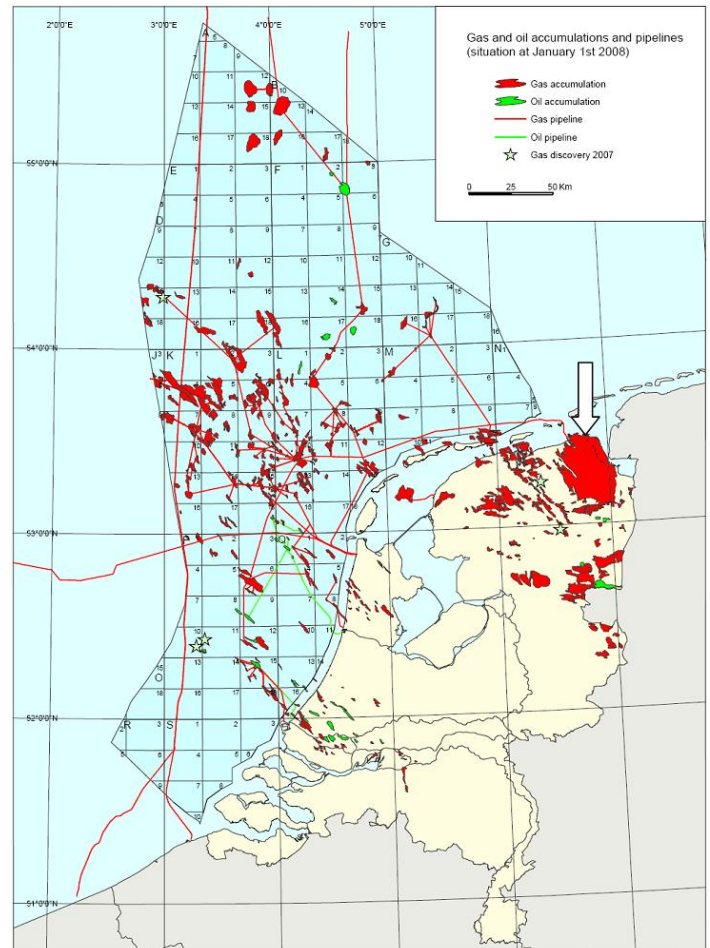
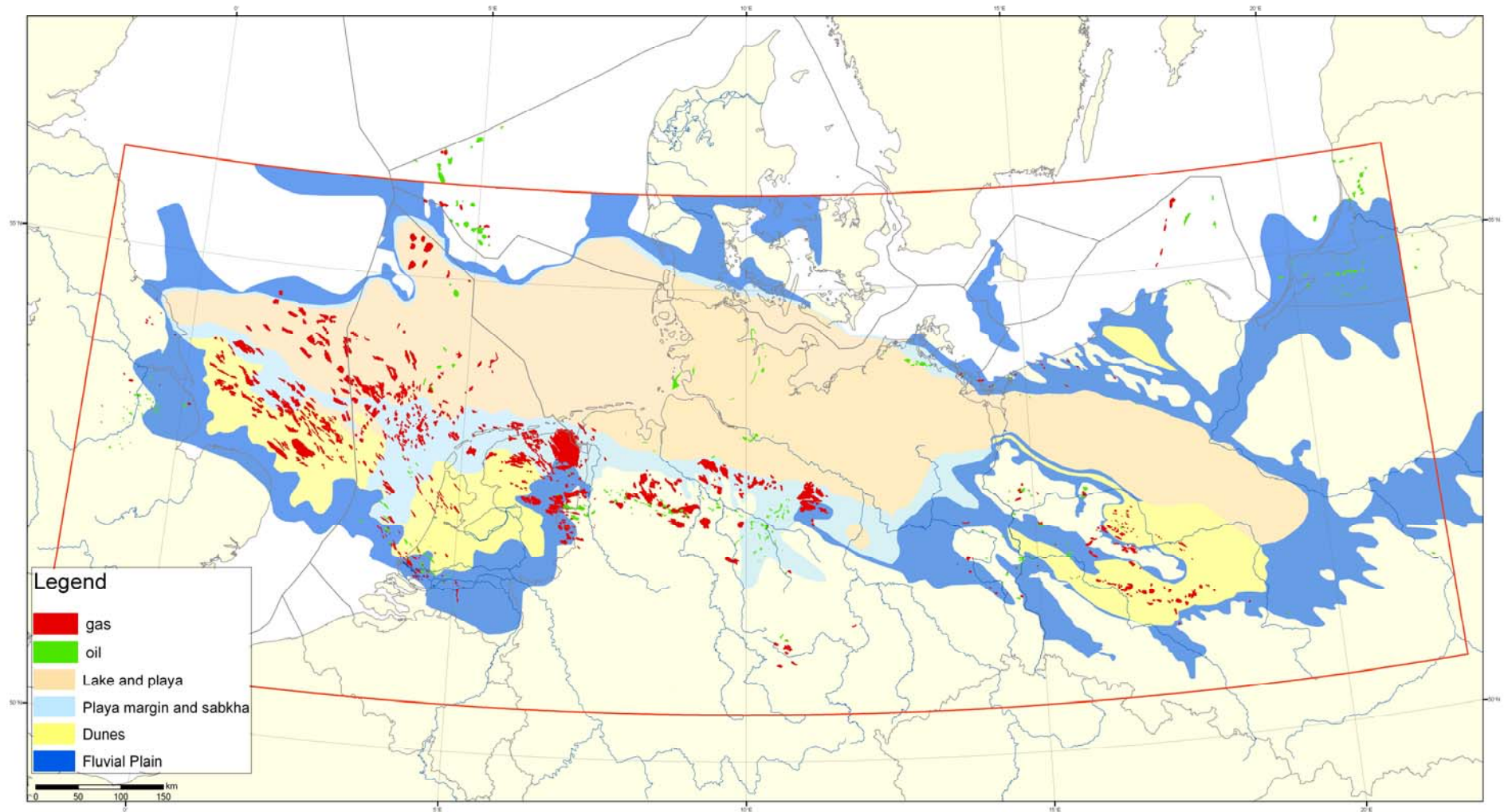


