



**CONFERENCE REPORT**  
**4<sup>TH</sup> PETROMIN DEEPWATER AND SUBSEA TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE**  
**HOTEL ISTANA, KUALA LUMPUR**  
**20-21 JUNE 2006**

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**Conference details**

The 4<sup>th</sup> PetroMin Deepwater and Subsea Technology Conference was held on 20-21 June 2006 at Hotel Istana, Kuala Lumpur. The international conference was jointly organized by Offshore Structure Fabricators Association Malaysia (OSFAM) and the publisher of PetroMin, the only oil and gas technology journal published and printed in Asia. The objective of the event was to highlight the latest developments, trends, technologies and challenges of deepwater and subsea technology used in the oil and gas (O&G) industry.

**Participants**

Over 60 representatives from local and international O&G industry and support services companies participated in the two-day event. They represented a wide range of oil and gas related companies including Petronas, Shell, China Oilfield, Haliburton (USA), Clampon (Norway) and the Brazilian national oil company PetroBras, among others. The paper presenters and chairpersons at the conference came from various countries including Malaysia.

**Paper presented**

This was my third involvement as a speaker in PetroMin's event, following my participation in the PetroMin Underwater Technology Conference 2005 in December 2005 and the Reliability, Availability, Maintainability & Safety 2006 Conference in April 2006, both held in Kuala Lumpur.

I presented a paper titled 'The Quest for Energy : Challenges of Deepwater Exploration' on the second day of the conference, following which I took several questions from the participants relating to the topic. The paper discusses the current keen attention on deepwater exploration and production for hydrocarbon energy sources. It analyzes the factors and elements driving oil majors to enthusiastically engage in deepwater development activities. It also outlines the challenges faced by oil companies to accommodate greater intensity and further expansion of deepwater activities.

## **Proceedings**

The conference kicked off with the Opening Address by Abdullah Karim, Vice President, Exploration & Business Production from Petronas. The first session on Subsea Production focused on the technologies and operations involved in the area. They featured speakers who shared their expertise on electric subsea system, sealant technologies for the O&G industry and chemical injection in deepwater works. Session II of the conference focused on Deepwater Installation in which the audience were enlightened by presentations on risers installation and application, deepwater tie-in solution and support vessel utilization for deepwater construction.

The second day of the conference started off with the third session on Deepwater Reservoir Evaluation, followed by the fourth session on Deepwater Drilling Challenges. Each session featured three speakers from companies providing support services to the O&G industry. The fifth and final session in which I delivered my paper included discussion on the challenges of deepwater oil exporting, fabrication and subsea flow assurance monitoring. It ended with a case study on deepwater production riser system used in the Kikeh oil field.

## **Implication**

The conference provided a fertile ground for information and exchange of ideas, technologies and opinions in addressing the challenges of deepwater development. Although technical in tone and content, ESOI's participation exposed it with an excellent insight about the working of the offshore O&G industry and provided the opportunity to develop its networking with the O&G industry players. This bodes well for the center's future research in this fascinating maritime economic activity that contributes immensely to the nation's economy.

## **Conclusion**

Given the importance of offshore O&G as a vital maritime economic activity and a mainstay contributor to the nation's economy, MIMA through ESOI should keep a keen eye on the subject, through constant monitoring of developments in the sector and by participating in similar events in the future.

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**6 July 2006**