EAGE president Philip Ringrose created a sense of camaraderie and shared purpose with the audience during his talk on ‘Integrated Reservoir Geoscience: Turning Dreams into Reality’ at an industry panel during last December’s International Petroleum Technology Conference (IPTC) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Ringrose offered examples of geological knowledge and geophysical methods generating significant impact on the oil and gas industry.

He explained his views on geoscience innovation: ‘The whole point is to highlight different geoscience technologies. Multi-scale reservoir modelling is something I’m very passionate about, although my current focus is on carbon capture and storage. Multi-scale reservoir modelling from micro to macro scales, like all technology, is really moving fast. These changes will enable us to utilize our resources much, much better.

‘We are always looking for new oil but why not use the oil we have already got? So, let’s get higher recovery factors. To extract the oil to the best of our ability we have achieved a lot with seismic imaging and well technology, but don’t forget about advanced reservoir modelling technology too. I think it’s amazing that you can use modelling over a huge range of scales, from the rock pores at the millimetre-scale, to understand where the fuels are, and then take it up to the next scale. By looking at “coffee-table size” models of rocks using multi-million cell models, you can work out how the rock affects the distribution of gas and oil. Then you can take that up to the field scale, and work out how and where you can drill wells in order to get a very high recovery factor.’

Taking a broad look at innovation in the geosciences, Ringrose used illustrations from enhanced oil recovery (where recovery factors have reached 70%), from frontier exploration (using the latest EM prospecting methods combined with seismic) and the latest development in low-carbon fuels (CCS). He highlighted how reservoir geoscience can really make a difference to push up oil recovery factors and reduce risks in HC exploration.

He also alluded to how professional societies can evolve to meet the changing needs of members.

Trivia Question

When did the EAGE office in Kuala Lumpur open?

A - 2008
B - 2011
C - 2013

Answer on p. 8
EAGE president holds the floor at IPTC

Continued from p. 1

bers globally: ‘We want to provide information at the click of a mouse and the key thing about professional societies is the question of how you choose what is good and bad out there. I think professional societies add a key quality control. We are independent, we are professional and we don’t have a commercial bias. I think the next generation will want information really fast and if people know that the associations can provide good information, they will stay with us.’

The industry session also included talks by presidents of three other societies - Randi Martinsen of American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG); Professor Christopher Liner of the Society of Exploration Geophysicists (SEG); and Jeff Spath of Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE). They also shared their perspectives on what innovative technologies and industry trends are shaping the future of the energy landscape.

The session was moderated by Pinar Yilmaz of ExxonMobil Exploration Co. All in all, the innovative panel session involving the big four societies was an excellent meeting of minds, bringing together top geoscientists and scholars from academia and industry. Hopefully IPTC will schedule this engaging industry session again at Doha, Qatar in 2015.

Clash of brain titans at EAGE Geo-Quiz

Continued from p. 1

Geo-Quiz at the Annual Meeting in June. This exciting competition, compered by Peter Lloyd, the chairman of the EAGE Student Affairs Com-
Professor on the right wavelength with education tour

Prof Tariq Alkhalifah of King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST) is becoming something of a star in the Asia-Pacific geoscience community by sharing his special research interest in seismic imaging and velocity model building.

With his expertise he had already inspired thousands of students in the past to pave their career in the geoscience world. As a result his one day course for EAGE Education Tour (EET) 10 on full waveform inversion was eagerly anticipated in the region.

Subtitled ‘Where are the Anisotropic Parameters hiding?’ Prof Alkhalifah has visited three locations in Southeast Asia and has three venues upcoming in China.

First stop of the tour was Kuala Lumpur where the course was held in the Hotel Impiana in collaboration with Petroleum Geo-Services (PGS). The course was well attended with 55 participants from PETRONAS, PGS, Schlumberger, Shell, Sapura Kencana, INPEX, Kebabangan Petroleum and CGG. Then it was on to Jakarta where the course was hosted by Schlumberger Geosolutions at Hotel Mulia and attended by 30 participants from Schlumberger Geosolutions, CGG and PT Pertamina. Then Prof Alkhalifah flew to Perth to present in Perth, Western Australia in conjunction with ASEG-PESA (24th International Geophysical Conference & Exhibition). Once again there was a good attendance with 53 participants coming from Chevron, Shell, PGS, CGG, Velseis and government organizations. EAGE would like to thank all the hosts for making it possible to bring the course to the region.

If you are interested in participating or hosting this course at your location, please get in contact with our Education Department at education@eage.org or visit the learning geoscience website at www.learniggesocience.org.