Figure 1: Gas and oil accumulations and pipelines in the Netherlands. The reserves in the Groningen gasfield (indicated with the white arrow) are still over 1000 bcm (Oil and Gas in The Netherlands, 2008).



Doornenbal, J.C. et al, 2009. Petroleum Geological Atlas of the Southern Permian Basin Area. EAGE Publications b.v.

Figure 2: All gas and oil fields distribution in or close to the Southern Permian Basin. Rotliegend facies distribution is displayed to indicate the basin geometry (from Doornenbal et al., 2009). The colours represent deposition of sediments in fluvial plains (dark blue), dunes (yellow), playa margins and sabkhas (light blue) and lakes (light orange). Be aware that these fields presented are not only situated in Permian reservoirs.

Gas reserves and cumulative production (1 January), 1965 - 2008

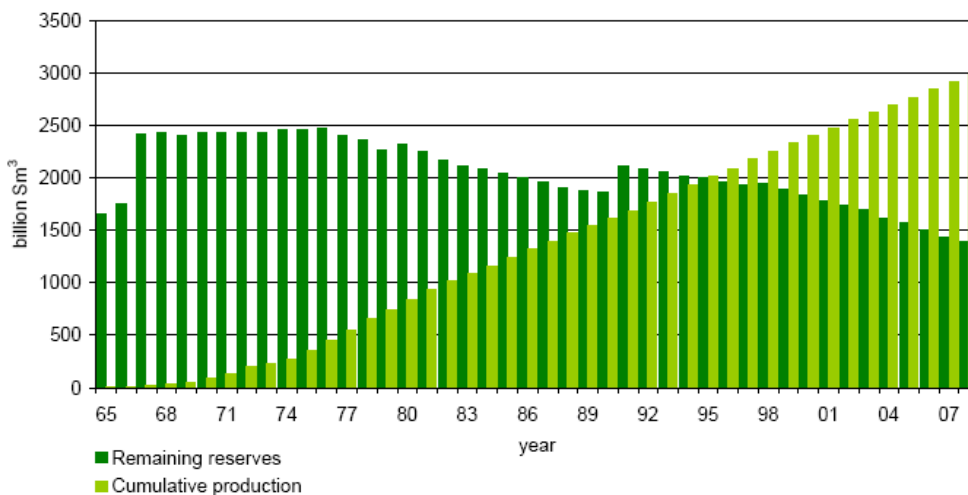


Figure 3: Overview of the gas reserves and cumulative production from 1965 to 2008 (Oil and gas in The Netherlands, 2008).

GEOLOGY AND RESERVOIRS

Hydrocarbon plays in the Netherlands range from Carboniferous to Quaternary age. The Permian Rotliegend play is by far the most important comprising 65% of the Dutch reserves (even if excluding the Groningen gasfield) followed by the Triassic play. The Rotliegend play situated in the Southern Permian Basin (Fig.2) consists of aeolian and fluvial sandstones which are in an almost ideal position above sourcing Westphalian coal measures (Carboniferous) and below sealing Zechstein salts. The Triassic play consists of single or stacked reservoirs of successive sandstone and claystone formations which have also been sourced by the Westphalian coal measures.

In contrast to e.g. their German neighbours the Dutch are blessed with high quality reservoirs. As a consequence there is a tendency to only develop prospects that are not considered or presumed to be 'tight'. Recovery factors normally range from 70 to 90% or even exceeding 95% (e.g. the Groningen field). To give an impression of the relative easiness to produce from fields in the Netherlands, fracjobs have been performed in only 35 production wells.

FUTURE

Because of its relative small size, its density of population and the fact that The Netherlands is a low-lying country there is continuous concern about possible effects of gas production such as land subsidence and induced microseismicity. However, policy and ongoing technical development ensure that gas exploration and production can be continued for many decades.

