

EUROPEAN REGION NEWSLETTER

Unlocking the Future



March 2012, Vol. 7

<http://europe.aapg.org/>

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Reader,

We are closer now to the best season of the year when all nature is ready to bloom again after long cold winter. For us in Europe (and not only in Russia this time) after weeks of very cold arctic weather which broke record cold temperatures comes a time finally to relax and jump right into the summer

temperatures. I have never experienced such deep frosts with so many broken water pipelines and water flow meters in homes or wine cellars. What an experience!

It's nice to think then about the warmer months and adventures waiting for us.

As European Region we are looking forward to a packed program for 2012. We already started with the education week at Lisbon University in Portugal. March was very busy with APPEX, the annual Prospect and Property Expo. For ten years **APPEX** has brought together principals, senior managers, business developers and new venture managers for an unmatched opportunity to network and do business with NOCs, governments, and global E&P deal-makers and decision-makers. Over two-and-a-half days, 600+ attendees explored current and future trends in international business, new oil and gas hot-spots, and discovered and debated dozens of upcoming prospects from around the globe. All this took place in a relaxed, friendly environment that has been carefully designed for maximum networking, allowing attendees to buy, sell and trade prospects and properties, find new strategic partners and clients, and stay one step ahead of the competition. All of the great work for preparing the meeting and all of the logistics was done by our AAPG London office staff whom we have to give our great thanks to. For those not having been there, but maybe planning to come next year – our potential attendees or sponsors too – watch the video and visit our ER AAPG web page at <http://europe.aapg.org/> for more details.

Mid of March is also the month of our European Region Imperial Barrel Award competition. It became a tradition to host IBA university teams in Prague, Czech Republic. Twenty university teams from across Europe, means nearly 150 students as well as faculty staff and industry representatives gathered at the Albion Hotel on 15th-17th of March. We were honoured by the presence of David Curtiss, AAPG Executive Director, who was on his way home to Tulsa after accompanying AAPG President, Paul Weimer, on a visit to Moscow.

Our congratulations go to the winners from the IFP School, who will represent Europe in the global finals on 20th - 21st April prior to ACE in Long Beach. Worthy

runners up were Royal Holloway University of London in 2nd place and La Salle Beauvais in 3rd place. The judges were extremely complimentary about the overall quality of the presentations with nearly 50% of the teams achieving a score in the upper quartile. So if you plan to at ACE AAPG this year come over and support the European Team in their competition. We all wish them good luck!

At this time when I am writing my message to you we have DL speaker touring and visiting dozen cities across Europe. This spring we welcome Quinn Passy from ExxonMobil who is coming to give a talk titled: My source Rock is Now Shale-Gas Reservoir/Geological and Petrophysical Characterization of Organic-Rich Rocks. Crossing his paths almost Paul Weimer, AAPG President is challenged by Eastern European hospitality and giving his short course at various universities and places from London, Moscow via Kiev, Bucharest, Budapest, Leoben, Brno and heading up to Warsaw. He will have stories to tell I am sure!

In May we are looking forward to welcome you in Warsaw, Poland at Geoscience Technology Workshop under the theme: Unconventional Gas Shales in Poland: A Look at the Science. Shale gas has become an energy game changer around the world and it means in a good and bad way too – as this is my most recent experience now dealing with dozens journalists, TV stations and ugly comments blaming the industry for environmental damage of nature. I know that colleagues in a number of countries have experienced the same. But from the scientific point of view the Warsaw GTW is the place to be as the goal there is to openly discuss state-of-the-art exploration and development of unconventional shale gas, to promote collaboration on various aspects of both scientific and commercial development and exploitation of shale gas in Europe with analogous comparisons to worldwide shale plays. A range of session topics has been designed to integrate detailed observations and perspectives from reservoir analysis and characteristics of shale plays to shale deposition and lithology. For more details visit: <http://europe.aapg.org/>.

And last but not least? The Research and Development (R&D) article this time is about DARIUS, not the King of the Kings himself, but he was eponymous for an industry funded research programme dealing with genuine AAPG matters, regional geology. Once you have read this contribution you understand why AAPG has been giving these researchers a forum in the recent past, both at AAPG European Region but also ICE conferences.

The Country Focus offers you the opportunity to look back to previous articles about country related petroleum geology and industry matters. None of the papers published during the last five years in our Newsletter is lost for you, so don't miss it.

...and if I will not see you in Long Beach, then next time in June!

Vlastimila Dvořáková
AAPG European Region President

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Instructions to authors

Editorial correspondence and material submitted for publication should be addressed to the Editor to kwag@statoil.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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The Newsletter is printed digitally. Advertising is accepted on a space-available basis. Deadline for submitting material is 15th of the month before issue publication.

Advertisement Page Size	Actual size	Front page cost	Random inside cost
Eighth	27.75 x 21.8	\$50	\$25
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DARIUS Programme - An International Consortium-type Programme based on Industry-Academic Collaborations

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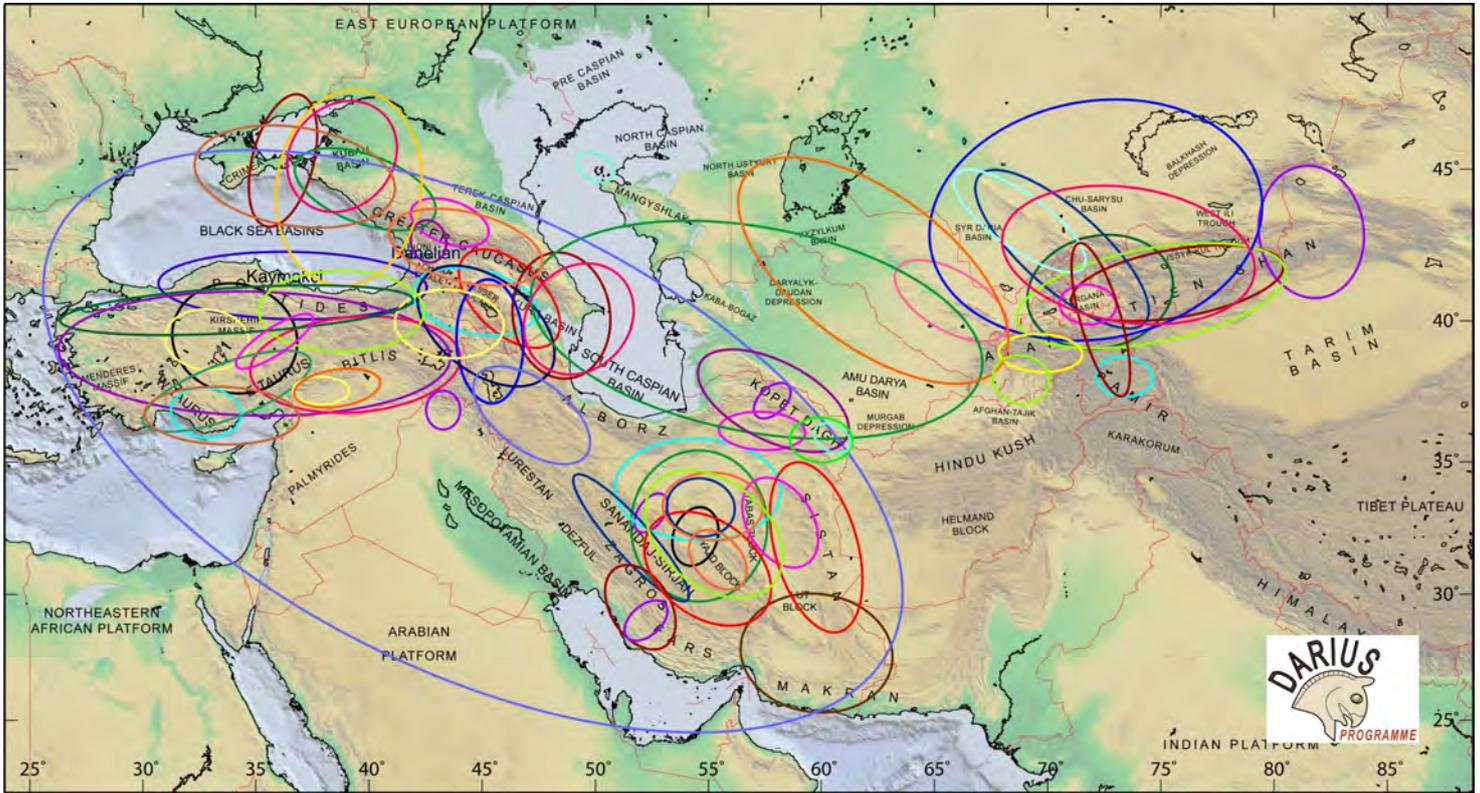