EAGE increases its presence in Australia

Despite the oil price drop, the ASEG-PESA Conference and Exhibition (16-18 February) in Perth attracted a record attendance of more than 1200 participants. At the opening proceedings they were greeted with a unique ‘Welcome to Country’ ceremony, led by Marie Taylor representing the local indigenous tribe. She blessed the event and welcomed the participants from around the world to their ‘land of plenty’.

EAGE was represented by Dr Valentina Socco, board member and chairman, Near Surface Division, and staff members Gerard Wieggerink and Rachel Moo from the EAGE Asia Pacific office.

Feedback from participants confirmed the status of this event being the most important geoscience conference in Australia and our congratulations go out to the local organizing committee.

This year, EAGE and the local organizing committee worked more closely together. As a result, two EAGE training courses were scheduled as a part of the programme. Both ‘Explorational Rock Physics and Seismic Reservoir Prediction (Per Avseth and Tor Arne Johansen) and EET10 on ‘Full Waveform Inversion’ (Tariq Alkhalifah) received an excellent reception from participants coming from as far as Singapore, Malaysia, Japan, South Korea, China and, of course, Australia.

One of the highlights of the event was the EAGE Student Geo-Quiz which took place for a first time in Australia and created a lot of excitement (see separate report). Also many students, geologists, researchers and geophysicists from the mining and petroleum industries as well as governmental agencies made their way to the EAGE booth on the exhibition floor picking up free copies of our journals, signing up as new members and buying our latest books. In this way, EAGE has significantly increased its footprint in Australia and we are already looking forward to the next ASEG-PESA event in Adelaide in August 2016.
Female perspective on working in Indian oil industry

Nancy Jain graduated BSc in physics from Delhi University (Hindu College) along with a diploma in Japanese language from the Faculty of East Asian Studies, followed by an MSc in geophysics at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur. She currently works as a geophysicist (executive officer) in GEOPIC, ONGC, India. Here she tells us a little about her career so far.

What does your job at ONGC involve?
My present work includes the interpretation of seismic data, i.e., beginning with loading of data (seismic and well), QC of data, horizon and fault mapping, maps generation (time structure, isopach), all of which comprehensively aids in the generation process for potentially prolific prospects. In short, I am working as a seismic interpreter. In the future, I expect to be engaged in advance seismic interpretation.

Why did you decide on a career in the oil industry?
Immediately after the completion of my graduation studies, I opted for the oil industry rather than building a career in core physics. I felt that the hydrocarbon exploration field would be more challenging as it would provide exposure to the corporate world along with a research-oriented environment.

What have been the high and low points in your career so far?
The highest point in my career was on 29 February 2012 – ‘Leap Day’ – being chosen for a job with ONGC through the IIT- KGP on-campus placement process. I felt liberated as well as elated on that day. Regarding a low point, it hasn’t happened so far and I won’t let it ever happen!

Is Indian oil industry welcoming to women?
Certainly, yes. India’s oil Industry has a plethora of job opportunities for women, especially in today’s challenging scenario where women’s success ratio has set a mark. The multi-tasking characteristic of women is definitely a plus point.

Is there more that could be done to encourage women into the business?
I strongly feel that the awareness programmes focusing on women’s strength and calibre will help and ensure they deliver more than 100% performance.

What role would you like to see EAGE play in the geoscience community in India?
EAGE can absolutely ameliorate the position of women in the oil industry by highlighting women’s accomplishments in the light of the adversities they face, especially in Indian society, through their publication resource and by organizing events dedicated to them. I’m looking forward to the expansion of EAGE’s wings in India’s oil industry as well as in academia.

Where do you hope your career will lead in the future?
I am hoping for a bright and successful future as a proficient geoscientist in the oil Industry with a balanced life. I’m sure that one day with the expertise that I have gained, I’ll be able to make a full contribution to meeting our energy needs, working especially in the unconventional reserves scenario.

What advice would you give young professionals seeking a successful career in the oil industry?
Just one piece of advice: ‘Be hungry’, meaning the more you are inquisitive, the more you learn, and the more you learn, the more you are able to reach your goal. As far as women are concerned it is vital that you build your own identity and be independent!

So much on offer at the Madrid Annual Meeting

Early registration for our big 2015 event, 77th EAGE Annual and Exhibition 2015 including SPE Europec, ends in mid-March, so this is the perfect time to start thinking about your attendance. The Technical Programme is also due to be announced soon, just another reason for booking now.

This year’s theme of ‘Earth Science for Energy and Environment’ will explore the vital role that geoscientists have to play in securing a sustainable future for the planet. The programme for Madrid 2015 on 1-4 June 2015 includes a conference, the technical exhibition workshops, short courses, and field trips.

The conference will comprise 14 parallel oral sessions, complemented with eight regular poster sessions and two student poster sessions. For the first time in EAGE history, all poster presentations will be available digitally, allowing for more interactivity. All presentations will be clustered in the same area, allowing for a smooth transfer between sessions and presentations.