The creaming curve shows no creaming off yet, but as the 'easy fields' seem to reach their end of production and remaining reserves are declining a new impulse is needed to develop prospects that have been left aside and to increase exploration activities (Fig. 3, 4). High oil prices have made NAM decide to restart the production of the heavy oil in the Schoonebeek field in 2010. On the other side traditionally big players in The Netherlands like NAM already give signs to diminish their interest in the Dutch gas production. Their place can be taken over by players who are more experienced and willing to produce from difficult reservoirs. Especially producing from tight reservoirs will be one of the main challenges. A point of concern is the timing of this change.

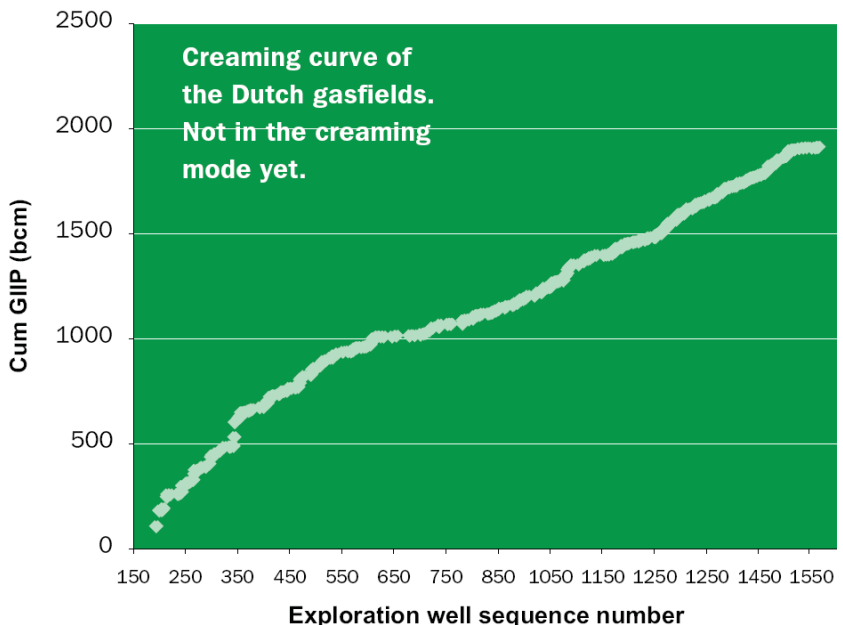


Figure 4: Creaming curve for the gasfields in the Rotliegend reservoirs, representing the bulk of the Dutch gasfields. (www.nlog.nl)

Large fields are not found anymore, which is also a result of the present low risk drilling strategy of the companies. In the future the development of the smaller fields will only be economically viable when the present day infrastructure is maintained. This will require conditions such as high energy prices, a favorable mining policy and synergy between different possible users of the infrastructure.

Among the interesting new play concepts are the indications for Early Carboniferous reefs and recovery of shallow gas. Recently Chevron has successfully started the development of a shallow Plio-Pleistocene gas field in the Northern Dutch offshore. This success shows that also this shallow gas can be produced.

Furthermore, there is increased awareness of the fact that the assets can be of economic importance even after the production of hydrocarbons has ended. E.g. the potential for the use of depleted gas fields for the storage of natural gas or CO₂ draws attention from policy makers and industry alike.

Overall the proven reserves are still substantial and new exploration and production activities will play an important role in The Netherlands for at least the next twenty years.

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INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP Geological and bio(geo)chemical processes at cold seeps: Challenges in recent and ancient systems

Varna, Bulgaria

28 - 29/09/2009

Phenomena related to the hydrocarbon migration and gas / fluid seepage have been recognized and studied worldwide in both recent active and fossil seep sites in various sedimentological and geodynamic settings. These locations have a unique potential to study the interaction between the geosphere and (micro) biosphere and investigate the fingerprinting and preservation of biogeological processes.

Moreover, they can provide a window into the (paleo) fluid flow of hydrocarbon-bearing fluids in different geological contexts. Research on active cold seeps reveals valuable information on near-seabed processes, often studied with highly advanced analytical techniques. On the contrary, paleoseeps are logistically easily accessible spots, allowing a detailed study of the subsurface seep plumbing system and the heterogeneity of complex seep processes in 4D (space and time).

The goal of this workshop is to bring together geologists, geochemists, microbiologists, biologists, geophysicists and scientists from other disciplines, both from academy and industry to:

1. define the key research directions, and
2. highlight the new emerging concepts and approaches in the study of cold seep systems through geological time.

HOST

The workshop is hosted by The Institut of Oceanology "Fridtjof Nansen".

WORKSHOP CONVENERS

Rudy Swennen, K.U. Leuven, Belgium

Lyudomir Dimitrov, IO-BAS, Bulgaria

Eva De Boever, K.U. Leuven, Belgium

WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

The workshop will be organized as a series of round table discussions, starting from a set of specific research questions.