Figure 1. Location of the areas covered in the DARIUS Programme. Ellipses show the areas of investigation of the scientific projects funded between 2010 and 2012. The distribution of the projects clearly displays the main areas of investigation of DARIUS i.e. Anatolia, Eastern Black Sea – Caucasus domain, Central Iran and Zagros, western Central Asia orogenic belts and basins.

DARIUS PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

DARIUS is a multi-disciplinary geological programme that comprises original scientific projects executed by academic teams. This Consortium-type programme is funded by major oil companies and research organizations. Collection of original data and regional syntheses characterize the scientific activity of DARIUS. It is a 4-year programme that started in June 2009 and ends in 2013. An initial phase of intensive data acquisition lasts for 2-3 years after which syntheses are developed. This timeframe allows initiating and developing projects through PhD theses and post-doc studies. A key feature of DARIUS is the close relationships that develop between the industrial and academic worlds, mainly through a number of workshops, symposia and excursions organized during the course of the Programme.

The final objective of DARIUS is to reconstruct the geodynamic evolution of the northern Middle East and western Central Asia since the Late Palaeozoic. The first priority is to investigate the 6,000 km-long continuous orogenic belt extending from Crimea-Anatolia in the west to Tien-Shan in the east, and the surrounding basins (Fig. 1). This vast area includes the northern part of Near East and Middle East, the Eastern Black Sea, Caucasian and Caspian domains, the whole of Iran, and the ranges and basins of western Central Asia. To realize this objective a large part of the DARIUS budget is devoted to data acquisition through scientific projects submitted by invited senior geologists and geophysicists.

The Scientific Programme includes several particular and interactive approaches each of them integrates a complete scientific process, from collection of data to

elaboration of results, through data processing and modelling. The final result of the various approaches will be integrated together in order to achieve a synthesis of the geological evolution of the DARIUS domain through a series of palaeotectonic maps.

CONSORTIUM-TYPE PROGRAMMES AND TETHYS DOMAIN

The DARIUS Programme is the most recent of four successive consortia centred on the evolution of the Tethys domain that have been active during the past 25 years; namely Tethys (1986-1991), Peri-Tethys (1993-1999), Middle East Basins Evolution (2002-2007), and DARIUS. These programmes work through scientific projects selected by a programme committee. During these 25 years, thousands of weeks of fieldwork have been performed in the Eurasian, African and Arabian platforms and mountain ranges by programme participants. Each of these programmes led to regional syntheses published in the form of atlases of palinspastic maps (Tethys, 1993; Peri-Tethys, 2000; MEBE, 2008) providing reconstructions of the geodynamic, tectonic and stratigraphic evolution of the studied domains. In addition, numerous articles have been published in international journals, among which are whole special issues devoted to the programmes.

Paradoxically, the Tethys domain, which has constituted the main scientific theme of all of these programmes, has geologically completely vanished. The remnants of this nearly mythical oceanic domain are restricted to scarce slices of ophiolites, obducted mainly during the Mesozoic onto surrounding continental

margins. However, since the Late Palaeozoic, the geodynamics of the Tethyan oceanic domain has been the dominant control on the geological evolution of the southern and northern margins of Eurasia and Africa-Arabia, respectively.

SCIENTIFIC PROJECTS

Scientific teams and participants are selected from the international scientific community. Teams having developed expertise responding to the Programme's stated objectives are invited to submit a project. The selected projects are funded on a year by year basis. Many of the principal investigators have already successfully carried out projects in Middle Eastern and Central Asian countries during the last decade. Each project involves strong collaborations and relationships between European and local scientific organizations. Since 2010, 110 scientific projects led by senior geoscientists were funded by DARIUS (Fig. 1). These projects involve more than 350 scientists from 150 research institutions from 25 countries in Europe, the Middle East and western Central Asia.

The expertise of the DARIUS participants spans the various disciplines of tectonics (structural analysis, palaeostress reconstruction, petrology, subsidence modelling), as well as stratigraphy and sedimentology (palaeontology, sequence stratigraphy, organic matter analysis), mechanical and thermal modelling, structural geology and kinematics, and geophysics. One major aspect of DARIUS consists of developing scientific activities through collaborative programmes in most of the countries of interest.

One of the original aspects of DARIUS is the development of scientific work in most of the countries of the area of investigation, especially where little recent scientific academic cooperation existed. Geological issues in Central Asia countries have been particularly targeted. About one-third of the DARIUS projects focus on Central Asian objectives because several regions of this newly open and vast area are of importance in terms of academic and oil interests. In addition, several projects deal with the Caucasus domain, a key area for any regional reconstruction.

REGIONAL WORKING GROUPS

DARIUS has established five regionally based Working Groups. The final objective of these groups is to produce syntheses at the end of the programme, based on the new information obtained from the DARIUS scientific projects, as well as published data, in collaboration with DARIUS participants and regional specialists. The main role of the DARIUS Working Groups is to provide a mechanism and forum for the integration and synthesis of the results of individual projects.

The Working Groups are coordinated by one of the relevant DARIUS project principal investigators and involve all the participants. One of the key activities of the Working Groups is to convene thematic workshops during 2012 and 2013, in which DARIUS participants as well as invited experts present and exchange their latest ideas and interpretations. The purpose of these workshops is not only to promote integration of the results of the various individual DARIUS projects within the relevant theme or geographic area but, in so doing, to facilitate input to the palaeotectonic maps that are to be eventually prepared. The five Working Groups are: "Tectonic Evolution of Anatolia" led by A. Robertson (University of Edinburgh, U.K.); "Evolution of the Black Sea – Caucasus domain: from basins to orogenic belts" led by M. Sosson (Geo-Azur, France); "Central Asia basins and orogenic belts" led by M.F. Brunet (UPMC-CNRS, France); "Central Iran and surrounding areas: Cimmerian and post-Cimmerian evolution" led by A. Zanchi (University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy); "Zagros fold and thrust belt" led by J. Vergés (Institute Jaume Almera, Spain).

