An eventful start of 2014

Having reached the closing period in my term of office, I would like to look back at the activities of the past months as well as look forward, writes Gladys Gonzalez, EAGE president. First, I would like to thank the team in our Kuala Lumpur office for their service and above all you, our members, for your engagement and participation.

Our Association has moved from strength to strength during the past year. With more than 17,000 members we are well positioned for a very successful remainder of the year. We enjoy an enviable position as part of the global geoscience and energy community, and as a result EAGE is weathering the economic storms that continue to plague most of Europe and many other parts of the world.

The theme of my presidency has been ‘Making a difference on a global scale – narrowing the gap’. This refers to the need to narrow the gap between geoscience and engineering disciplines; professional development across the regions; academic and industry efforts to develop emerging technologies to address society’s needs; for young professionals and women in career development; professional degrees and professional occupation; and active and inactive members.

Following this initiative, EAGE has established the Women in Geoscience and Engineering Special Interest Community (WGE SIC). We have also launched the EAGE Young Professional (YP) Community, which facilitates online networking and the participation of YPs in related EAGE activities. All EAGE members who are below 35 years of age are encouraged to join the YP network.

I also would like to continue to work with sister and local societies to explore where we can make a difference. To that end, planned initiatives include multi-disciplinary conferences, workshops and more. Last February in Kuala Lumpur, we joined forces with the Malaysian chapter of the SPWLA in organizing a first and very successful ‘Petrophysics Meets Geoscience’ conference and we will cooperate with SPG India for a workshop on Broadband Seismic from 2-4 June 2014 in Mumbai; we also continue our cooperation with our sister societies for the International Petroleum Technology Conference (IPTC) in Kuala Lumpur from 10-12 December 2014; and we will join the AAPG and the Vietnam Petroleum Association (VPA) for an International Conference on ‘Fractured Reservoirs’ from 17-18 March 2015 in Vung Tau, Vietnam. The conference is also supported by SPE Vietnam section.

The fractured basement reservoir of White Tiger oil field is the biggest oil reservoir discovered up to now on the continental shelf of Vietnam. After its discovery, a number of other oil fields in fractured basement were discovered such as Rang Dong, Ruby, Black Lion, Yellow Lion, Brown Lion, Yellow Tuna, South-Eastern Dragon, Eastern Dragon, Southern Dragon and Turtle. Hence the oil production of fractured basement reservoirs makes up 80% of the total oil production of Vietnam. This discovery of oil reservoirs in fractured basement has changed the concept of oil and gas prospecting, exploration

Trivia Question

Know your Singapore

1. Modern Singapore was founded in 1819 by whom?
2. What is the total population (nearest 100,000)?
3. What are the official languages?
4. What is the highest point called and how high is it?

Answers on p. 7
An eventful start of 2014

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We are continually narrowing gaps by making material available to more and more geoscientists and engineers through social media, EAGE recorded e-lectures that are available on EAGE’s YouTube channel. The EET 8 tour by Enru Liu (ExxonMobil) was launched during the EAGE Annual Meeting in London in 2013 will be taking in Asia Pacific in May.

As a modern association, EAGE entered the world of 2.0 last year and started to communicate via social media. We wish to interact with members on social media creating, sharing and/or exchanging information and ideas. Also the Asia Pacific region has its own LinkedIn group, where you can discuss topics and ask questions so if you haven’t already, join this group!

There are a series of excellent conferences in the year ahead. The annual Near Surface Geoscience Conference and Exhibition is undergoing major changes; with more presentations, more coverage, greater networking opportunities and more interdisciplinary working. The event from 14 to 18 September 2014 in Athens, will consist of three conferences running parallel to each other. In addition to the 20th European Meeting of Environmental and Engineering Geophysics, this edition of Near Surface Geoscience will also incorporate the First Applied Shallow Marine Conference and the EuroGPR School.