The exhibition opens with the icebreaker reception, where you will have the opportunity to taste local products. The exhibition will be the meeting place for delegates, where breakfast, coffees and afternoon drinks will be served. More than 350 companies from all around the world will present their equipment and services and cover more than 9000 m² of net exhibition space. You will find international oil companies, national oil companies, energy industry consultants, software vendors, service companies, equipment suppliers, research institutes, licensing agencies and governmental bodies. Visit the special interest areas, including the Consultancy area, Job Centre, Learning Geoscience area and University area.

On Sunday 31 May, Monday 1 June and Friday 5 June a total of 15 workshops are being organized. Stay tuned, register now and look out for further updates on the website. We want the 77th EAGE Conference and Exhibition 2015 to be the best yet. To learn more about the exhibition, conference programme and sponsor opportunities, please visit the EAGE Madrid 2015 website www.eage.org/event/madrid-2015.
IPTC turns up trumps in Kuala Lumpur

The 8th International Petroleum Technology Conference (IPTC) came close to a record-breaking attendance of 10,318 industry professionals from 68 countries. The event held from 10–12 December 2014 at Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre drew speakers from the highest echelons of government, operators, service providers, advisory and research firms, and academia. In addition, 97 undergraduates took part in Education Week and 87 high school students joined the Education Days programme.

Under the theme ‘Innovation and Collaboration; Keys to Affordable Energy’, the event, hosted by PETRONAS and co-hosted by Shell and Schlumberger, featured a ministerial session, high-level plenary and panel sessions, a comprehensive multi-disciplinary technical programme, exhibition, young professionals workshop and various educational activities.

Speaking at the Opening Ceremony, YB Senator Dato’ Sri Abdul Wahid Omar, said: ‘The theme for IPTC 2014 could actually hold the key to the way forward. Innovation and collaboration are two key elements of human ingenuity that would unlock the vast horizon of the energy industry and be the answer to affordable energy’.

At the Executive Plenary Session, participants heard from Dato’ Wee Yiaw Hin of PETRONAS and senior executives from CGG, PETRONAS, Royal Dutch Shell, SapuraKencana Petroleum and Schlumberger on how strong leadership and a collaborative philosophy can nurture commercial and technological creativity for the industry to deliver more affordable projects safely, quickly and efficiently.

Technology leaders also spoke on the emerging trends in technology development, the process by which new technology comes into use and the role of academia, start-ups and venture capital in this process. IPTC’s four sponsoring societies – AAPG, EAGE, SEG and SPE – also came together on the final day to offer their perspectives on innovative technologies.

RasGas Company won the Excellence in Project Integration Award, for its RasGas Expansion Phase 2 (RGX2) Project.

The future of the global oil and gas industry was further recognised with a strong educational strand running throughout the event. From Education Days for high-school students, through Education Week activities aimed at geoscience and engineering undergraduates, to the Young Professionals Workshop, the comprehensive agenda engaged those looking to start or further their careers in the oil and gas industry.

Bringing proceedings to a close, Adif Zulkifli, vice president, Malaysia Petroleum Management, PETRONAS and 8th IPTC Conference programme committee co-chairman acknowledged all participants, students, delegates, authors and exhibitors for making IPTC an outstanding success.

The baton now passes to Qatar Petroleum (host) and Shell (co-host) for the 9th International Petroleum Technology Conference, which will take place in Doha, Qatar from 6–9 December 2015.
Energising Asia through Geoscience Ideas & Solutions’ is the challenging theme of the next Asia Petroleum Geoscience Conference & Exhibition (APGCE) taking place at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre from 12-13 October 2015.

To initiate the discussion, Asia's premier geoscience conference will be featuring three plenary sessions with keynote addresses from industry specialists. On Day 1 there will also be a session on ‘Exploration Business Challenges & Opportunities’ designed to highlight the commercial aspects of exploration activities. It will be moderated by Emiliana Rice-Oxley, Malaysia exploration vice president of PETRONAS.

This year APGCE for the first time will be presenting sessions on Malaysian cores covering different basins, environments, reservoirs and seals in Malaysia. Included will be Luconia Shelf carbonates, shallow-marine and lacustrine clastics, deep marine core from Sabah, and basement rocks. There will be five defined sessions, two on Day 1 and three on Day 2. At each session, an expert will briefly outline the significance of the cores on display and be available for Q&A. The core session adds an exciting contribution to the 2015 APGCE event as well as an integral part of the conference proceedings.

There will again be a range of field trips and short courses, before the start and at the end of the conference, ensuring that delegates have plenty of opportunities to participate fully at the main conference.

The three day field trip beginning on Thursday 8 October will cover shallow marine to deepwater clastics in Labuan and Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. In addition, there will be a one and a half day field trip to Kinta Valley, Perak to study the paleozoic carbonate on Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 October.