EVOLUTION OF THE CENTRAL TETHYAN DOMAIN

During the last 300 My, subduction and collision alternated along the Paleo- then Neo-Tethyan margins. The evolution of the vast DARIUS domain since the late Palaeozoic was dominated by several phases of collision and suturing of blocks along the southern margin of the present Eurasian continent. During the first phase, in Late Palaeozoic times, several continental blocks (Turan, north Afghan, Tarim, ...) were accreted to northern Pangaea. The second collisional period lasted from mid-Triassic to late Jurassic times, after the closure of Paleo-Tethys, when the Cimmerian blocks collided with the Laurasian margin. This constitutes the complex and still poorly known Cimmerian orogen that runs along the southern Laurasian margin.

The 120 My-long northward subduction of the Neo-Tethyan ocean beneath the southern Laurasian then Eurasian margins developed after the Cimmerian

orogeny. The major tectonic events occurring in the overriding plate were the opening of marginal basins (Black Sea, Great Caucasus, South Caspian basins, Sistan,...), perhaps reaching the point of oceanic crust accretion, and strong magmatic activity associated with volcanic arcs that lasted for millions of years. In contrast, the southern margin remained a passive margin during most of this time, affected only by rifting phases and Tethyan ophiolite obduction events.

This configuration, with an active margin in the north and a passive margin in the south, remained stable until the closure of the Neo-Tethyan ocean starting in Eocene, and the beginning of the collisions of India, then Anatolia, and finally Arabia, with Eurasia. A long-lasting orogenic belt developed along the southern margin of Eurasia. The previously formed back-arc basins have been inverted in the Black Sea-Caucasus area, Iran, the Central Asia region, and northern Arabia. The resulting Alpine orogenic belt within the domain of investigation of DARIUS was built by this succession of collisions.

PRODUCTS

The DARIUS products include confidential (Progress reports, Database) and published (articles, theses, palaeotectonic maps) data. The latter will be published after the one-year period of confidentiality starting at the end of the Programme.

Database

A Geographic Information System (ArcGIS) is used to manage the geological data gathered during geological fieldwork and laboratory analyses by the DARIUS teams (Fig. 2). The objective is to provide an interactive interface between the team observations, analyses and syntheses and the sponsors. The DARIUS database not only manages the palaeogeographical positioning of observations, but also the descriptions of observed objects and relevant analytical results. It also manages any kind of geographic and geological map. The topographic background will be available as DEM (SRTM 30" and 3", version 4), and bathymetry as GEBCO dataset. More than 370 geological maps at scales ranging from 1:200 000 to 1:1 000 000 are georeferenced in the DARIUS database.

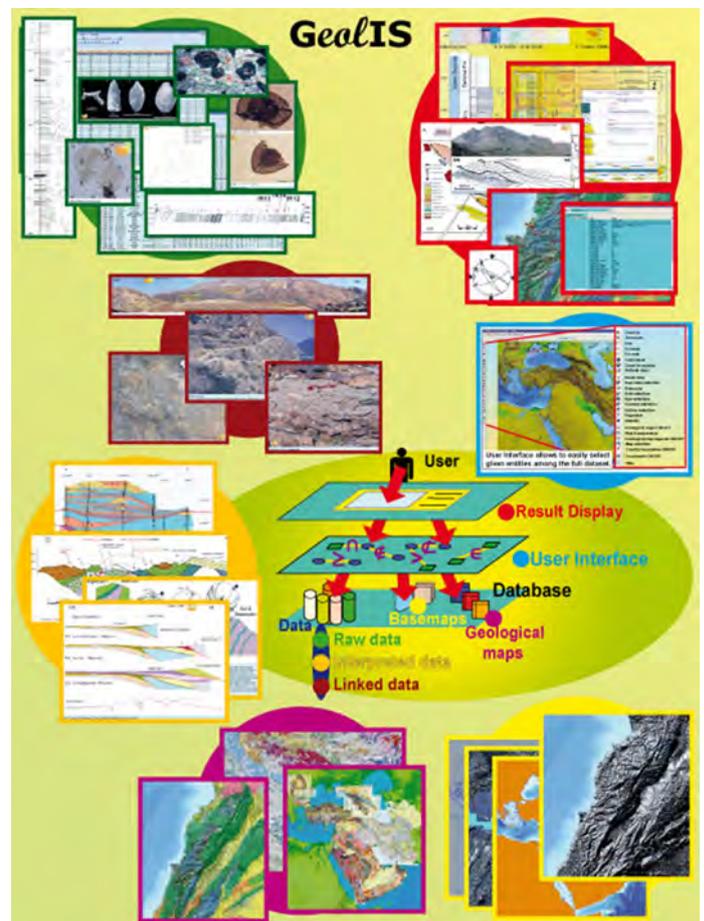


Figure 2. General structure of the GeolIS Database

Besides these geographical and geological cartographic databases, any type of geological information concerning the Late Palaeozoic to Present geological evolution of the DARIUS realm is to be managed with the DARIUS Geolis (Fig. 2). The database includes tectonic, stratigraphic, sedimentological, and geophysical data of the domains visited by the DARIUS teams. Most of these are interpreted data, such as cross-sections, biostratigraphic charts and plates, subsidence curves, palaeostress fields, stratigraphic charts and logs, sedimentological logs and maps, tectonic logs and synthetic documents, but raw data are also encoded. Thus, the DARIUS Programme intensely uses and further develops Geolis. The latter includes new specific tools newly implemented in the user interface. All data and results collected and synthesized by the geoscientists involved in DARIUS scientific projects and working groups, as well as the newly constructed palaeotectonic maps, will be integrated in the DARIUS Geolis.

Palaeotectonic maps

DARIUS will produce a set of 17 palinspastic and palaeotectonic maps for key periods depicting the tectonic evolution of the DARIUS domain since the Late Palaeozoic. These maps, taking as their basis the MEBE maps (*Barrier and Vrielynck; 2008*), will include tectonic, geodynamic and lithologic data. The reconstructions will specify all major tectonic events: rifting, opening of marginal basins, basin subsidence, basin inversions, major regional orogenic phases, main transcurrent faults, major orogenic belts ... The main palaeofacies and palaeodepths will be also considered in the maps, as well as the kinematics of the major plates. These reconstructions will integrate all new data acquired during the DARIUS Programme, as well as data from published literature. Special attention will be paid to dating the main tectonic events, including estimating their uncertainties, and tectonic-sedimentological relationships.

The periods to be depicted by the 17 DARIUS palaeotectonic maps are namely: 1- Late Carboniferous, 2- Late Permian, 3- Early Triassic, 4- Norian, 5- Toarcian, 6- Callovian, 7- Tithonian, 8- Aptian, 9- Cenomanian, 10- Campanian, 11- Maastrichtian, 12- Ypresian, 13- Lutetian, 14- Rupelian, 15- Burdigalian, 16- Tortonian, 17- Piacenzian.

