WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THE AAPG EXPERIENCE

The American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG) and our suppliers, venues and services partners are committed to providing a clean and safe environment and experience for all our event participants. We remain alert to COVID-19 risks and are closely following and adapting to all applicable health and safety guidelines. While conditions vary between countries, cities, municipalities, and facilities, safeguarding measures you may encounter at AAPG events include physical distancing and masking, readily available hand sanitizer, enhanced cleaning and disinfecting protocols, temperature health checks and screenings, minimized touchpoints and cashless payment options.

As personal safety is a shared responsibility, we ask that all participants ensure that they are feeling well and in good health, with no fever or other symptoms related to COVID-19, before showing up at an AAPG event. Any specific delegate obligations will be published in pre-event communications and clearly displayed on signage throughout our venues. Given the ever-changing nature of the pandemic recovery, registrants will receive regular updates and instructions concerning the latest health and safety requirements.

WORKSHOP OUTLINE

The recent large hydrocarbon discoveries offshore Mozambique and now South Africa highlight the offshore Southern African Basins as a hotspot for global hydrocarbon exploration. This 3-day geosciences technology workshop includes an optional field trip to the deepwater sedimentary basins of the Tanqua Karoo. Participants of this field excursion will be visiting the world’s best examples of ancient basin floor to slope fan complexes associated with fluvial-dominated deltaic systems. The Permian Tanqua- and Liasburg fan complexes of the southern-western Karoo Basin have served as an analogue for many deepwater systems around the world and continue to be the most sought after “open-air laboratory” for studying the nature of fine-grained deepwater sedimentation.

The workshop aims to provide a broad platform for presenting and discussing the understanding of the petroleum geology of Southern African Offshore Basins in Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, Angola and others, encompassing themes associated with its plays and reservoirs. The workshop will also provide an opportunity to integrate academic with industry players in Southern Africa to help establish Southern Africa as a vibrant and emerging prolific petroleum hub. This workshop is intended to bring those working or studying in the Southern Africa basins, geoscientists, engineers, and policymakers together for robust discussions.

TECHNICAL SESSIONS

SESSION 1: New Exploration Opportunities and Recent Advances in Southern African Offshore Basins

SESSION 2: Exploring New Plays in a Challenging Environment


SESSION 4: Infrastructure and Upstream Development Potential

SESSION 5: Legislative Challenges, Local Content and Capacity Development

WORKSHOP GUIDELINES

FORMAT

The workshop will be 3 days, consisting of oral presentations, poster presentations and breakout sessions where participants can discuss and investigate a specific theme that is of mutual interest. The first day will feature an inaugural keynote speech by a high-profile professional from the industry.

ATTENDANCE

Registrations are invited from all relevant disciplines with experience and/or knowledge of the subject areas being addressed in the workshop. Registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

CALL FOR POSTERS

You are invited to prepare a poster display for presentation. If you are interested in participating, please send a short abstract to cnavarro@aapg.org by 7 January 2022. All posters will be produced as pull-up banners and delivered by AAPG. There will not be any other format available for poster display.

REGISTRATION TYPES & FEES

Fees are inclusive of onsite documentation, coffee breaks and luncheons. To avail the Member/Committee/Speaker rate you must be an active member of AAPG or a committee/speaker at the event. To register as a Young Professional you must either be a current student or a young professional under the age of 35 with less than 10 years of work experience.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE

To guarantee your seat, please make sure to register by 28 January 2022.