This is not to forget that the best and brightest students in Malaysia will be invited once again to attend the Student Programme with its tailor-made talks and to compete in the legendary EAGE Geo-Quiz!

KL’s major event to focus on how geoscience can energise Asia!

Symposium to focus on seismic and the reservoir

A three-day international symposium on ‘Seismic driven reservoir characterization and production management’, scheduled to take place from 20-22 April 2015 at Prince Hotel & Residence, Kuala Lumpur, will see presentations from ADCO, Baker Hughes, Beicip Tecsol, CGG, Curtin University, Eni SpA, ExxonMobil, Gaffney, Cline & Associates, Hess, IKON Science, Pertamina EP, Petoro, PETRONAS, PTTEP, Pukyong National University, RSI, Schlumberger, Shell, Total and PETRONAS University of Technology. Key topics that include advances in seismic acquisition & imaging technology, petro-physics and rock physics, seismic QI technology and attributes, AVO and stochastic inversion, 4D and reservoir management as well as an interactive panel discussion.

There will also be two short courses:
• Seismic Surveillance for Reservoir Delivery 23 April 2015
  Instructor: Olav Inge Barkved (Petoro)
• Seismic Reservoir Characterization: An Earth Modelling Perspective 23-24 April 2015
  Instructor: Philippe Doyen, PhD (CGG)

World experts gather to discuss broadband marine seismic data in KL

Getting to grips with the rapid developments in the use of broadband marine seismic data is the idea behind an EAGE workshop being held at the Saujana Hotel, Kuala Lumpur on 11-13 May. The programme for the event ‘Broadband Marine Seismic Data: Adding value to offshore exploration and production’ is being prepared under the guidance of a technical committee of some of the world’s top experts, chaired by Helmut Jakubowicz of PETRONAS.

Marine broadband seismic data first became available in 2007 and are now accessible through a variety of new acquisition and processing techniques. The importance of broadband data has progressed from enhanced resolution and imaging, through to applications in reservoir characterization, quantitative interpretation and full-waveform inversion. Furthermore, broadband acquisition has been applied to nearly every form of marine survey, including wide-azimuth, rich-azimuth, coil shooting and 4D data. The pace of these developments has been very rapid and the organizers say the time is already ripe to reassess both the status and potential of broadband marine seismic technology.

The workshop will benefit from the substantial increase in experience of using broadband data, and will also discuss latest developments in data acquisition, processing and analysis. The programme will have a strong emphasis on case histories with the goal of sharing successful applications of marine broadband technology, as well as highlighting areas that need further development. It will also include the latest advances in the application of broadband techniques for seismic imaging as well as the use of broadband data for prestack analysis, including reservoir characterization, reservoir monitoring, and inversion. New acquisition technologies for extending seismic bandwidth at both high and low frequencies will be highlighted as well as the potential benefits these could provide.

The workshop will be held at the Saujana Hotel in Kuala Lumpur, a venue that combines comfort and adventure amidst 160 hectares of lush tropical gardens. The hotel adjoins the two 18-hole championship golf courses of Saujana Golf & Country Club and is an idyllic haven for business and pleasure.

Register now and join us in Kuala Lumpur from 11-13 May 2015, and keep up with latest broadband developments.
Work options at a national oil company

In our continuing Fastrack series, Asep Samsul Arifin, a planning and evaluation manager at Indonesian state oil company PT Pertamina tells us about his career so far. He graduated from Bandung Institute of Technology majoring in geophysical engineering. He spent three years as a seismic data processor and then six years in seismic interpretation. Today he is an exploration planner.

What is your current role in PT Pertamina?
I am exploration planning and evaluation manager at Pertamina EP (Exploration and Production).

What does your work involve?
As exploration planner, my responsibilities are managing exploration assets, selecting and ranking exploration drilling and seismic survey candidates. I am also managing exploration people (include staff development, training, job assignment and coaching).

Why did you choose a career in the oil business?
It’s relevant with my background and is also a good business environment to work in.

Which of PT Pertamina’s operations are you most interested in?
Managing assets and managing people, both of which provide challenges for me.

Has the low oil price affected PT Pertamina operations?
Yes, right now Pertamina is revisiting current programmes and adjusting them to meet the new business environment.

Does the company do much R&D in your area of expertise?
We do some R&D to support our operations and solve particular problems.

Do you consider that professional societies like EAGE have a role to play?
I am member of EAGE and appreciate its services.

Specifically, how might EAGE help the geoscience community in Indonesia?
EAGE can contribute to our geoscience community by conducting short courses, joint conventions with Indonesian professional organisations and also initiating student chapter activities.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years’ time?
I hope to become a director of human resources or some aspect of upstream operations.