CONCLUSION

The DARIUS Programme is designed ultimately to provide new and modern insights on the geodynamic development of the northern Middle East to western Central Asian region. After the DARIUS Programme, it is expected that its results will form a major contribution to new interpretations and debates regarding the evolution of the Middle East – Central Asia region. Finally, DARIUS thanks the

sponsoring companies and institutions providing the financial support without which it would be impossible to cover the broad range of activities that DARIUS is offering. ■

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For more details on the DARIUS Programme please visit the DARIUS website: <http://istep.dgs.jussieu.fr/darius/>

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DARIUS PROGRAMME



Country Focus – Archive

The newly established European Region Newsletter Country Focus archive intends to give the readers more easily access to previously published articles under this rubric as the placemarks are fully hyperlinked.

[Placemarks in the interactive Google Map](#) guide you to the capitols of the countries in the focus. Until today thirteen interesting papers summarizing different aspects from petroleum/exploration geology to exploration history and licensing policies have been published and are now available from the map.



Figure 1. Interactive Google Map showing placemarks from the up to now thirteen published Country Focus articles

AAPG European Region Newsletter Country Focus Archive

hyperlinked
all previous Country Focus articles
Description listed with the
issue number of the Newsletter,
title and authors

Public · 2 Collaborators · 62 views
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-  **Spain**
June 2007
Spain - Exploration history and future
by Elvira Álvarez de Buergo and Anunciación Pérez García
-  **Austria**
September 2007
Austria - Petroleum systems and exploration activities
by Wolfgang Nachtmann
-  **Russia**
March 2008
Russia - Exploration history and current context by John Dolson
-  **Italy**
June 2008
Italy - Exploration history and petroleum systems
by Francesco Bertello, Roberto Fantoni and Roberto Franciosi
-  **The Netherlands**
December 2008
The Netherlands- Exploration history and future
by Jaap Breunese and Douwe van Leverink

-  **Lebanon**
March 2010
The Levant Offshore Basin and its
Petroleum Perspectives: Petroleum Prospects of Lebanon
by Fadi H. Nader
-  **Norway**
June 2010
Licensing history and current policies
-  **Ukraine**
September 2010
Ukrainian Exploration Geology
by Gábor Tari
-  **United Kingdom**
December 2010 Licensing history and current policies
-  **Greenland**
March 2011
Greenland - The New Arctic Hot Spot?
by Martin Damsø Bruun, Gregers Dam, Niels-Erik Hamann and
Sønderholm
-  **Romania**
June 2011
Petroleum Systems of Romania
by Csaba Krézsek
-  **Ireland**
September 2011
Petroleum Geology of Ireland
by Patrick M. Shannon and David Naylor
-  **Germany**
December 2011
Germany – Overview about Renewed Petroleum Activities
by Piotr Gawenda

To the left you can see how the panel of the interactive web archive map is constructed.

It lists the country, the date of issuing the paper in the according Newsletter, the title and the authors. By clicking the Google Earth logo, kml's will be created and lead you to the Google Earth software.

One of the main intentions of the archive is to keep the efforts of the authors alive, a great thanks to all of you!

The papers show as well the incredible variety Europe has to offer both in terms of geology and exploration activities.

From the map you can see how many countries are still not captured in our region, thus we will further work hard and do encourage those readers who are willing to volunteer in providing us with complementary contributions.

The archive will be maintained in the future. So, please do not hesitate to rate the map and/or write a comment, any helpful recommendations will be appreciated.



European Geosciences Union General Assembly 2012

Vienna | Austria | 22 – 27 April 2012

EGU.eu



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European Geosciences Union General Assembly 2012 Vienna | Austria | 22 – 27 April 2012

Aims & Scope

The EGU General Assembly 2012 will bring together geoscientists from all over the world into one meeting covering all disciplines of the Earth, Planetary and Space Sciences. Especially for young scientists, it is the aim of the EGU to provide a forum where they can present their work and discuss their ideas with experts in all fields of geosciences. The EGU is looking forward to cordially welcoming you in Vienna.

GD – Geodynamics

- ▣ [Programme Committee Login](#)
- ▣ GD1 – Geodynamics General Sessions
- ▣ GD2 – Crust and Lithosphere Dynamics
- ▣ GD3 – Plates and Plate Tectonics
- ▣ GD4 – Passive and Divergent Margins
- ▣ GD5 – Convergent Margins and Subduction
- ▣ GD6 – Mantle Dynamics
- ▣ GD7 – Core Dynamics
- ▣ GD8 – Methods and Observations in Geodynamics
- ▣ GD9 – Co-Listed Sessions

SSP – Stratigraphy, Sedimentology & Palaeontology

- ▣ [Programme Committee Login](#)
- ▣ SSP1 – General
- ▣ SSP2 – Stratigraphy
- ▣ SSP3 – Sedimentology
- ▣ SSP4 – Palaeoenvironments & Palaeontology
- ▣ SSP5 – Co-listed and Co-organised Sessions

TS – Tectonics & Structural Geology

- ▣ [Programme Committee Login](#)
- ▣ TS1 – Tectonics and Structural Geology - General Contributions
- ▣ TS2 – Brittle Deformation
- ▣ TS3 – Ductile Deformation, Metamorphism and Magmatism
- ▣ TS4 – Interplay between Tectonics and Surface Processes
- ▣ TS5 – Extensional Tectonic Settings
- ▣ TS6 – Convergent Tectonic Settings
- ▣ TS7 – Strike-Slip Tectonic Settings
- ▣ TS8 – Earthquakes and Tectonics
- ▣ TS9 – Methods and Techniques in Tectonics and Structural Geology
- ▣ TS10 – Regional Tectonics
- ▣ TS11 – Co-listed Sessions

**Natural History
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2nd announcement *)

NORTH SEA CORE WORKSHOP

Core Handling & Evaluation

Date: 9-10-11 May 2012

Venue: 1st day: PanTerra Laboratory – Leiderdorp; 2nd & 3rd day: TNO Core storage facility – Zeist ; the Netherlands

Lecturer / Organizer: Evert van de Graaff (PanTerra), Harmen Mijnlieff (TNO), Herman Darman (Shell)

Objective: Provide geoscientists and petroleum engineers with practical understanding of core evaluations including the use of lab

Number of participants: 22 (minimum) – 25 (maximum)

Registration Fee: EUR 750-950 (depends on number of participants and contributions / sponsorship)

Supporting institutes / companies:



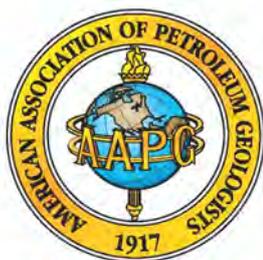
Supporting organizations:



EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF GEOSCIENTISTS & ENGINEERS

*) 3rd announcement will be sent to participants only

<http://aapgkngmg.blogspot.com/>



Geoscience Technical Workshop

***Unconventional Gas Shales in Poland:
A Look at the Science***
Warsaw, Poland 10 & 11 May 2012



Key Benefits of at GTW:

An AAPG GTW is a very interactive combination of conference and workshop which has become an extremely popular means of technology transfer. The GTW's innovative format is ideal for topics that require an Interdisciplinary focus and it promotes Multidisciplinary discussions and conclusions. The presentations and results of the break-out sessions are not published which tends to encourage more in-depth debate.