The participants are invited to prepare a presentation formulating a scientific statement based on their research, which can be used as a base for discussion and synthesis.

Specific topics to be addressed include (but are not limited to):

- Authigenic seep products
- Tracing the presence, function and activity of microbial life at recent and ancient seep sites
- Fluid flow from source to surface
- Modelling and quantification of seep processes
- ...

A field trip to the "Pobiti Kamani" paleoseep area (NE Bulgaria) will be organized before in-house workshop.

PLACE AND DATE

The International Workshop will be held in Varna / the Resort of St. Konstantin-Helena, Bulgaria, from Monday, September 28, to Wednesday, September 30, 2009.

ACCOMMODATION AND TRANSPORT

Accommodation for all participants will be arranged by the Organizing Committee. Details will be provided in the Second Circular.

Varna is easily reachable by plane from different European airports either direct or via Sofia ou Bourgas.

REGISTRATION

Details on registration and payment will be given in the Second Circular.

IMPORTANT DATES

16/01/2009	Deadline for preliminary registration
02/02/2009	Distribution of Second Circular
20/03/2009	Deadline for registration & abstract submission
25/05/2009	Distribution of Workshop programme

For more information please consult: <http://ees.kuleuven.be/wvarna09/> or contact Rudy Swennen (Rudy.Swennen@ees.kuleuven.be)



APPEX London (3rd-5th March 2009) 'The Truly Global A&D Conference'

Mike Lakin

Volunteer Chairman APPEX 09

If your company is either actively or planning to acquire or divest international upstream assets and is not already sending anyone to attend APPEX in London in 5 weeks time, perhaps it should.

INTRODUCTION

APPEX will be held again at the North London (Islington) Design Centre, situated only a couple of underground stops from the heart of London. APPEX is designed for industry E&P new ventures and business development decision-makers from around the world to meet, network and hopefully lead to successful deals. Feedback by historical participants confirms its value and the growth of attendance expected in 2009 should make the conference a 'must attend' annual event for international deal makers, both big and small. www.appexlondon.com/APPEXogflyer1.pdf

THE PROGRAMME

The newly formatted 2 ½ day speaker programme is also now nearing completion with some invites still to be accepted. The link should open a copy of the provisional programme should you be interested: [www.envoi.co.uk/APPEXogProvisionalSpeakerProgramme\(Vrn13~26-1-09\).pdf](http://www.envoi.co.uk/APPEXogProvisionalSpeakerProgramme(Vrn13~26-1-09).pdf)

THE EXHIBITION & SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The expanded exhibition area is set out to accommodate 75+ booths/stands with over 40 companies currently registered and new interest being received

daily. Prospect exhibitors also have the right to bid for a 10 minute speaker slot in one of the three Prospect Forum sessions which are specifically designed for companies to present their projects for farmout/divestment.

There are still sponsorship opportunities available too, which I have to admit has been hit this year due largely to budget constraints. *The same cannot be said for delegate registration which is currently 50% up on the same time last year.* Registration for exhibition booth space and/or sponsorship is outlined in the following brochure: www.appexlondon.com/ExhibitSalesAPPEX09.pdf

The prices for registration will increase again after the 19th February so save money and register soon if you are planning to attend.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The new dedicated APPEX website includes additional information on registration for both delegates and exhibitors, the programme and hotel accommodation: www.appexlondon.com.

Feel free to contact me by email or phone should you have any queries.

We very much hope to see you in March. ■



PUBLISH WITH THE AAPG-ER Newsletter

The AAPG-ER Newsletter is the official publication for the AAPG European Region members. We are interested in publishing short papers on recent developments in technology, new exploratory trends, promotion of research projects, conferences, courses and any subject focused in Europe that is of interest for the AAPG members. The Newsletter is received quarterly online or in print by all members.

For submittal information contact **Hugo Matias** (hmatias@repsol.com).



2009 AAPG Honours and Awards

Stuart Harker

European Representative in the AAPG Advisory Council

The annual Honours and Awards meeting was held 22 August ahead of the AAPG Leadership Days Conference in Tulsa. This year the European Region had a total of 13 nominations for 8 of the 11 categories available and this was the most successful year ever for the European region with 6 successful awardees

Honorary Member Award: Peter A. Ziegler

Distinguished Service Award: Mike J. Lakin

Grover E. Murray Memorial Distinguished Educator Award: Finn Surlyk

Special Award: Alexei E. Kontorovich and Akif Ali Narimanov

Wallace E. Pratt Memorial Award: Joe Cartwright, Mads Huuse and Andrew Aplin. ■

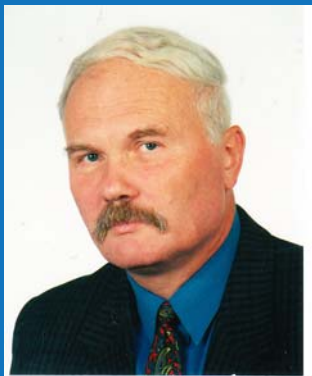
**New HOD Secretary - Editor (2008 / 2009):
Sigrunn Johnsen**



Sigrunn Johnsen, a representative of the European Region in the AAPG House of Delegates, has been elected as Secretary/Editor for the period 2008/2009. She is the first non North-American to have this position. The European Region is happy to be able to contribute to the internationalisation of AAPG in this manner.