I will also be happy to welcome you at our 76th EAGE Annual Conference & Exhibition 2014 – Amsterdam ‘14; which attracts around 7,000 delegates from around the world. The event, from 16 to 19 June, is themed ‘Experience the Energy’. Delegates can participate in approximately 90 technical sessions and the event will also be an opportunity for around 350 exhibitors to display their technology and products. The main business of EAGE's annual meeting is how the multi-disciplinary approach to oil and gas exploration and production fostered by EAGE can contribute to meeting the energy demands of the future. ‘Experience’ will play an essential role in providing sustainable solutions. A major priority is to build on the experience of our current work-force and share this experience with new generations of professionals. It is already very clear that manpower shortage could be a major issue in the years to come, which is why we put such an emphasis on the Student Programme and associated activities to encourage new recruits into the geosciences.

I would like to finish by wishing our members in the Asia Pacific Region and the many others who participate in our local events, or take an interest in our geoscience and engineering community, all the best for the rest of 2014.

Our professional association is by the members and for the members, to promote the innovative development and application of geoscience and engineering. Your involvement, contribution and partnership on different levels make a significant difference at a global scale in ‘Narrowing the gap’. I hope to see you at one of our events either in the Asia Pacific or somewhere else in the world.

Gladys Gonzalez
President EAGE 2013-2014

Fractured reservoirs of Vietnam will be front and centre at 2015 international conference

Continued from p. 1

and development in Vietnam and the region, also making a considerable contribution to the world’s oil and gas science knowledge.

The discovery of oil fields in fractured basement and the organization of their effective production is a great achievement of the Vietnamese oil and gas industry, making a significant contribution to stabilization of the national economy development. With over 20 years of organizing production, Vietsovpetro as well as numerous other companies have accumulated considerable experience in organizing and regulating production conditions of oil reservoirs in fractured basement.

However, this is an oil reservoir characterized by complicated geological structure with rather high heterogeneity; the collector model is quite different from that of conventional oil reservoirs in sediments. Based on these characteristics, the production system, injection system and their regulation are quite different and still new to the world. Though oil has been produced from White Tiger basement reservoir for over 20 years and from reservoirs in the basement of other oil fields for approximately a decade, a huge volume of research work has been done with great success as well as failure.

There are still many controversial issues, which are being studied with the aim of enhancing oil recovery from this especially rare reservoir. These include the formation mechanism of oil reservoirs in basement, the reason why they have been discovered mostly in Cuu Long basin, reservoir model, well distribution, injection and production regime, drilling technology used in lost circulation conditions, solutions to bottom-hole treatment and solutions to enhancing oil replacement efficiency.

The conference to be held next year in Vietnam has the exceptionally important task of assembling petroleum specialists from various countries in the world to discuss, exchange experience and views in order to identify solutions to enhancing exploration and production of fractured basement reservoirs.

The range of disciplines involved will include geology, geophysics, petrophysics, drilling technology, production and transportation technology, production system, modelling and application of measures for EOR.

In addition to the conference, specialized training courses and a two-day field trip covering the route from Vung Tau to Phan Thiet will be organized. Watch out for further announcements!
Early 300 participants from five continents enjoyed the first joint EAGE/FESM (Formation Evaluation Society of Malaysia) Asia Pacific regional conference on ‘Petrophysics meets Geoscience’, held in Kuala Lumpur.

The two-day technical programme on 17-18 February 2014 at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre focused on the theme ‘Petrophysics meets Geoscience: from nano pores to mega structures’. The award for the best oral presentation went to Ton Loermans for his talk entitled ‘AML makes mudlogging from underdog to game changer, and workhorse for unconventional’. The award for the best poster went to Ng Kwai Loong (Baker Hughes) for his poster on ‘When petrophysicists meet directional driller in coiled-tubing drilling reservoir navigation’.

I got more out of this conference than any for many years - Andrew Logan (Talisman).

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The busy programme of technical papers and poster sessions, was complemented by four full-day short courses, a student/young professional course, a field trip to Sarawak (Malaysian Borneo), and a core viewing workshop at the PETRONAS Geo-sample Centre. All the short courses were fully subscribed proving their demand and high level of interest amongst petrophysicists and geoscientists.