- *Access to industry experts*
- *Technology transfer*
- *Excellent networking opportunity*
- *Informal atmosphere*
- *Active participation*
- *In-depth group discussions*
- *Review of conclusions*

About the Workshop:

Shale gas has become an energy game changer around the world. More established finds along with recent discoveries of potentially vast global gas resources locked in shales has led to gas shales becoming a major energy source. There still remain numerous questions to answer concerning the gas shales themselves and their commercial development including estimating reserves and producibility.

The goal of this Geoscience Technology Workshop (GTW) is to promote an open discussion of the state-of-art of unconventional shale gas exploration and development. The forum is intended to promote collaboration on the various aspects of both scientific and commercial development and exploitation of shale gas in Europe with analogous comparisons to worldwide shale plays. A range of session topics has been designed to integrate detailed observations and perspectives from reservoir analysis and characteristics of shale plays to shale deposition and lithology.

Confirmed Speakers:

- John E. Buggenhagen PhD - Exploration Director, San Leon Energy Plc
- Dr. Eric Lehne - Petroleum Geochemistry Team Leader, Schlumberger – DBR Technology Center
- Nicholas Drenzek - Research Scientist, Schlumberger - Doll Research Cambridge
- Terry Engelder - Professor of Geosciences
- More Speakers due to be announced over the next few months - visit the website for updates

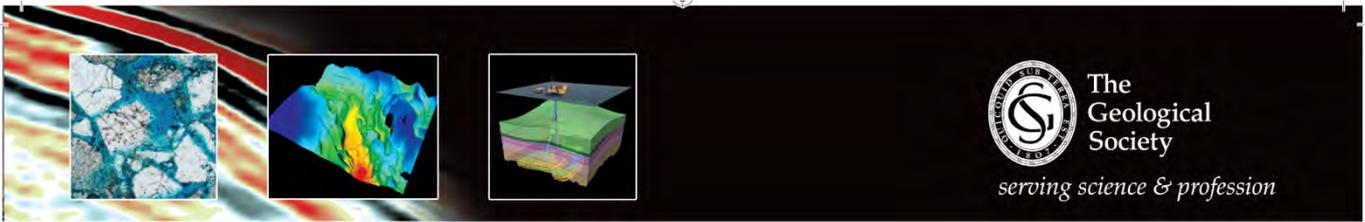
Who should attend?

Professionals from industry and academia, both those actively working on these topics and those wishing to learn more.

Organising Committee:

Steven Veal - Conference Chair, DCX Resources
Julie Bell – Co-Conference Chair, London South Bank University
Vlastimila Dvorakova Czech Geological Survey, AAPG Europe Region President
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In Association with the Stratigraphy Commission

High Fidelity: The Quest for Precision in Stratigraphy and its Applications

16-17 May 2012

The Geological Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London



REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

There has been a quiet revolution in the precision with which geochronologists and biostratigraphers are able to date and correlate rock sequences. Recent advances in radiometric ITDMS U-PB dating of zircons and computer-based methods of quantitative biostratigraphy now make it possible to produce sub-100 k.y. resolution as far into deep time as the Palaeozoic. Orbital cyclicity has been demonstrated in the Cenozoic and Mesozoic and has been suggested for Palaeozoic successions, allowing age calibration using the 40-400Ky cycles. This conference will bring together chronostratigraphy specialists, biostratigraphers and applied geologists to explore new synergies to bring the 'new dating' into ever wider applied and practical uses.

Keynotes:

Bruce Levell, Chief Scientist Geology, Shell
Felix Gradstein, Museum of Natural History, Blindern, Norway
Thijs Vandenbrouke, Université Lille 1 - Sciences et Technologies, France
Peter Sadler, University of California, Riverside
Andy Gale, University of Portsmouth

Conference fees:

£150 for fellows of the Geological Society, £250 for non- fellows, and £50 for students

For further information and registration, please contact:

Steve Whalley, Event Co-ordinator: +44 (0)20 7432 0980 or email: steve.whalley@geolsoc.org.uk



At the forefront of petroleum geoscience

www.geolsoc.org.uk/petroleum

GEOFLUIDS VII 6th – 8th June 2012 Rueil-Malmaison, France

MARK THE DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

The 7th International Conference Geofluids *organized by IFP Energies nouvelles (France), Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (Belgium) and Université de Lorraine (France)* will be held at the IFP Energies nouvelles, Rueil-Malmaison, near Paris, France, **from 6 to 8 June 2012**.

The focus of Geofluids is to understand, model and predict the interactions of fluids in the Earth's crust. Topics range from theoretical studies to applied research supporting development and management of economic resources (petroleum, metals, groundwater and geothermal), as well as for underground storage (e.g. carbon capture and storage, acid gas injection). Such topics have gained ever-increasing importance through the past years, reflecting technological challenges in exploration and development of increasingly scarce reserves and associated environmental issues.

Interaction of academic and industry geoscientists and exchange between different disciplines have provided throughout the six previous Geofluids conferences exciting new analytical and modeling techniques for understanding fluid flow and mass transfer in geological media at a variety of scales.

The Geofluids conference cycle has become an established showcase for leading-edge academic and applied research in fluid migration, evolution and interaction in sedimentary basins and orogenic belts. New associated topics are always welcome and they add to the diversity and dynamics of these conferences which have already been organized on different continents (UK, 1993; Northern Ireland, 1997; Spain, 2000; the Netherlands, 2003; Canada, 2006; Australia, 2009). The upcoming conference, Geofluids VII will bring together participants from the worlds of academic research, applied research and industry.

IMPORTANT DATES

31 July 2012

dead line for submission of the full manuscripts to the Thematic issue of the Journal Geofluids

31 March 2012

Dead line for application to the Thematic issue of the Journal Geofluids

15 March 2012

End of registration to field trips and site visits

1st March 2012

End of discount registration prices

13 December 2011

Registration open
Notification of acceptance or rejection

15 October 2011 Extended until 1st November 2011

Deadline for extended abstracts submission

PROGRAM

Wednesday, June 6

8:00	Registration
8:45	Beginning of the conference
9:00	Session 1: New developments in analyses and simulations
10:50	Coffee break and posters session
13:00	Lunch buffet and posters session
14:15	Session 2: Diagenesis: From field evidence to modelling
16:05	Coffee break and posters session
18:05	End of the presentations

Thursday, June 7

8:30	Session 3: Role of fluids in hydrothermal, tectonics and deep realms
10:20	Coffee break and posters session
12:30	Lunch buffet and posters session
14:00	Session 4: Geofluids for energy issues
15:50	Coffee break and posters session
18:00	Posters session
19:00	Cocktail

Friday, June 8

9:00	Session 5: Geofluids for mineral resources
10:50	Coffee break and posters session
11:20	Session 6: Geofluids for groundwater and geological storage
13:10	Closing of the conference
13:15	Lunch buffet

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34th International Geological Congress (IGC): AUSTRALIA 2012 5th – 10th August 2012 Queensland, Australia

As the congress draws ever closer, we are pleased to release more information to assist you in making arrangements for your participation at the 34th IGC in Brisbane. This Fourth Circular includes a full guide to the Field Trips and full itineraries for each of these trips are provided. Updates have also been made to the scientific program.