Would you recommend a career in the oil business to young people today?
Of course! At PT Pertamina we offer two career paths – one technical, the other managerial. Young graduates become junior geoscientists or engineers when they join. They work as interpreters, petrophysicists, wellsite and operational geologists, operational geophysicists, and also geological modellers. This junior level will take 3-5 years before they get promoted to more senior positions depending on availability. And then at some point they will follow a technical of managerial path.

Myanmar’s first geoscience event is coming soon

The First Myanmar Geosciences Conference & Exhibition is taking place from 19-20 November 2015 in Yangon, Myanmar. The new venture follows the signing last year of an MOU between EAGE and sister societies AAPG and Myanmar Geosciences Society (MGS) for joint organization of the event.

The three societies are now looking forward to bringing this quality geoscience event to a rather underexplored country that some refer to as the ‘hottest hotspot’ for hydrocarbon exploration in Asia, and maybe even the world.

Over the last few years, Myanmar has seen an enormous increase in business activity, including the energy sector, and the interest in the latest licensing rounds by Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE) clearly demonstrate that many oil and gas companies, big or small, are very keen to explore the country’s petroleum basins.

Gerard Wieggerink, manager for EAGE Asia Pacific, said: ‘Both AAPG and EAGE saw a lack of a quality, focused geoscience event where the industry and academic world could come together and discuss. With the support of the Myanmar Geoscience Society, we have found our logical local partner, also enabling AAPG and ourselves to give back to the local community as per the mission of our two societies’.
Society collaboration with HAGI in Indonesia is in the works

The EAGE Asia Pacific has been discussing collaboration with Himpunan Ahli Geofisika Indonesia (HAGI), a professional geophysics association based in Jakarta, Indonesia. This meeting took place at the SKKMI Gas headquarters, Mulia Tower, Jakarta where Gerard Wieggerink (regional manager of EAGE Asia Pacific) discussed workshop opportunities and the benefit of collaboration between associated societies. Present were Pak Dicky Rahmadi (president of HAGI), Pak Madong Hutahaean (Internal general secretary), Pak Roy Baroes (external general secretary), Pak Arif Gunawan (vice president, external affair) and Pak Gustriyansyah Mishar (vice president of PIT and special events).

Area’s of cooperation between the two societies include joint workshops and publications.

Trivia answer

B - 2011

The 39th IPA CONVENTION & EXHIBITION 2015

Indonesia industry gathering will seek to prove country is worthwhile investment target

Coming up on 20-22 May is the 39th IPA Convention and Exhibition – IPA CON-VEX 2015. This is the place to catch up on all the developments and investment opportunities in the Indonesian oil industry.

The message to all stakeholders, which the event hopes to convey, is that Indonesia’s government is cooperative to work with. Hence the title of the event - ‘Working Together to Accelerate Solutions in Facing Indonesia’s Energy Crisis’.

Activities will begin with a prestigious forum discussion, well designed to help all stakeholders find common grounds of the real issues, involving dialogue with countries, international organizations, and other interested parties. These efforts will help understand the challenges our industry will face in the years ahead and bring suggest solutions at the same time.

• TECHNICAL PROGRAM
Program where the industry’s professionals from all around the world will get the chance to share their knowledge and experiences through technical presentations and poster sessions.

• EXHIBITION
Besides showcasing the latest technology and innovations, the theme this year is to support the Indonesian government to identify, address and solve the major technical and non-technical challenges within the country’s oil and gas industry and create a conducive investment climate for all interested investors.

• SOCIAL FUNCTIONS & GALA DINNER
Organisers call this a golden ticket towards limitless industry networking.

Ming dynasty exploration visit for Beijing Chapter students

EAGE Student Chapter of Beijing from China University of Petroleum (CUPB) led by Professor Yang Liu organized a field trip late last year to the Ming dynasty tombs reservoir. The idea was to familiarize themselves with seismic acquisition and gain better understanding of interpretation of the data.

Despite the cold weather, the students with equipment from their education institute created a simple data acquisition system on site. As they wished to respect the cultural heritage of the Ming Dynasty Tomb and ensure safety, they substituted usage of dynamite and vibrator with steel plate and hammers to create the vibration. The students were divided into five teams to carry out specific tasks such as measurement, laying wires on the ground, setting receivers, doing excitation and controlling the seismic instrument. The teams switched roles in order to experience all the challenges of doing seismic acquisition.

The EAGE Student Chapter of Beijing look forward to organizing more geoscience projects for the student community in the future.
Full Azimuth Seismic Workshop is bringing ground-breaking technology to Mumbai with SPG India

EAGE has signed an event MOU with the Society of Petroleum Geophysicists (SPG) in India to organize a workshop on ‘Full Azimuth Seismic’ on 7-8 September 2015 in Mumbai. This is a second collaboration for EAGE with SPG following the success of the workshop on broadband marine seismic which attracted over 100 participants. SPG and EAGE hope that working together will foster cross membership and potential publications.