Sigrunn, who is an employee of RWE Dea Norway, is presently working in RWE Dea's headquarters in Hamburg, Germany in Field Development, North Africa. ■

**Welcome to the New Vice-President:
Marek Hoffman**



Ground water hydrologist (University of Warsaw) and petroleum geologist with 38 years of experience.

Started his career as a field geologist in various environmental (tracer technique) applications in Poland and abroad (Kuwait).

In 1990 joined Ministry of Environment where he organized Bureau of Geological Concessions, the first modern licensing institution for minerals in Poland. Special attention was directed on oil and gas as well as coalbed methane exploration and production.

In 1994 joined Polish Oil and Gas Company (PGNiG SA) to serve as director of different oil and gas exploration units in Poland and abroad (Pakistan, India). Supervised programming, planning as well as execution of Company's exploration activities.

In 2006-7 he was a member of negotiating team formed to acquire development assets at Norwegian Continental Shelf (Skarv). Then he took part in organization of subsidiary company in Norway and starting October 2007 works as E&P Deputy Manager in PGNiG Norway AS in Stavanger. ■

**Energy and Minerals Division in Europe
CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS**

AAPG is looking for volunteers to help organize EMD meetings and activities in Europe. With the increasing dependence on Russian gas for Europe, and resulting political-economic difficulties, the time is ripe for Europe to deepen its portfolio of energy resources. EMD is the perfect mechanism for collectively learning from one another and key leaders in alternative energy on the potential and evolving technologies for creating viable non-petroleum energy resources. Shale gas, coal gas, tight gas sands and other forms of energy like geothermal, oil shales and nuclear energy are already a major part of Europe's energy mix and will only become more important in the future. If you are interested in helping organize some 2009 meetings and publications, please contact the EMD European Region Councilor, John Dolson at jcdolson@aol.com. ■

Visiting Geoscientists Program

Free University Amsterdam, the Netherlands

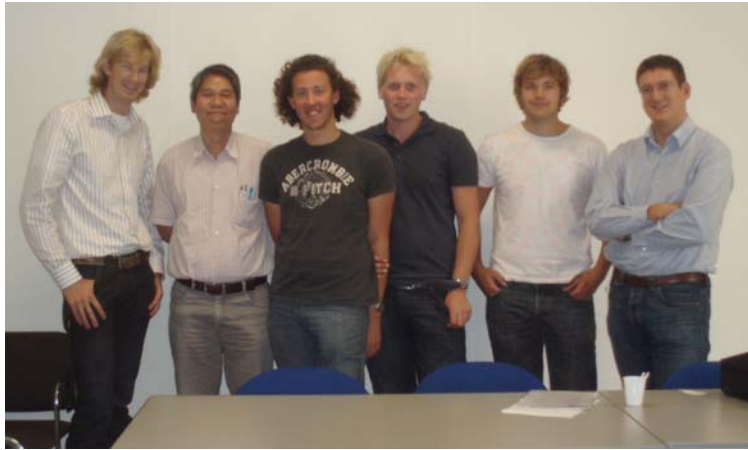


Figure 1: From left to right: Ralph Groen (Secretary), Herman Darman (AAPG-VGP), Felix Bexkens (Treasure), Thomas Klootwijk (President), Quinten van der Meer (Vice-President) and Gideon Lopes Cardozo (AAPG-VGP).

On 18 September 2008, Gideon Lopes Cardozo and Herman Darman, both from Shell International E & P, visited the students in the Free University, Amsterdam. This meeting is intended to found the Amsterdam Student Chapter of the AAPG. Herman explained the goals and objectives of the AAPG and presented some possibilities for activities.

There are about 20 students registered as AAPG members, and this number is increasing through time. The officers of the student chapters are: Thomas Klootwijk (President), Felix Bexkens (Treasure), Quinten van der Meer (Vice-President), and Ralph Groen (Secretary).

The students in the Free University Amsterdam have organized many activities over the years. They run a student bar in the university and publish annual activity books. The students plan to involve the AAPG in their activities in 2009. ■



Figure 2: Amsterdam Free University students show the newly published annual activity book of the geological students.

Herman Darman
Shell International E&P

Khazar University, Azerbaijan



Figure 3: Visiting Geoscientist Program in Khazar University, Baku, Azerbaijan. Prof. Rafiq Ahmadov (3rd from left), Herman Darman (AAPG-VGP) (4th from left), Arif Mamed-zade (5th from left), with Khazar University Lecturers and students.