The response to the Super Early Bird registration offer was excellent. Delegates are now taking advantage of the Early bird registration fees of \$550 for students and \$995 for members (a member of any national geological organisation worldwide qualifies for the members rate). It is important to note that all 34th IGC registration fees include refreshments and lunch every day of the program, the welcome reception and all congress materials. Every effort has been made to keep the fees to the minimum and it is only because of the support of our sponsors and supporters that these fees have been achievable.

AIR FARES TO AUSTRALIA HAVE NEVER BEEN BETTER

There are some excellent air fare deals on travel to Australia available right now. We will be including a new space on the congress website www.34igc.org to allow delegates to check on special fares, but you may also wish to contact your travel agent to find out the special fares that may be available from your country.

FIELD TRIPS

Travelling to Australia for the 34th IGC affords delegates an excellent opportunity to experience firsthand the unique and fascinating geology of

Australia and the Oceania region and an impressive array of field trips has been designed to assist you to take full advantage of this opportunity. The full itineraries, booking details and prices of all of the field trips are now available. They are detailed in this circular and may also

be found at the congress website, www.34igc.org. If you are planning to join a field trip please review the options and make your bookings as soon as possible as the booking deadline is 31 March 2012.

Please take some time to review the field trip itineraries. We are confident that the tours cover the broad interests of delegates attending the 34th IGC.

ACCOMMODATION RESERVATIONS

There has been a very high take up rate of official hotels and accommodation offerings by Earlybird delegates who have already registered for the IGC and some hotels are already almost fully booked.

We urge delegates to register and book their accommodation as soon as possible to ensure that you can obtain the discounted rates now available (refer to the Accommodation section of www.34igc.org for full details). We have reserved plenty of rooms in Brisbane for the 34th IGC but any unallocated rooms must be released in May. There is very high demand for accommodation in Brisbane in August and once unallocated rooms have been released to the general market, availability will be very limited and rates are likely to be significantly higher.

Once again, we are very thankful for the support of so many members of the global geoscientific community and we look forward to welcoming you all to Brisbane in August for the 34th IGC.

Neil Williams
PRESIDENT, 34th IGC

Ian Lambert
SECRETARY GENERAL, 34th IGC

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MAJOR SPONSORS



VIII Azerbaijan International Geophysical Conference

Integrated Approach for Unlocking Hydrocarbon Resources

3-5 October 2012 // Baku Azerbaijan



On behalf of the Azerbaijan Society of Petroleum Geologists (ASPG) and Azerbaijan National Committee of Geophysicists (ANCG), AAPG Europe, SEG, EAGE LC and AIS we are pleased to invite you to the International Conference & Exhibition “Integrated Approach for Unlocking Hydrocarbon Resources” to be held in Baku, from 3-5 October 2012.

It is the first year that Geologists and Geophysicists have organized a joint conference in Baku. The conference aim to create a platform for geoscientists from different countries to meet, review latest technological advances and share experience. The technical programme of the conference will include all significant areas of oil and gas exploration and production, tectonics, sedimentology, geophysical and well-log data interpretation and regional geology.

Oil and gas industry in Azerbaijan has played a major role in context of energy security in the Caspian Sea region and Europe. The history of the oil industry of Azerbaijan dates back to the ancient period. It is one of the first countries where people learned how to produce oil and use it for medicinal and household needs. By the beginning of the 17th century, there were about 500 wells drilled around the settlements of Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan. By the end of the 19th century, Baku’s fame as the “Black Gold Capital” spread throughout of the world.

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VIII Azerbaijan International
Geophysical Conference

Integrated Approach for Unlocking Hydrocarbon Resources

3-5 October 2012 // Baku Azerbaijan



CALL FOR ABSTRACTS - DEADLINE 1ST JUNE 2012

We intend to generate an extensive technical program using oral and poster presentations to cover issues with the theme of Integrated Approach for Unlocking Hydrocarbon Resources, including the following topics:

- Exploration works in the Caspian and Black Seas region. State and perspectives.
- Regional geology, tectonics and neotectonics.
- Hydrocarbon systems of the Caspian and Black seas region. Problems of the genesis, migration and the accumulation of hydrocarbons.
- Paleogeography, sedimentology and reservoir architecture from seismic, outcrops and modelling.
- Environmental problems related to the oil and gas fields exploration and development
- Exploration in mature areas: - Challenge 'known truths', alternative trap models, seal failure, migration, reservoir filling history, causes and timing of pressure regression, etc.
- Extensive to Frontier exploration (transition zone, fold belt, deeply Buried Reservoirs, deep water, deep offshore).
- Integration of geology and geophysics for an improved interpretation.
- Challenges of the shallow sedimentary section (velocity model, shallow hazards, mud volcanoes).
- Integration toward appraisal, development and production phases.
- New technical and technological geophysical methods.
- The seismic theory and the modeling.
- Geodynamics and Seismology.
- AVO and AVA analyses.
- Challenge and Solution for Eocene-Miocene and Mesozoic oil.

Sponsorship Opportunities:

Companies who would like to have exposure at this event are invited to participate in sponsoring to create high visibility. If you are interested in being a sponsor to this event please contact Jeremy Richardson (jrichardson@aapg.org)

Exhibition Opportunities:

To find out more about exhibiting at this event please contact Fionn Devine (fdevine@aapg.org)

Marketing and Endorsement:

Discuss contral-deals, media / endorsement opportunities with Anisha Patel (apatel@aapg.org)

All other enquires (including Abstracts):

Contact AAPG Europe Office by email (europe@aapg.org) or call us + 44 (0) 207 434 1399

Guidelines for Abstract Submission:

All abstracts must be sent to the Steering Committee by 01 June, 2012. Abstracts must cover the main issues (purposes, conclusions, methods, proposals) of the presented thesis. Articles must include new materials and these which have been published elsewhere should not be submitted.

- Theses may be submitted in English, in 2 copies.
- Volume of Abstract: thesis must not exceed 1 page of an A4 size paper (without figures, the list of references).
- Thesis must be typed in bold Times New Roman 14. Set your top and bottom margins to 1.5 cm and left/right margins to 2 cm.
- The title should be written in a new line and left justified. Authors' initials and last name (s) should be written 2 mm space below the title.
- Name(s) of the author(s) should be written first, then co-author(s). Country and company name must be followed by 2 mm space below.
- The text of thesis must be typed 2 mm space below in a new line. Thesis must be prepared according to the given sample. Second copy should be signed by author (first copy is not signed).
- It is Steering Committee's responsibility to select the papers.
- Accepted papers will be published without any correction.

www.aapg.org/baku2012

IFP School Wins the European Region IBA Competition

Dave Cook

Past President, European Region



Figure 1. The Winning Team, IF SchoolP, Rueil Malmaison (Orlan Hernandez, Faculty Advisor Pierre-Yves Dequirez, Laura Donadi, Pauline Bourguignon, Sébastien Nahan and Cyrielle Dumont) with the AAPG ER President Vlasta Dvorakova

Twenty university teams from across Europe gathered at the Albion Hotel in Prague on 15th – 17th March for the European Region IBA Competition. The Region played host to nearly 150 students, faculty staff and industry representatives. We were honoured by the presence of David Curtiss, AAPG Executive Director, who was on his way home to Tulsa after accompanying AAPG President, Paul Weimer, on a visit to Moscow.