This intensive technical programme was well garnished with social events, kicked off by the welcome reception at the conference venue. This brought together petrophysicists and geoscience professionals from around the globe. On Monday 17 February delegates were invited to dine at the nostalgic Saloma Bistro and Theatre Restaurant with an acrobatic lion dance performance while enjoying local gastronomy. The end of the conference was marked by a dinner at the Malaysian Petroleum Club, a private business club. Attendees had the opportunity for further discussion and socializing while enjoying the stunning city view from the iconic PETRONAS Twin Towers Skybridge.

The small two-day exhibition at the event was supported by Schlumberger, EPSLog, Halliburton, CGG, Baker Hughes and ExxonMobil. According to a survey of participants, almost 65% found it ‘very important’ and 35% found it ‘important’ to further integrate the two disciplines of petrophysics and geoscience. 88% of the delegates said that the conference succeeded in doing this. The findings confirm the view of attendee Andrew Logan of Talisman. He said: ‘I want to congratulate the organizers on an excellent conference. I got more out of this conference than any for many years. The size, the single session and the quality of the presentations were well suited to our disciplines.’

This event was honoured with the attendance of Effendy Cheng Abdullah, vice president and CEO PETRONAS Exploration as well as Elton Frost, president, SPWLA, and Mohammed Alfaraj, EAGE vice president-elect. The two society representatives both called for further strengthening of the ties between EAGE and SPWLA. The Malaysian SPWLA chapter (FESM) together with the regional EAGE office in KL have paved the way for potential future events to foster cooperation and integration between disciplines and address key industry topics important to the profession.

The Organizing Committee would like to thank all attendees and contributors to this outstanding event, especially the 29 presenters of technical papers, the three keynote speakers Prof Mark Knackstedt (Australian National University, Lithicon Australia), Dr Arnout Evert (LEAP Energy) and Ralf Oppermann (OPPimal Resource Solutions) and the 17 poster authors for their contributions of a very high standard as well as for their valuable time.
Seismic characterization education tour is coming to the region

EAGE is delighted that Enru Liu is to bring the EAGE Education Tour (EET) 8 to several locations in the Asia Pacific region in which the topic is ‘Seismic Fracture Characterization: Concepts and Practical Applications’. Dr Enru Liu, of ExxonMobil in Houston, presented this one-day course last November in the UK, Russia and Azerbaijan where it was very well received by attendees.

Dr Enru Liu has over 25 years of experience working in rock physics, poroelasticity, seismic anisotropy, multicomponent seisimology, fracture modelling/characterization, modelling wave propagation in complex media, seismic attribute analysis and interpretation. He was a principal research scientist at the British Geological Survey (BGS) until March 2007 when he joined ExxonMobil Upstream Research Company (EMURC) where he is currently a research associate in the Geophysics Division.

The course aims to provide an introduction to the fundamental concepts of seismic fracture characterization by introducing seismic anisotropy, equivalent-medium representation theories of fractured rock and methodologies for extracting fracture parameters from seismic data. The course focuses on practical applications using extensive field data examples. Three case studies are included to demonstrate the applicability, workflow and limitations of this technology: a physical laboratory 3D experiment where fracture distributions are known, a Middle East fractured carbonate reservoir and a fractured tight gas reservoir.

The course will be visiting six locations in the Asia Pacific region on the following dates:
- 5 May 2014 – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (hosted by ExxonMobil)
- 8 May 2014 – Perth, Australia (organized in collaboration with ASEG and CSIRO)
- 12 May 2014 – Adelaide, Australia (hosted by Santos)
- 14 May 2014 – Canberra, Australia (organized in collaboration with Geoscience Australia and PESA)

EAGE would like to invite individuals from all subsurface disciplines including geophysics, geomechanics, rock physics, petrophysics, geology, reservoir modelling and reservoir engineering to attend and benefit from this excellent course subsidized by EAGE.

EAGE would also like to thank the hosts who have agreed to sponsor the EET 8 tour. Registration for the course is now open for all locations: and please visit www.eage.org for more information.

EAGE extends broadband horizon with joint workshop in India

EAGE together with the Society of Petroleum Geophysicists (SPG), India are proud to announce the first joint Workshop on Broadband Seismic with the theme ‘Key to Unlocking the Reservoir Potential’ from 2-4 June 2014 in Mumbai, India.