On October 8, 2008, Herman Darman visited Khazar University, 11 Mahsati Street, Baku, Azerbaijan, as part of the AAPG Visiting Geoscientists Program (VGP). The university has a petroleum engineering program with classes on petroleum geology. The lectures are given in English. About 25 student came to attend the technical talk given by Herman titled "Petroleum Exploration and Production Activities in Southeast Asia". The technical talk was followed by career discussion.

Khazar University is a private university and is currently establishing a stronger geosciences department. Soon they will have a new building for the geoscience department. The AAPG pledged future support with further VGP presentations and Publication Pipeline donations which will be greatly appreciated by the university.

During this trip Herman Darman got the opportunity to meet Azerbaijan Society of Petroleum Geologist (ASPG) president Dr. Akif Al. Narimanov who received an AAPG Special Award in 2008. Several potential collaborations between the AAPG and ASPG were discussed with the ASPG Student Coordinator: Elshan Abdullayev.

We look forward to working closer on the VGP and Publication Pipeline. The next VGP will be by Syed Tariq Hasany (Schlumberger – Kazakhstan) in early 2009. ■

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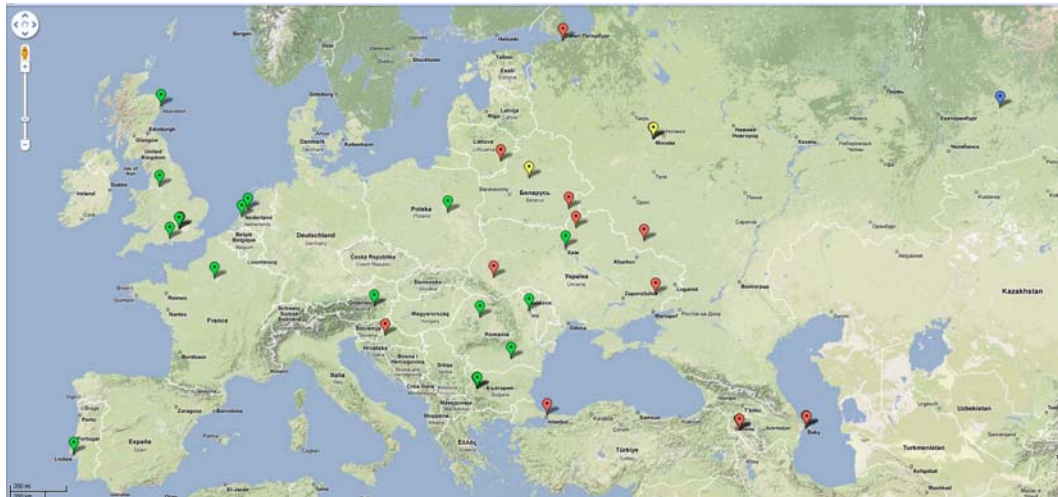
Students Chapters in Europe

Herman Darman
Shell International E & P

This map shows the distribution of the AAPG SC in Europe, with the gaps which lead us to think on how to close. This map is also useful for DL and VGPer's who are going to travel.

If you want to access to the interactive map, please click the following link:

<http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?hl=en&ie=UTF8&oe=UTF8&msa=0&msid=107853581758746144562.00045d00702ed770dfed6>



Legend: green = active; yellow = pending inactive; red = inactive; blue = universities participating in IBA program

First AAPG Student Chapter in France From IFP School

Luisa Fernanda Zuluaga
Student Chapter Vice-president

2008 Imperial Barrel Award triggers the Students motivation for association and consolidation of the first AAPG student chapter in France.

After the IFP school team won second place in the European phase of the Imperial Barrel Award, held in Prague last year, the establishment of an active AAPG student chapter has been of great importance to IFP students. This has now become a reality.

The IFP student chapter was officially welcomed by the AAPG Students Affairs office in July 2008. Since then, the activities of the committee have consisted of establishing the association according to French Regulations, and encouraging students to join the AAPG student chapter. This has resulted in the majority of MSc Students in the IFP Petroleum Geosciences program applying to join, and their membership will be official very soon.

Having the support of the professor Jean-Pierre Roi as faculty advisor, as well as the coaching from professors François Roure and Alain-Yves Huc, who are active members of the AAPG community, this years committee (Figure 1) is very confident on the future success of the chapter. The numerous activities

scheduled to take place this year will reinforce the link between the industry and the IFP student body.

PLANS FOR 2009

The preparation for attending this years "Student chapter convention", taking place in Prague in conjunction with the IBA (Imperial Barrel Award) 2009 is the first objective, in order to promote the chapter and develop projects. Other important objectives will be assisting with the logistics and preparation for the AAPG European Region Conference to be held in Paris in November, and finally supporting the team that will participate in this years IBA. The application for the "Visiting Geoscientist program" and other local activities are also aims for this year.