WORKSHOP LOCATION

Cape Town, South Africa

CANCELLATION POLICY

AAPG will refund the tuition, less a $100 processing fee, if the request is received no later than 30 days prior to the workshop. Cancellations must be made in writing. The registrant will accept cancellation notices by telephone, but all such notices must be followed up by fax or e-mail. Written confirmation for registrations received less than 30 days prior to a workshop being given. Management of tuition does not constitute automatic cancellation. If no cancellation notice is received by 30 days prior to a workshop, participants are liable for full tuition. AAPG reserves the right to cancel a workshop if enrollment is insufficient to ensure proper effectiveness. Substitutions for individuals can be made at any time. A paid enrollment may be transferred one time to a future workshop if the request is received prior to the 30-day cut-off date.
Frontier offshore basins of Southern Africa have proven to be rich in hydrocarbon source rocks with some prolific basins already under exploration. The Mozambican deep-water gas fields in the Rovuma Basin and have already resulted in plans for LNG projects with more potential in fairways that extend into Tanzania, the Zambesi Delta Basin, and further offshore. Off the coast of Namibia, exploration continues in the Orange Basin and deep-water blocks offshore Angola has boasted significant discoveries, most recently being light oil in the Cuica exploration prospect. New exploration ventures in South Africa have reawakened interest for further exploration with the significant gas condensate discoveries in the Otuniqua Basin, which highlights the petroleum potential of up to 20 000 km² of Early to Mid-Cretaceous rift and drift basins. Renewed interest in the extension of the Orange Basin off the west coast of South Africa and its potential for Mid-Cretaceous oil plays, has operators planning to drill key wells in the coming years. On the east coast of South Africa, the Natal and Zululand Basins too have good potential for an Aptian source rock. The Delta Basin and swab drift basins. Renewed interest in the extension of the Orange Basin off the west coast of South Africa and its potential for Mid-Cretaceous oil plays, has operators planning to drill key wells in the coming years.

In the last decade, a lot of exploration in deep water has been driven by new technologies and these benefits continue to grow as can be witnessed with the growth in the use of analogues. In E&P industry the most cost intensive projects are exploring in Deep waters. In recent years many discoveries are being made across Southern African deep water Petroleum systems, especially in Mozambique, Tanzania, and recently in South Africa. Each discovery presents a new challenge, starting from data acquisition, processing, 3D and 4D imaging, and finally to drilling, production and development. We have to learn from these discoveries to mitigate risk and minimize cost of production to make it profitable. Global analogues are widely used across the Exploration and Production (E&P) life cycle to meet these challenges. Analogues, used in conjunction with primary data, expand the knowledge of both the individual and team and develop insights that are not possible from using either local data or individual experience in isolation. Difficulties in the application of analogues arise when the analogues are not selected consistently, are too specific, or are in conflict with empirical local data. Most of these difficulties arise from the lack of a proper definition of analogues, absence of a systematic method of analogue selection, and poorly defined objectives for the use of analogues. Analogues are herein defined as comparable fields and reservoirs relevant to a specific question or set of questions. To select appropriate analogues, Explorationists should focus on specific individual question(s) instead of “look-alike” fields, as each field has its unique adversity.

Papers and speakers in this session are invited to present case studies from proved, probable and possible petroleum systems in deep water and their appropriate use of global analogues to local situations, as this will not only foster creative thinking but also provide a way to quickly learn, increase confidence, and efficiently reduce risk for E&P decision-making.

In addition to these considerations, operators are required to work within the legal, environmental and economic frameworks of the Production Sharing Agreements with local government. Development plans may include a combination of; conventional platforms, tension leg platforms (TLPs), semi-submersible platforms, floating production systems (FPSs), floating production storage and offloading systems (FPSOs), floating liquefied natural gas (FLNGs), subsea structures (flowlines, wellheads, etc.) and more.

This session will discuss planning, optimization, and challenges related to infrastructure and field development offshore Southern Africa.

This session will look at the critical reforms brought by-laws and standards regarding regulating and supporting local content development of various countries in Southern Africa. These laws and regulations may include provisions to prioritise the national workforce in available jobs, the hiring of the foreign workforce only in exceptional circumstances and for jobs requiring critical skills, and the progressive replacement of the foreign workforce by the national workforce. One of the key issues to be discussed is establishing of training institutions/programmes in the Southern African countries for producing sufficient local skills that would drive the oil and gas sector. The session will also reflect on local supplier development. The legislation and regulations related to local content and capacity development in the Southern African region and Africa, in general, are slightly different to that of established IOC requirements, but the objectives pursued are similar to that of other countries. These objectives are all designed to increase the technical capacity of the locals and their economic participation in the oil and gas sector. African countries need to develop fair, balanced local content policies that create economic and educational opportunities for Africans without overly burdening foreign investors and discouraging them from operating in Africa. This session will bring together other shining examples within the African continent, like; Nigeria, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and Angola, to share their experiences that supported the successful implementation of their local content development policies. The session will also explore barriers to local supplier development, with the view of addressing these.