

AAPG 17th International Conference and Exhibition

September 11, 2005

Opening remarks by Jean-Marie Masset, Paris 2005 General Chair

Ladies and gentlemen, fellow geologists and geoscientists, distinguished speakers and to all our honored guests, my name is Jean-Marie Masset, and as general chair it is my privilege and pleasure to welcome you today to this historic meeting ... the first AAPG International Conference and Exhibition ever to be held here in Paris ... A city that is known to you as one of the world's great cities, the historic and beautiful City of Lights – and to us, our home. And on behalf of the Organizing Committee and of our host society, IFP, let me say that we are proud and excited to be presenting a convention that could indeed prove to be crucial as we prepare to meet the demands of an increasingly energy-hungry world.

Joining me on stage today are some of the people who are responsible for starting what will be, I'm sure, a meeting of monumental significance. May I introduce to you, on the far end of the table, Rick Fritz, executive director of AAPG; AAPG President Peter R. Rose; the chairman and CEO of IFP Olivier Appert; and the honorable Minister of Industry for France, Francois Loos.

On behalf of us all, I say to you, "Ensemble, nous embrassons les défis de demain. Ensemble, nous réussirons."

(Together, we embrace the challenges of tomorrow. Together, we will succeed.)

Our meeting theme couldn't be more perfect: "New Tracks to New Highs." Because, as we all know, new petroleum resources are increasingly difficult to find, and our efforts to find and produce these resources will be made in a world that is constantly changing due to global geopolitical conditions.

So what can we do? How will we meet this challenge? "L'homme se découvre quand il se mesure avec l'obstacle." Man discovers his potential when faced with a challenge. And that's why we are here, is it not? To become better geoscientists. To attend talks that reveal new geologic insights. In the exhibits hall, to experience the latest technological advances. In our conversations and discussions, to establish personal networks that will help us in our daily work ... To connect with the people, places and things that can open the door to these "new tracks."

The conference's varied program, which includes basic geology, technological advances and strategic industry concerns, is tangible proof of what will be necessary for all of us to succeed.

So, may we all during this conference work diligently toward facing tomorrow with confidence, with expertise and with total commitment. Yes, we stand at a crucial junction, but we stand ready to move boldly ahead.