In the Long term, this chapter looks to build links with other faculties related to geosciences throughout the country, in order to strengthen its presence in France. ■

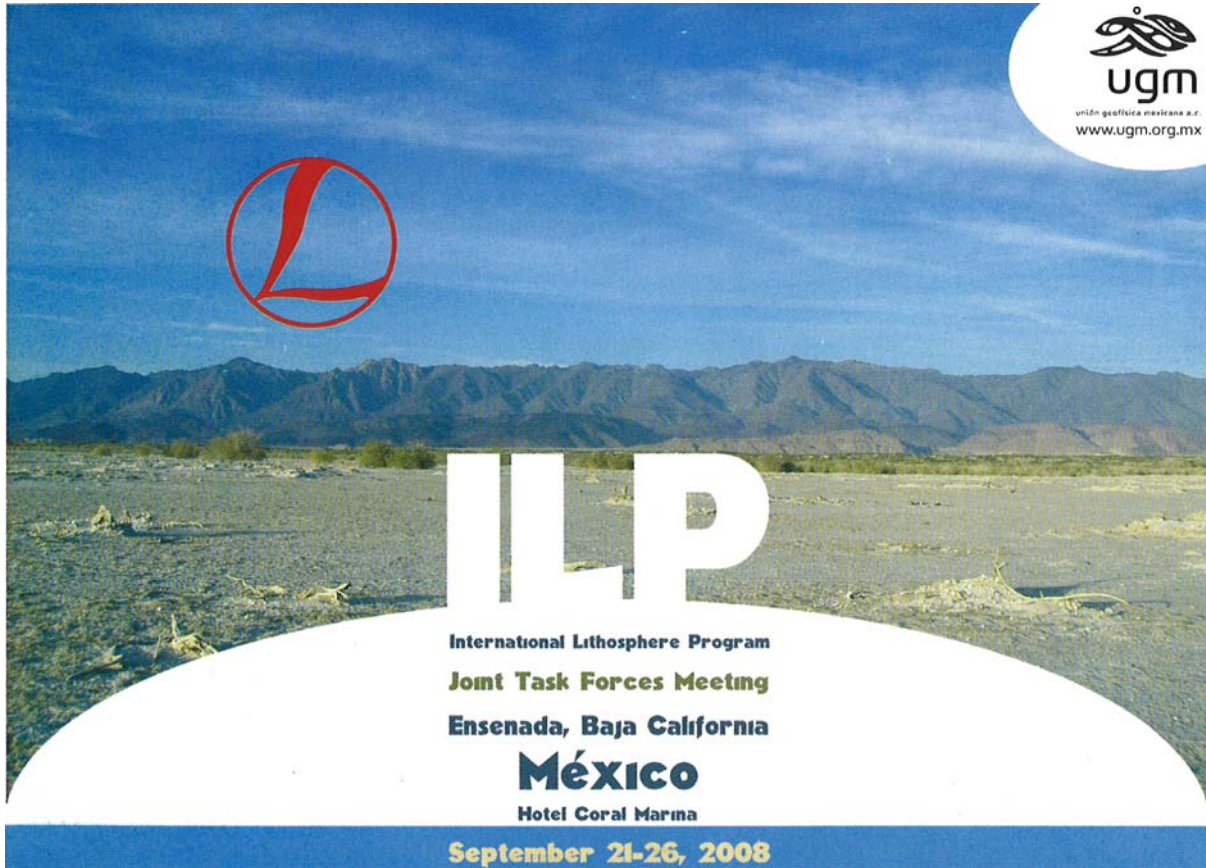


Figure 1. Board members of the IFP School AAPG student chapter – FRANCE, from left to right:

David Contreras (President); Luisa Fernanda Zuluaga (Vice-president); Raphaël Bouvet (Treasurer); Fishan Rehman (Secretary)

Summary report of the 2008 Joint ILP Task Forces workshop in Ensenada, Mexico

*François Roure
IFP, Rueil-Malmaison, France*



Following the previous successful meetings of the ILP Task Force on Sedimentary Basins, CICESE (Center of Scientific Research and Graduate Studies in Ensenada) and the Mexican Geophysical Union (Unión Geofísica Mexicana, UGM) hosted this 2008 workshop in Ensenada, Baja California, Mexico, from September 21 to 26. This workshop, organized by Luis Delgado (CICESE) and Felipe Ortuño (Instituto Mexicano del Petróleo), involved also the other ILP Task Forces dealing with mantle processes, volcanism and paleostress.

60 geologists and geophysicists participated to the meeting, 50% coming from Mexico and 50% from abroad.

During the opening session, Federico Graef (Director of CICESE), José Manuel Romo (Vice-president of UGM), Luis Delgado and Felipe Ortuño (organizers of the workshop), provided the welcome address, which was followed by an overall presentation of ILP and the International Year of Planet Earth by Sierd Cloetingh (President of ILP).

Arturo Martin-Barajas and Ramón Mendoza-Borunda lead a brilliant field trip on September 22-23 across the northern part of the Gulf of California, from

Mexicali to the sea shore, thus allowing to document both low and high-angle normal faults, volcanic records of the rifting processes, as well as modern interactions between continental (fluvio-deltaic) and brackish-evaporitic sedimentation. Seismic profiles and wells data were also helpful in stimulating in depth discussion on the timing of deformation and overall crustal architecture of the basin.