The objectives of the workshop are to review and compare the current marine seismic towed-streamer broadband technologies as well as new advances in land and ocean bottom equipment/acquisition design, processing and reservoir characterization. All these technologies are resulting in unparalleled signal-to-noise quality for these challenging environments.

At the workshop current broadband technologies will be presented from the point of view of acquisition, processing and interpretation benefits and challenges. Special sessions will be dedicated to interpretation, inversion, QI and 4D, as well as case histories from all over the world. The final session is on ‘Developments and Future Trends’. Formulating the way forward will be one of the most important take-home messages from the workshop.

Some 80 geoscientists from around the world are expected to participate.

Prior to the workshop, the one-day short course originally produced by Andrew Long (PGS) entitled ‘Broadband Seismic: A Platform to Understand, Measure, Compare and Exploit the Options Available Today and Tomorrow’ will be presented by Mazin Farouki, geophysical advisor of PGS.

EAGE/SPG invite geoscientists and interpreters involved in all aspects of the broadband revolution to attend this workshop. Registration is now open: please visit www.eage.org for more details of the programme. We look forward to welcoming you to Incredible India!

Save the date!

Join us at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre for the Asian Petroleum Geoscience Conference & Exhibition (APGCE 2015), from 12-13 October 2015. For more information, see www.eage.com.

Photo: Attentive audience for short course.
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Coming up – an awesome week at Amsterdam ‘14

Next month we all meet up at the Annual Meeting, this year in Amsterdam beginning on 16 June with the Opening Session and the Icebreaker.

The theme of the event ponders the question of how can geoscientists best help the world to meet its future energy needs? The answer lies in the official title of the 76th EAGE Conference & Exhibition, which is ‘Experiencing the Energy’. In other words we will be exploring how the multi-disciplinary approach to oil and gas exploration and production fostered by EAGE can contribute to meeting future energy needs.

Amsterdam ‘14 is the largest, multi-disciplinary geoscience event of its kind in the world. The full six-day programme (including pre- and post event happenings) is probably the most ambitious yet. It includes a large conference, major technical exhibition, workshops, short courses, and field trips presenting the latest developments in geophysics, geology and reservoir/petroleum engineering, plus a comprehensive student programme.

Top-quality papers can be expected at the EAGE Annual Conference. The Technical Committee received a record-breaking submission of 1308 valid abstracts which had to be reviewed and readied for selection, an indication of the importance of the EAGE Annual Meeting for the geoscience community. The technical programme has been organized with parallel sessions in 15 rooms and 13 posterboxes plus 15 student poster sessions.

This year’s delegates will be faced with an abundance of choices from this incredibly tasty menu, which consists of 48 oral and 24 poster geophysics sessions, 12 oral and 5 poster geology sessions, 12 oral and 2.5 poster reservoir sessions, 8.5 oral and 4 poster integration and general sessions and 1.5 oral and one poster session on near surface. In addition there are the three dedicated sessions, two executive sessions and the forum. Meantime for those interested in the exhibition, there will be an impressive display of equipment and services with over 22,000 m² of space already accounted for, including the increasingly popular Job Centre.

The student experience in Amsterdam will be cosmic! That’s because astronaut André Kuipers will be touching down for the Student Evening on 17 June, sponsored by PGS Geophysical (Netherlands). Kuipers is the first Dutchman to have undertaken two space missions, the second lasting over six months. Hopefully he will inspire students with some insight into some of his achievements and career.

The full six-day programme (including pre- and post event happenings) is probably the most ambitious yet.

The full Student Programme offers technical poster presentations and the opportunity to attend a short course on geothermal energy and workshops on core evaluations and play-based exploration. A whole lot goes on in the Student Court area, such as the EAGE Geo-Quiz, the Student Challenge and two motivational speeches from Roel Snieder (Centre for Wave Phenomena, Colorado School of Mines) and Salomon Kroonenberg (professor emeritus, Department of Geotechnology, Delft University of Technology).

If you haven’t already done so, it’s time to register for this awesome week in Amsterdam.

IPTC will be bigger and better on its return to Kuala Lumpur!