The competition was extended by half a day this year in order to accommodate more teams and to allow more time for the judges to assess the presentations. It also allowed the participants an increased opportunity

to savour the delights of Prague where the weather was warm and sunny unlike last year when it snowed.

The quality of the exploration evaluations and presentations has improved significantly over the years that the competition has taken place. This year the judges had to deliberate long and hard to complete a final ranking of the teams, so much so they missed most of the pre-awards ceremony reception!

Our congratulations go to the team from IFP School, Rueil Malmaison, who won the competition and will represent Europe in the global finals on 20th-21st April prior to ACE in Long Beach. Worthy runners up were Royal Holloway University of London in 2nd place and La Salle Beauvais in 3rd place. The judges were extremely complimentary about the overall quality of the presentations with nearly 50% of the teams achieving a score in the upper quartile.

Despite the packed agenda there was time for the students to meet the judges and other industry representatives in more relaxed and informal settings. A gala dinner was held after the awards ceremony at "U Fleku" (The Knights Lounge), a traditional Czech restaurant where the speciality of the house is pork knuckle.

Our thanks go to the judging team who conducted an extremely thorough assessment of the teams and maintained a very positive attitude throughout a gruelling two and a half days. The judging team comprised: Kevin Schofield, Maersk (Team Lead); Catherine Bagliniere, Total; Rob Page, ExxonMobil; Gregor Duval, CGGVeritas; Richard Steele, BG Group; Henk Droste, Shell; Stacey Quarles, Nexen and Simon Shoulders, BP.

It would be impossible to conduct the competition without the generosity of our sponsors and our thanks go to Shell, Nexen, BG Group, BP, Maersk, ExxonMobil, MOL, RPS Energy, Statoil, Sterling Resources, Hess, Total, CGGVeritas, GDF Suez, TGS, Ion, Baker Hughes, Ikon, Lynx, Premier Oil and the London Mediterranean, Middle East & African Scout Group. If we are to increase the size of the competition next year we will need more sponsors, therefore please ask your organisation to consider supporting this important event which exposes geoscience students to our industry.



Figure 2. The IBA Judging Panel (Kevin Schofield, Maersk (Team Lead); Catherine Bagliniere, Total; Rob Page, ExxonMobil; Gregor Duval, CGGVeritas; Richard Steele, BG Group; Stacey Quarles, Nexen; Simon Shoulders, BP; Henk Droste, Shell)



Figure 3. The Gala Dinner

London Young Professionals – Career Talks and more

By David Valente

President AAPG Young Professionals London

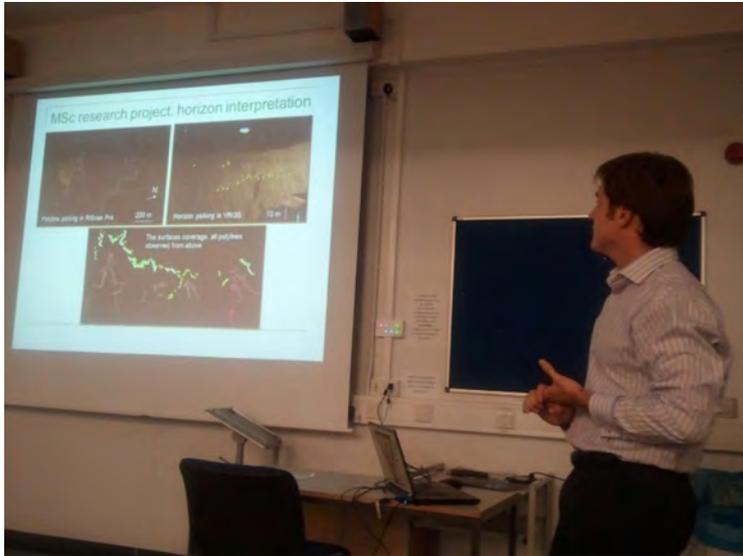


Figure 1. Maxim Kotenev, a member of the AAPG Young Professionals committee, giving a presentation at the AAPG careers talk at Manchester University in November 2011

The London AAPG Young Professionals had a very exciting 2011 with lots of events tailored to both young professionals and students. Over the last 12 months we have held our Career Lecture Series as well as a number of networking and sports events.

CAREER TALKS

One of the main objectives of the APPG Young Professionals in London is to help bridge the gap between students and industry. In this regard, over the last 12 months we have held a series of career-focused lectures at universities across the UK.

The aim of these lectures was give students a better understanding of the different careers available to them within the oil and gas industry so that they would be better placed to choose a career path that was right for them. We also wanted to portray the honest opinions of young professionals as students are often only exposed to HR staff that visit campuses as part of the yearly milkround.

The AAPG Young Professionals committee invited young professionals to speak about their early career experiences touching on topics such as the companies they work for, what they do in their roles and how they use their geological knowledge day to day. We were keen to represent a true cross section of the industry at each lecture and invited speakers from majors or large independents, small independents and service companies.

The lectures were followed by a drinks reception during which students could meet the speakers in a relaxed environment and discuss their career plans. We took our Career Lecture Series to Imperial College London, Royal Holloway, Manchester and Southampton universities and the events were kindly sponsored by Deloitte Petroleum Services, Tullow and PGS.

We aim to repeat the lecture series in autumn 2012 and hope to reach more universities, particularly those that do not have a traditional oil industry focus. If you represent a university and would like us to bring our lecture series to your department, or if you are a young professional who would like to speak about your early career experiences, please get in contact at londonaapgyp@gmail.com.

THE OTHER THINGS WE DO...

During 2011, we also held a number of networking events and sports tournaments. In the summer we held our first touch rugby tournament on Clapham Common, London where we had four teams competing to become the inaugural AAPG Young Professionals champions. Despite torrential rain, the tournament was a huge success and we hope to hold another rugby or football tournament this summer.

We also organised several networking drinks events in conjunction with the PESGB (Petroleum Exploration Society of Great Britain) Young Professionals. These events gave Young Professionals the opportunity to meet like-minded people in an informal setting and chat over a drink and some nibbles. These events proved very popular and our pub venues were always full. To finish the year in style we held a Christmas Pub Quiz with the AAPG and PESGB committee members acting as quiz masters. The rounds included General Knowledge, Picture, Festive and, of course, Geology. The winners were lucky enough to receive festive CDs and chocolates.

AAPG Young Professionals will hold a number of events in and around London during 2012.

Our provisional programme for the year is as follows:

- Networking event – 12th April, Central London
- Rugby/football tournament – May 2012
- Networking event – September 2012
- Career Lecture Series – Autumn 2012
- Young Professionals event at PETEX – November 2012
- Christmas event – December 2012

We encourage anyone who is in the AAPG Young Professionals to join us for our exciting 2012 programme! For more information on the AAPG Young Professionals London and our upcoming events please 'like' our Facebook page www.facebook.com/LondonAAPGYP and email londonaapgyp@gmail.com to be added to our mailing list.