Mohammed Alfaraj, EAGE vice president said: ‘Once again, EAGE and the Society of Petroleum Geophysicists (SPG) are joining forces to promote cutting-edge geophysical technologies in the Indian subcontinent. Due to its inherent ability to capture wider illumination, as well as its effectiveness in attenuating more complex noise, ‘Full Azimuth Seismic’ has the potential to unravel more about the subsurface than narrower designs, thus yielding higher-quality images. As such, the topic is expected to draw audience from across the whole exploration spectrum, acquisition through the final stage of interpretation, representing academia, service providers and operators.’

The objective of the workshop is to highlight the role of full azimuth seismic in more accurate imaging of the sub-surface, improved signal to noise ratio, and improved fracture and reservoir characterisation. The Co-chairpersons of the workshop will be A.K.Dwivedi, the president of SPG from Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Rakesh Walia, the managing director of CGG India. For more information or inquiries about the workshop, please visit the event’s website on www.eage.org or spgindia.org. If you are interested in speaking or sponsorship opportunities, please contact asiapacific@eage.org.

EAGE Beijing Chapter marks inauguration with exploration geophysics symposium

There was a special event to mark the official entry of EAGE into the Chinese geoscience community. It was the first steering committee and administrative board meeting of EAGE Beijing Chapter held at China University of Petroleum-Beijing (CUP-B). It was held in conjunction with the First Symposium on Exploration Geophysics.

EAGE president Philip Ringrose sent warm congratulations to the EAGE Beijing Chapter. Over 50 members of the new EAGE Beijing Chapter attended the meeting representing over 40 top companies.

The meeting was chaired by Dr Lizhi Xiao, president of EAGE Beijing Chapter and dean of the College of Geophysics and Information Engineering. Speakers at the meeting welcoming the EAGE and its activities included Dr Yang Liu (vice president), Dr Bo Zhao (vice president and director of BGP R&D Centre), Gengyang Tang (secretary general), Dr Bangliu Zhao (steering committee member and chief engineer, CNPC Exploration and Production Company), Dr Yonggang Zhang (associate director, Sinopec Ministry of Science and Technology), and Xudong Jing (director, Shell (China) Innovation and R&D Centre).

The First Symposium on Exploration Geophysics was held at CUP-B with attendance by more than 300 representatives from over 40 educational institutions.

Dr Bangliu Zhao, Dr Yonggang Zhang, Dr Bo Zhao and Dr Xuxuan Li spoke on the progress of geophysical technology at CNPC, Sinopec, CNOOC and BGP respectively, while Dr Lizhi Xiao introduced the disciplinary development of exploration geophysics in CUP-B.

In the second part of the seminar, more than 20 experts and scholars from Peking University, Tsinghua University, Ocean University of China and CUP-B participated in an animated discussion on various research topics.
Non-seismic workshop to precede SEAPEX event

Don’t forget that EAGE is organizing its one-day ‘Non-seismic Workshop’ in Singapore on 14 April at the same venue as the SEAPEX Exploration Conference. Keynote speaker Andrew Lockwood (Woodside) will focus on the regional exploration role of non-seismic data, followed by presentations on the practical application of non-seismic methods in petroleum exploration activities.

SEAPEX takes place on 15-17 April at the Fairmont Hotel in Singapore and is considered one of the leading E&P events in the region for the upstream industry. The event promises oral and poster sessions, a farm-out forum, an international licensing area, excellent networking and a wealth of social events (including complimentary food and drink).

There will be 10 oral sessions providing insights and overviews regarding petroleum E&P in the Asia-Pacific region. Check-out the latest on this event at www.seapexconf.org.

Kuala Lumpur to welcome PGS regional HQ

By July this year Petroleum Geo-Services will have relocated its regional headquarters for the Asia-Pacific region to Kuala Lumpur from Singapore.

The move is part of the company’s plan to restructure PGS business activities in Asia Pacific and will result in consolidation and centralization of resources. The company is looking to improved competitive advantage and reduced costs, all of which are important in the current challenging market.

For PGS, KL is already the hub of a vibrant and active domestic Malaysian E&P market. The company’s imaging centre in the city is one of PGS’ busiest, carrying a significant part of the company’s load for imaging worldwide. By locating the regional headquarters in KL PGS expects to get closer interaction with the major international oil companies established in KL as well as PETRONAS.

Australian states divided over impact of fracking

Oil industry hydraulic fracturing has been given a different reception in two Australian states, Tasmania and Northern Territory.