‘Innovation and Collaboration: Keys to Affordable Energy’ will be the theme of the 8th International Petroleum Technology Conference (IPTC) on 10-12 December 2014 in Kuala Lumpur. PETRONAS will be the host organization along with Shell and Schlumberger as the co-host organizations. The first IPTC held in Kuala Lumpur in 2008 was attended by more than 7000 delegates and visitors.

IPTC Kuala Lumpur aims this time to attract 8000 participants with over 400 technical papers presented during the three-day event. The event will feature a 4500 m² exhibition.

There will be three plenary sessions with high-level executive speakers, with topics such as ‘Innovation and Collaboration: Keys to Affordable Energy’, ‘Leveraging Technology: Current Challenges and Opportunities for the Future’; and ‘State of the Industry: Game Changing Technologies’ plus four thought-provoking panel sessions. Industry experts will share their thoughts on questions such as ‘Are we Delivering Fit for Purpose Oil & Gas Developments’; ‘How to Deliver HSSE and Operational Excellence?’; ‘What are the Challenges and Opportunities in Conventional vs. Unconventional Oil and Gas?’ and ‘Collaboration, Outsourcing or Building Internal Capabilities? Lessons Learnt!’.

A portfolio of talent development programmes will also be organized to attract and encourage more young professionals and students into joining the oil and gas industry with programmes such as Young Professionals Workshop, Education Week and Education Days.

Founded in 2005, IPTC is the flagship multi-disciplinary technical event in the Eastern Hemisphere which is held annually and rotates between Doha, Qatar and venues in the Asia Pacific region. IPTC’s aim is to promote, aid and encourage technology dissemination and collaboration amongst the multiple disciplines of the petroleum industry. For more information or latest updates about IPTC Kuala Lumpur, log on to www.iptcnet.org/2014.
On a mission from Malaya

Amar Amir, has been an exploration geoscientist with PETRONAS since 2010 following his study for a BSc in geological sciences at the University of Texas Austin sponsored by his company. This last year he has been at Imperial College London pursuing an MSc in petroleum geoscience, on a full scholarship from the Malaysian government. Here he answers some questions about his career so far.

Why did you choose the oil and gas industry?
I was offered a full sponsorship from PETRONAS to study geology in the United States upon graduating high school. My interest in the outdoors and sciences persuaded me to accept the offer and since then I have never looked back.

What is your current position and what does it involve?
My current position as exploration geoscientist involves dealing with geological and geophysical data to develop geological models with the aim of discovering commercially viable and exploitable oil and gas reserves. Essentially, I do a lot of seismic interpretation work to identify prospects and leads which will be matured into well candidates by developing a geological model, establishing its petroleum system, estimating the resource and addressing risks associated with them.

Why did you decide to work at PETRONAS?
I was sponsored by PETRONAS during my undergraduate degree and was offered a job in the PETRONAS Twin Towers upon graduation. It was an easy decision to make and in fact, a great honor to serve the national oil company.

What do you like and dislike about your job?
I like the fact that my job can potentially make a massive impact on the organization. Exploration success leads to an exponential growth of the company as new commercially viable discoveries will lead to future development and production projects for many years to come. On the other hand, drilling dry holes will give you nightmares!

What have been the defining moments in your career and how did these factors influence you professionally?
The defining moments in my career so far have been during the drilling operation of the prospect that my team worked on for about a year. The fact that the decision to drill the multi-million dollar well based on the team’s technical finding was a little awe-inspiring. I had a steep learning curve during the three-month drilling operations, which involved real-time decision-making as we dealt with drilling engineers, service contractors and senior management on daily basis.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?
In 10 years, I see myself working in a commercial role within the upstream business evaluating new ventures opportunities.

What advice can you give young professionals who want to pursue a career in the oil and gas industry?
I would advise young professionals who want a successful career in the oil and gas industry to seek out a mentor. Many successes are built by standing on the shoulders of the giants. Most effective mentor relationships happen naturally rather than being dictated by the organization mentorship programme. So be on the lookout from Day 1 and learn as much from your mentor as possible so that you can exceed your expectations.