Organisers of the AAPG careers talk at Southampton University in February 2012. From left to right and Southampton University students unless otherwise stated... Front Row: Nathan Appleton, Faye Wilson (Deloitte Petroleum Services), Sarah Davis (AAPG YP London Education Lead and LukOil), Suzanne Millis, Joe Durrant, Thom Jeffery, Samuel Spence; Back Row: Ryan Barr, Ross Havrey, Alex Orbell (AAPG YP London Treasurer and Tullow Oil), David O'Leary (WesternGeco).

APPEX 2012



See the video from the most successful APPEX conference and exhibition to date.

With more attendees, more exhibitors and more sponsors it's no wonder everyone is already excited about APPEX 2013.

The APPEX 2012 speaker programme included a very good range of topical keynote talks, and those I attended were of excellent quality with the speakers prepared to tackle real issues, including political risk, with admirable frankness".

Michael Sandy, Managing Director - Burlison Energy (APPEX Exhibitor)

"We've done the rounds of conferences over the last 6 months marketing our farmout opportunity and APPEX was by far the best event we attended, both for the number and the quality of contacts"
Peter Shiner, Technical Manager - Petroceltic Italia S.r.l.

Dates for the next APPEX are 5-7 March 2013 at the Business Design Centre, Islington, London.

See you there.



HOW TO RECEIVE THE AAPG-ER NEWSLETTER

AAPG members are automatically associated with the Region that corresponds with their mailing address. For example, Rio de Janeiro mailing address will be assigned for purposes of AAPG mailings, etc. with the Latin American Region. To change this designation, a member need only contact AAPG Headquarters by email and request there the Region assignment on their membership record be changed.

Requests for this change are directed to Linda Burris at lburris@aapg.org. ■

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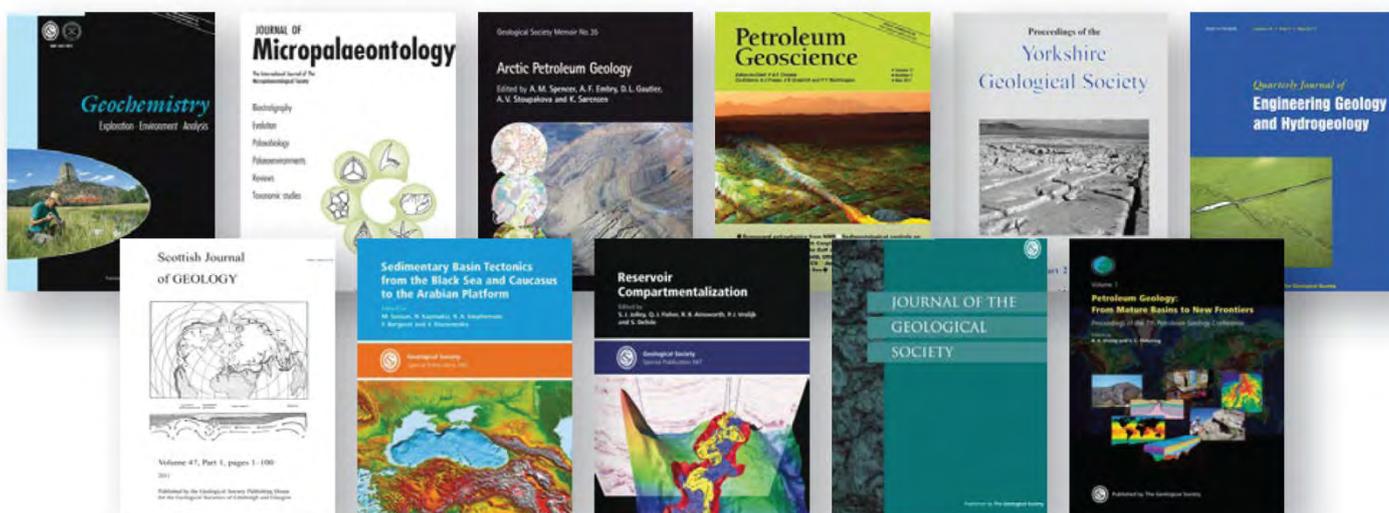
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FRIDAY, MARCH 30 2012

Calendar

[AAPG Europe Events](#)

May, 2012

10 May 2012 - 11 May 2012 **Shales in Poland**
Intercontinental Hotel, Warsaw

14 May 2012 - 18 May 2012 **Aberdeen Education Week**
Hilton Treetops Hotel, Aberdeen

June, 2012

10 June 2012 **Rift Basin Geology - Short Course**
Paris VI University

11 June 2012 **Basin Modelling - Short Course**
Paris VI University

August, 2012

27 August 2012 - 31 August 2012 **Budapest Education Week**
Budapest

September, 2012

16 September 2012 - 22 September 2012 **Seismo 2012 Conference**
Crimea

October, 2012

3 October 2012 - 5 October 2012 **Azerbaijan International Conference and Exhibition**
Azerbaijan, Baku

24 October 2012 - 26 October 2012 **European Region Conference and Exhibition**
Barcelona



UPCOMING EVENTS

May, 2012

May 10 - May 11
Shales in Poland
May 14 - May 18
Aberdeen Education Week

June, 2012

Jun 10
Rift Basin Geology - Short Course
Jun 11
Basin Modelling - Short Course

August, 2012

Aug 27 - Aug 31
Budapest Education Week

September, 2012

Sep 16 - Sep 22
Seismo 2012 Conference

October, 2012

Oct 3 - Oct 5
Azerbaijan International Conference and Exhibition
Oct 24 - Oct 26
European Region Conference and Exhibition

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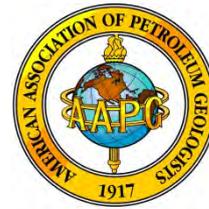
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Azerbaijan Society of Petroleum Geologists

Webpage: www.aspg.az

Berufsverb and Deutscher Geologen, Geophysiker und Mineralogen e. V.

Webpage: www.geoberuf.de
 e-mail: BDGBBonn@t-online.de

Bulgarian Geological Society

Webpage : http://www.bgd.bg/frames_home_EN.html

Czech Geological Society

Webpage: www.geoljickaspolecnostl.cz
 e-mail: budil@cgu.cz
 President: Dr. Budil

Energy Institute

Webpage: www.energyinst.org.uk

Norwegian Association of Petroleum Geologists

Webpage: www.scanviz.org
 e-mail: fr-po@online.no
 President: Francisco Porturas
 Tel.: +47 51552566
 Mobil: +47 45200830

Petroleum Exploration Society of Great Britain

Webpage: www.pesgb.org.uk
 e-mail: pesgb@pesgb.org.uk
 President: Henry Allen
 Tel.: +44 (0) 1224 213440
 Mobil: +44 (0) 1224 213453

Polish Geological Society

Romanian Association of Petroleum Geologists

Royal Geological and Mining Society of the Netherlands

Webpage: www.kngmg.nl
 President: P. A. C de Ruyter

Scientific Council for Petroleum (Croatia)

Swiss Association of Energy Geoscientists

Webpage: www.vsp-asp.ch
 e-mail: peterburri.geol@bluewin.ch
 President: Peter Burri

Turkish Association of Petroleum Geologists

Webpage: www.tpjd.org.tr

Association of Ukrainian Geologists