This three-day workshop has the primary goal to share knowledge, case studies, techniques and workflows pertaining to the understanding and prediction of hydrocarbon seals for exploration and production in the Middle East.

Seals are a fundamental element of any hydrocarbon accumulation, and can control trap integrity, migration and charge volumes; the lateral and vertical distribution of hydrocarbons in a trap; percent fill (or spill) of a reservoir; and the flow of hydrocarbons from the trap during production. As such, the long-term economic success or failure of an exploration to development project is very dependent on seal risking. Thus, consideration of subsurface hydrocarbon seals should have a high priority early on in any subsurface evaluation programme.

In many areas, despite the clear importance of seals, they often remain the least studied and integrated element of the petroleum system and are subject to lasting dogmas (e.g. the thicker the seal the greater its capacity to seal). Elements that contribute to making seals effective, such as lithology, their brittle-ductile nature, the hydrocarbon column length, the pressure regime and trap type will be reviewed.

Both vertical and lateral seals must be identified when exploring for subtle and stratigraphic traps. Seals created by faults and other types of seals will be reviewed. Quantification of effective seals and an ability to predict seal capacity before drilling is key to safe and successful exploring. In terms of seal assessment, understanding and predicting hydrocarbon seals is typically a multidisciplinary task requiring geosciences and engineering to collaborate on both dynamic and static data. In many areas of the Middle East our approach to understanding seals varies and it is now time to come together, share what we think and we know through the exchange of workflow, technique, and case study examples.

Workshop Objectives
The workshop has a rich program of oral presentations and posters covering a variety of seal aspects. It will present integration cases of seismic, special core analysis, petrophysical, geochemical, pressure, and production data. Participants are expected to leave with knowledge and exposure to the following:

- Regional and intraformational seals with field analogues
- Sequence stratigraphic framework, facies and relationships to seal occurrences
- Hydrocarbon seal architecture and capacity in carbonate, evaporite and clastic sequences
- Static (capillary) and dynamic sealing capacity and hydrocarbon retention
- Integration of petrophysical, rock mechanics, seismic and engineering data for hydrocarbon seal assessment
- The impact of structural geology & geomechanics on hydrocarbon seals
- Sealing capacity of faults and implications for fluid flow modeling

Benefits of Attending
The workshop is an opportunity for attendees to receive up-to-date knowledge about hydrocarbon seals in exploration and production, exposure to regional case studies and to be introduced to workflows and techniques utilized for seal detection and capacity assessment. It is an opportunity to network and share experiences.
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