Amar Amir at El Capitan Reef, McKittrick Canyon, West Texas.
More than one reason to vote in our annual elections!

If you want to have a say in how EAGE is run, then make sure you cast your vote in the Association’s annual election – you may even win a prize! The Board is responsible for developing appropriate policies to achieve the objectives of EAGE. It acts in the interests of you, the member, so your vote is important. To find out more, including all the candidate details, simply go to www.eage.org.

From 1 April, you can vote online and put yourself in line for a possible prize. Just follow the instructions on the website. The only thing you need to register a vote is your membership number. All voting members will be included in a draw for 20 sets of bookshop vouchers and one tablet. The winners will be announced in the July online issue of First Break. Please note that the final date for casting your vote is Sunday 1 June.

Here’s a quick summary of the Board changes being proposed. President Gladys Gonzalez will be at the end of her term, so Philip Ringrose automatically succeeds her and vice-president-elect Mohammed Alfaraj becomes vice-president. The Board is proposing Dr Chris Ward as the new vice-president-elect.

Paul Sava (education officer), Roald van Borselen (membership and co-operation officer) and Walter Rietveld (technical programme officer) are at the end of their first term as Board members. They are all standing for re-election for a second term.

Dirk Orlowsky, chair of the Near Surface Geoscience Division, is at the end of his two-year term and will stand down. He will be succeeded by Valentina Socco, the current vice-chair of the division. As the new vice-chair the Board proposes Oliver Kuras. The Board would greatly appreciate your vote on these candidates, so check them out online, and vote!

Workshop to explore carbonate gas E&P challenge in Asia and the Middle East

A highly topical EAGE Workshop is due to be held on 3-5 November 2014 in Langkawi, Malaysia. The topic will be ‘Offshore Carbonate Gas Field E&P in Asia and Middle East: Challenges, Technologies and Economics’.

The importance of the event is emphasized by natural gas consumption in the Asia-Pacific region. This has increased more than 25% during the last four years – twice as fast as the world average – while production only increased 11%, and proved gas reserves increased by only 2% in the region, according to the 2013 BP Statistical Review of World Energy. Another source – Energy outlook for Asia and Pacific, (APEC/ADB, Oct 2013), suggests demand for gas is projected to increase 3.9% per year in Asia-Pacific in the next 10 years, all of which stresses the importance of renewing gas reserves and increasing production in the region.

In the last four years several significant gas discoveries have highlighted the great potential of offshore carbonates. New understanding about potential targets and the acquisition of new exploration data should help to enable more discoveries in the region in the near future.

Developing these new gas reserves offshore remains challenging, technically and economically. The Middle East remains the undisputed world leading region in terms of gas proven reserves with 2800 tcf of which 90% are in carbonates. The Middle East is also the leader for offshore gas reserves and production, and one super-giant offshore field – the North Field in Qatar, and South Par in Iran – represents close to one third of the worldwide gas proven reserves (2050 tcf). The field alone produced more than 30 bcf/day in 2012, i.e. 9.5% of the worldwide gas production in 2012.

The workshop will bring together experts from oil and gas companies, service companies, and academic research institutions, with specific knowledge and interest in the field of carbonates and offshore gas exploration and production in the Middle East and Asia-Pacific regions. We welcome presentations on case studies about carbonate gas fields in the Middle East with lessons learned that will find applications in Asia. Interested speakers and intending participants should contact the EAGE Asia Pacific office at asiapacific@eage.org for more information about this workshop. You may visit the event’s official website at www.eage.org.
Our Robertson portfolio of leading geological technology and services enhances our ability to extract valuable information from high-end seismic images and builds on our leading reputation in geophysics. When combined with our experience in seismic reservoir characterization through Jason & Hampson-Russell, we can offer a truly integrated interpretation of the reservoir that maximizes production and reduces risk.

- Reservoir characterization
- Advanced seismic analysis featuring Jason & Hampson-Russell technology
- Petrophysical analysis
- Sedimentology and mineralogy
- Stratigraphy
- Geochemistry
- Static and dynamic reservoir modeling
- Structural analysis
KrisEnergy steps up activity

The WesternGeco seismic vessel Western Monarch in late March began a 500 km² 3D seismic acquisition survey in the Tanjung Aru production sharing contract (PSC) area offshore Kalimantan, Indonesia.