Following the discussions on Mexican basins held during the oral/poster sessions and the field trip, the last day was mostly devoted to a panel discussion (Luis Delgado and Arturo Martin for CICESE, Leni Scheck-Wenderoth and Sierd Cloetingh (Panel Chair) for ILP, Kirk Osadetz and Hans Thybo for Research Institutes and Universities), Noëlle Schoellkopf and Patrick Unternehr for the Industry), aiming at identifying points of common interest for the Mexican and international Earth Sciences communities, and defining a road map for further collaborations.

Abstracts have been published in GEOS, volume 28, N°1, 70 pp (September 2008 issue of the Journal of the Unión Geofísica Mexicana). A pdf of this volume, which includes also the Field Trip Log, can still be downloaded from UGM website (www.ugm.org.mx).

The Presidential Tour in Europe

Carol McGowen

AAPG Regions and Sections Manager

AAPG made history and was part of history during AAPG President Scott Tinker's recent European Region tour.

The tour, lasting from Sept. 22 to Oct. 2, marked the first-ever presentation by an AAPG president to a German geologic association.

Tinker was accompanied by an AAPG delegation comprising European Region president Istvan Berczi; European Region president-elect David Cook; and AAPG Regions and Sections manager Carol McGowen.

The tour began in London, England, and then proceeded to Moscow, Russia; Aachen, Germany; Kassel, Germany; and Warsaw, Poland. The delegation was warmly welcomed by their hosts in each city.

While in Aachen, Germany, Tinker became part of history as he gave an address at the opening ceremony of a joint conference presented by Germany's two oldest geoscience societies. The conference recognized the 160th annual meeting of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Geowissenschaften (German Society for Geosciences, or DGG, founded in 1848), and the 98th annual meeting of the Geologische Vereinigung, a non-profit international earth science organization with more than 1,700 members in over 64 countries.

With the theme of Global Energy: Building Bridges for the 21st Century, Tinker met with officials and representatives from universities, large national oil companies or international oil companies in the four countries to promote collaboration among industry, academia and AAPG.

At each stop along the way, whether the audience was faculty and students or senior level company leadership, the message was consistent.

- Fossil fuels are the bridge to an energy future.
- The cost to reduce carbon in the environment is high – everyone must participate.
- The developed and developing worlds are interdependent.
- We must find energy solutions that work for the world.
- We must integrate policy, economy and the environment.
- AAPG and other international organizations are the glue with members world wide from industry, government and academia.
- Collaboration and building bridges are key to the global energy future.

Mutually beneficial rewards and results of the tour were many; lively conversations across the conference table and dinner table helped form new friendships, develop trust and sow seeds for positive future working relationships.

Without exception, the AAPG delegation was impressed with a deeper understanding of the historical past and present vitality of the energy industry, people and cities visited.

Through university presentations and informal gatherings with students at all levels of study, existing AAPG student chapters were reinvigorated and inspiration given to start new student chapters. The delegation learned that interest is strong to bring AAPG data, education, training opportunities and publications to companies on the European tour route.

Face-to-face communication yielded insight into the unique subject areas where AAPG can support the work of current geoscientists in each company and society, and future geoscientists in each university.

In turn, AAPG as a global scientific organization will be enhanced through new partnerships with sister societies, hundreds of new student and corporate AAPG members, and new industry leaders serving on AAPG committees.

To our hosts and all those who helped organize this historic tour, thank you. ■

Here's the list of places (and hosts) visited by AAPG President Scott Tinker and delegation during a historic tour of the European Region.

London, England

- Petroleum Group, Geological Society of London
- Royal Holloway University of London

Moscow, Russia

- Rosneft Oil Company
- Moscow State University
- Lukoil Oil Company
- Gubkin Russian State University of Oil and Gas
- Shell Exploration & Production
- TNK-BP
- ExxonMobil Russia Inc.
- MOL Group
- Gazprom

Aachen, Germany

- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Geowissenschaften (DGG)
- Geologische Vereinigung (GV)
- Rheinland-Westfalen Technische Hochschule (RWTH) Aachen
- Ruhr-Universität Bochum
- ExxonMobil Production Deutschland

Kassel, Germany

- Wintershall

Warsaw, Poland

- PGNiG
- University of Warsaw

2009

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 Conferences

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Association of Petroleum Technicians and Professionals (AFTP) - FRANCE
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President: Isabelle Le Nir

Austrian Geological Society
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Polish Geological Society
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Romanian Association of Petroleum Geologists
No current information

Royal Geological and Mining Society of the Netherlands
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President: P. A. C de Ruiter

Scientific Council for Petroleum (Croatia)
No current information

Swiss Association of Petroleum Geologists and Engineers
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e-mail: peterburri@bluewin.ch
President: Peter Burri

Turkish Association of Petroleum Geologists
Webpage: www.tpdj.org.tr

Association of Ukrainian Geologists
No current information