The Tasmanian government has decided to extend the ban on fracking for five years to protect the state’s agricultural industry.

Primary Industries Minister Jeremy Rockliff said uncertainty around fracking should not put at risk Tasmania’s reputation for producing fresh, premium and safe produce.

He said: ‘There is considerable concern around the potential negative impacts of fracking, particularly within our rural communities and farming families. After consideration, advice and consultation, it is prudent that we introduce a five-year moratorium on fracking in Tasmania.’

The state’s Liberal government is said to support exploration for resources such as shale gas and petroleum, without the use of fracking.

In the Northern Territory the government has tabled a 200-page report into hydraulic fracturing in the state by Dr Allan Hawke. A key finding stated: ‘The substantive weight of agreed expert opinion leads the Inquiry to find that there is no justification whatsoever for the imposition of a moratorium of hydraulic fracturing in the Northern Territory.’

Among the report’s recommendations was the need for ‘a robust regulatory regime’ to manage the environmental risks associated with hydraulic fracturing.

NT Minister for Mines and Energy Dave Tollner said the key finding of the Hawke Report was ‘fracking can take place safely in the Northern Territory, provided the appropriate regulatory and monitoring regime is in place to allay community concern.’

Tollner has asked Dr Allan Hawke, to stay on to lead a review of the regulatory regime to engage ‘with the community and key stakeholders to develop a best practice framework.’

Chinese shale losing its early glitter

China is struggling to find attractive shale gas blocks to offer in a third auction of concessions, according to a recent Reuters report. Some 400 wells have been drilled and geological surveys conducted in blocks awarded in China’s first two exploration auctions, yet there is only one large shale find and few international investors in the sector.

Last year, despite potentially holding the largest technically recoverable shale gas reserves, complex geology, water scarcity and high drilling costs led Beijing to more than halve its 2020 output target to 30 billion cubic metres (bcm), or 18 percent China’s current demand. Now, the Ministry of Land and Resources’ (MLR) is said to be expecting the third auction may be held up.
CGG targets Rankin Trend in multi-client survey

CGG has started acquiring its multi-client Davros 3D broadband seismic survey in the Northern Carnarvon Basin on the North West Shelf of Western Australia. Covering in excess of 11,000 km², Davros is the largest seismic survey to be acquired by CGG in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Davros survey is being conducted by the Viking Vision, using CGG’s BroadSeis and BroadSource broadband seismic solution. The vessel is equipped with 12 Sercel Sentinel streamers, each 8250 m in length.

The Davros multi-client solution was designed to best address the imaging challenges of the Rankin Trend, such as the effects of the high-velocity carbonate overburden, steeply dipping structures, fault shadow and structural complexity at depth, all of which is critical for optimal selection of drilling targets in this area.

Jean-Georges Malcor, CEO, CGG, said: ‘We believe Davros will reveal exciting new exploration opportunities, given its location adjacent to significant discoveries along the Rankin Trend.’

Oil price not all bad news for Asia Pacific region, report says

The fall in oil prices has set the tone for a challenging 2015 for E&P activity across Asia Pacific’s (APAC) entire upstream sector, according to a report by energy analyst Wood Mackenzie.

However Gero Farruggio, head of APAC Upstream Research, has some positives to note: ‘Even with challenges, we expect an eventful year with several positive developments on the political and fiscal front. These will not only act to soften the blow but renew interest in upstream exploration in the region.’

The research company notes three themes that will have an impact on the region’s upstream future.

Firstly, lower oil prices will impact earnings and project approvals. Oil projects and large integrated LNG projects with high liquids exposure will be under pressure at current oil prices between $50-60 per barrel. Wood Mackenzie estimates that over US$60 billion (bn) in 2015 cashflow will be affected due to the drop in prices. Sustained lower prices will also delay project approvals – pre-sanctioned projects with a total investment of over US$100bn are at risk of delays or cancellation.

Secondly, the fall in global mergers and acquisition (M&A) activity in late-2014, mirroring the fall in oil prices, will continue as a theme for companies in 2015. However, if pricing stabilises then activity levels should pick up the second half of the year and asset sales will increase, resulting in a true buyer’s market.

Thirdly, Wood Mackenzie expects there will be calls for governments to loosen fiscal terms to encourage E&P spending, but in Asia this will be difficult to get past voters who want to increase, not reduce, the state’s share of overall revenue. Exploration tax breaks are more likely, as are attempts to reduce regulatory red tape.

Polarcus embarks on Western Australia Roebuck Basin project

Polarcus has received a commitment from an undisclosed client for a broadband 3D marine seismic acquisition project in Australasia. The project is expected to run for approx. two months.