The Tanjung Aru PSC covers 4191 km² in the Makassar Strait where water depths range from 20 m to over 1000 m. Three exploration wells have been drilled to date in the current outline of the Tanjung Aru PSC, of which two encountered gas. Since being awarded operatorship of the contract area in 2011, KrisEnergy has been working to integrate existing 2D and 3D seismic data, review the volumetrics of existing discoveries and undertake petrophysical analysis of the three previously drilled wells. The company holds a 43% operated working interest in the licence and is partnered by Neon Energy (42%) and Natuna Ventures (15%).

In a separate development KrisEnergy has been awarded new acreage offshore Vietnam and Bangladesh. It now has a 100% working interest and operatorship of the PSC for Block 115/09 offshore Vietnam following negotiations with Vietnam Oil and Gas Group (Petrovietnam). Block 115/09 covers an area of 7382 km² in the southern Song Hong Basin where water depths range mainly between 60 m and 200 m. The licence has an initial four-year term, with an associated work commitment of reprocessing 3000 km of existing 2D seismic data, the acquisition and processing of 850 km² of 3D seismic data and a single exploration well. The seismic reprocessing will commence in 2014 and will aid in the identification of the block’s prospective areas over which 3D seismic acquisition will be undertaken.

KrisEnergy holds a 25% non-operated working interest in Block 105-110/04 offshore northern Vietnam and a 25% non-operated working interest in Block 120 offshore central Vietnam.

The company has also been awarded a 45% non-operating working interest in the shallow sea Block SS-11 offshore Bangladesh. The 4475 km² block in the Bay of Bengal over the Bengal Fan was awarded to Santos Sangu Field as operator with 45%, KrisEnergy and Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration & Production (BAPEX) both hold 10%.

China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) has discovered a monomer marine un-compartmentalised gas reservoir in the Sichuan Basin, the largest ever found in China. As certified by the Ministry of Land and Resources, this newly added proven gas in place in the Longwangmiao formation of Cambrian system in the Moxi block of Anyue gas field is 440,385 bcm, with technically recoverable reserves hitting 308.2 bcm.

The find features large reserve scale, broad gas-bearing areas, high formation pressure, high gas flow and superior gas components. The production test obtained average per well daily output of 1.1 million m³/d. The Anyue gas field is located at the paleo uplift of central Sichuan. Since 2011, CNPC has drilled two exploration wells, Gaoshi-1 and Moxi-8, both obtaining high-yield gas flows of one million m³/d from the Simian system and Cambrian system respectively.

It has taken CNPC less than two years to find the Longwangmiao gas reservoir, identify its reserves, and make a successful production test. The phase-I capacity building project of 4 bcm is now in full swing, and the phase-II capacity building project of 6 bcm has already been kicked off. At present, gas production test at Moxi block has cumulatively yielded more than 600 million m³.

PETRONAS safety award for SeaBird vessel

At a presentation in Kuala Lumpur, PETRONAS Exploration recently made an award to representatives of marine seismic contractor SeaBird Exploration for its safety efforts for the period between Q4 2012 and Q4 2013 with its vessel Aquila Explorer. Congratulations and thanks were extended to the vessel and its crew and all support personnel involved with the survey projects in which there were ‘zero injurious incidents’.

The company was due mid March to deploy its Voyager Explorer seismic vessel on a 2D seismic survey with a national oil company in the Asia Pacific region. The contract was due to take 20 days at an estimated value of $2 million.

Shell 2D survey underway

Shell New Zealand has commissioned a 2D seismic survey in the Great South Basin using the SeaBird Exploration Aquila Explorer. The survey which began in January was expected to take approximately 70 days targeting a 21,200 km² area, 150 km offshore from Dunedin.