Meantime the company has begun seismic acquisition on the major Polarcus Capreolus 3D multi-client project over the Phoenix area that contains the recent Phoenix South-1 oil discovery within the Roebuck Basin, offshore Western Australia. The survey is utilizing two high performance 12-streamer Polarcus vessels, Polarcus Amani and Polarcus Asima, operating in tandem in order to maximize production.

The Capreolus 3D multi-client project covers 15,000 km² and has been designed to provide a basin-wide high quality broadband 3D seismic dataset over and adjacent to the Phoenix South-1 oil discovery announced in 2014. The basin is one of the few remaining under-explored parts of Australia’s North West Shelf and considered to have the potential to become a major new oil province.

The data acquisition phase is estimated at approx. eight vessel months (four calendar months), with the resultant data being processed through a pre-stack depth migration routine by DownUnder GeoSolutions in Perth. Final data products are expected to be available within Q2 2016.
Papua New Guinea onshore and airborne surveys planned

InterOil Corp has contracted CGG to carry out a land seismic and an airborne gravity survey to assess the hydrocarbon potential of their acreage in Papua New Guinea. CGG’s airborne group is to conduct a large FALCON airborne gravity gradiometer (AGG) survey to acquire 11,000 line km of high-resolution data with fixed-wing aircraft and 25,700 line km using rotary-wing aircraft, better suited to acquiring high-resolution measurements in the rugged terrain.

The 2D conventional land seismic award comprises a 465 km survey in InterOil’s southern PPL474 and 476 permits (the Murua survey) and may include additional coverage totalling in excess of 200 km to the north over their Triceratops and Raptor discoveries.

To ensure robust operations in challenging operating conditions CGG will deploy 2100 Sercel UNITE cable-free channels and autonomous seismic source technology during the two-part survey which was due to start in January and end in August this year. CGG’s Bangkok imaging centre will process the land seismic data as part of the integrated service CGG is offering InterOil.

Dolphin wins Myanmar contract

Ophir Energy has awarded Dolphin Geophysical a contract for 3D data acquisition and processing of 10,000 km² offshore Myanmar. The work was due to begin in Q1 with a vessel already located in the region.

Atle Jacobsen, Dolphin CEO, said: ‘This large seismic contract award adds to our backlog of powerful solutions projects, where Dolphin’s cost-efficient wide-tow configuration is the preferred acquisition solution selected by one of our large repeat customers.’

EAGE Asia Pacific Event Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>April 2015</th>
<th>May 2015</th>
<th>November 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14 April 2015</td>
<td>11-13 May</td>
<td>18-20 November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EAGE • Workshop on Non Seismic Methods</td>
<td>EAGE • Workshop on Broadband Marine Seismic Data from Acquisition to Production</td>
<td>SEGJ • The 12th SEGJ International Symposium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia</td>
<td>Tokyo, Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-17 April 2015</td>
<td>1-4 June</td>
<td>19-20 November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The SEAPEX Conference &amp; Exhibition</td>
<td>EAGE • 77th EAGE Conference &amp; Exhibition 2015 – Madrid 2015</td>
<td>AAPG/EAGE/MGS • Myanmar Geosciences Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>Madrid, Spain</td>
<td>Yangon, Myanmar</td>
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<tr>
<td>20-22 April 2015</td>
<td>June 2015</td>
<td>17 November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EAGE • Seismic Driven Reservoir Characterization and Production Management Symposium</td>
<td>EAGE • 77th EAGE Conference &amp; Exhibition 2015 – Madrid 2015</td>
<td>EAGE • EAGE Education Tour (EET) 9: Satellite InSAR Data: Reservoir Monitoring from Space by Alessandro Feretti (TRE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia</td>
<td>Madrid, Spain</td>
<td>Tokyo, Japan</td>
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<tr>
<td>23-24 April 2015</td>
<td>September 2015</td>
<td>20 November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EAGE • Short Course: Seismic Reservoir Characterization: An Earth Modelling Perspective by Philippe Doyen, PhD (CGG)</td>
<td>EAGE • Full Azimuth Seismic Workshop</td>
<td>EAGE • EAGE Education Tour (EET) 9: Satellite InSAR Data: Reservoir Monitoring from Space by Alessandro Feretti (TRE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia</td>
<td>Mumbai, India</td>
<td>Perth, Australia</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 April 2015</td>
<td>October 2015</td>
<td>23 November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EAGE • Short Course: Seismic surveillance for reservoir delivery by Olav Inge Barkved (Petoro)</td>
<td>ICEP/EAGE • Asia Petroleum Geoscience Conference &amp; Exhibition (APGCE 2015)</td>
<td>EAGE • EAGE Education Tour (EET) 9: Satellite InSAR Data: Reservoir Monitoring from Space by Alessandro Feretti (TRE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia</td>
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<td>Wellington, New Zealand</td>
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CGG’s UNITE cable-less technology.