Shell was a signatory to the original voluntary Department of Conservation (DoC) Code of Conduct for Minimising Acoustic Disturbance to Marine Mammals from Seismic Survey Operations and is implementing the measures under the recently revised 2013 Code as now required by regulation under the Exclusive Economic Zone legislation.
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NZ government permit progress to spur industry activity

New Zealand Energy and Resources Minister Simon Bridges has announced the award of 10 petroleum exploration permits for Block Offer 2013, plus progress with 2014 and 2015 block releases.

The 2013 permits include five onshore permits, in Taranaki and the East Coast, and five offshore permits in the Reinga-Northland basin, Offshore Taranaki and Great South Basin (South-Canterbury). Collectively the permits represent $62 million in committed expenditure on initial exploration which, if successful, could lead to further exploration work worth $720 million.

Three of the permits have been awarded to companies new to the New Zealand oil and gas industry. Statoil has received a permit to explore the frontier Reinga-Northland Basin. Woodside Petroleum is partnering with New Zealand Oil and Gas (NZOG) for two permits, one offshore Taranaki and another in the Great South Basin. Mont D’Or, a Singapore-based company, was awarded a permit to explore in the East Coast.

Newly announced Block Offer 2014 includes a total acreage of 405,000 km². Onshore areas include acreage in Taranaki, the East Coast of the North Island and the West Coast of the South Island. Offshore includes the Reinga-Northland Basin, the New Caledonia Basin; the Taranaki Basin; the Pegasus-East Coast Basin, and the Canterbury and Great South basins.

The invitation for bids for Block Offer 2014 closes on 25 September 2014. Permits will be granted between December 2014 and March 2015. In addition nominations for Block Offer 2015 are now being invited. Interested parties can propose areas of interest (such as a basin or sub-basin) they would like to see released for tender. Nominations close on 3 June. Final Block Offer 2015 release areas will be announced in April 2015.

Rumoured Vietnam asset sale by PETRONAS

PETRONAS is reported to be looking to sell its stakes in five offshore oilfields in Vietnam for a combined $300 million, as the Malaysian state oil firm streamlines its assets and raises funds for expansion. The planned asset sale comes as the company taps into North America’s shale boom and further develops Malaysian oil and gas fields.

EAGE Asia Pacific Event Calendar

May 2014
21-23 May 2014
IPA • 38th IPA Convention and Exhibition 2014
Jakarta, Indonesia | www.ipaconvex.com

June 2014
2-4 June 2014
EAGE/SPG • Workshop on Broadband Seismic - “Key to Unlocking the Reservoir Potential”
Mumbai, India | www.eage.org

3-5 June 2014
UTP • 3rd International Conference on Integrated Petroleum Engineering and Geosciences 2014 (ICIPEG 2014)
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia | www.upt.edu.my/icipeg2014

16-19 June 2014
EAGE • 76th EAGE Conference & Exhibition 2014 - “Experience the Energy”
Amsterdam, Netherlands | www.eage.org

August 2014
14-15 August 2014
AAPG • Tectonic Evolution of Myanmar and its Basin Development with Special References to its Petroleum Occurrences (supported by EAGE)
Yangon, Myanmar | www.aapg.org

October 2014
13-16 October 2014
HAGI • 39th HAGI Annual Convention & Exhibition
Jakarta, Indonesia | solo2014.hagi.or.id

November 2014
3-5 November 2014
EAGE • Workshop on Offshore Carbonate Gas Field E&P in Asia and Middle-East - Challenges, Technologies and Economics
Langkawi, Malaysia | www.eage.org

December 2014
10-12 December 2014
EAGE/AAPG/SEG/SPE • 8th International Petroleum Technology Conference (IPTC 2014)
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia | www.iptcnet.org

February 2015
15-18 February 2015
ASEG/PESA • 24th International Geophysical Conference and Exhibition
Perth, Australia | www.conference.aseg.org.au

March 2015
17-18 March 2015
Aapg/EAGE/VPA • International Conference on Fractured Reservoirs
Vung Tau, Vietnam | www.eage.org

April 2015
14-17 April 2015
SEAPEX • SEAPEX 2015
Singapore | www.seapex.org/sec-2015

October 2015
12-13 October 2015
Asian Petroleum Geoscience Conference & Exhibition (APGCE 2015)
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia | www.apgce.org