About IOGP

Wherever you are...
Wherever you go...
Whatever you do...

Chances are you’re relying on oil and gas for heat, light, power and mobility.
enabling
Meeting the growing demand for energy

The age of oil and gas began more than 150 years ago and will continue for decades to come as global demand for secure, affordable and diverse energy grows dramatically.

According to the International Energy Agency, despite steady progress in developing alternative and renewable forms of energy, oil and gas will continue to meet as much as 50% of the world’s need for heat, light, power and mobility for at least the next 20 years.

So finding and producing oil and gas remain essential activities. Equally vital will be construction of the infrastructure for transporting them. Doing all of this will need massive investment of some US$300 billion per year.

Most of that money will come from oil and gas producers themselves, known collectively as the upstream industry.
The voice of the upstream industry

A significant proportion of oil and gas producers—as well as national and regional upstream associations—are members of IOGP. Operating in more than 80 countries, they find the oil and gas trapped in rock formations miles below the earth’s surface. Then they extract those essential sources of energy.

IOGP Members produce 40% of the world’s oil and gas. They do this by working in some of the world’s most challenging and remote environments onshore and offshore.
Past and present

IOGP has been an integral part of this process since 1974.

Our enduring mission is to advance the views of the upstream industry to international regulators and legislative bodies and to share good practice in safety and the protection of the environment. Since then other issues have become equally important: security of oil and gas supply, access to protected areas, sound governance, fiscal transparency and other elements of corporate responsibility.

All of this involves close collaboration with a wide range of other organizations, both global and regional.

Global reach

IOGP speaks on the industry’s behalf before the United Nations and its agencies such as the International Maritime Organization; the World Bank; the International Organization for Standardization; the International Regulators’ Forum and the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative.

Regionally, IOGP has a major focus on the European Union. This is also because the EU tends to lead the way in passing laws and setting requirements that are subsequently adapted elsewhere. Our Brussels office engages with the EU on a wide range of issues including the energy policy and the European gas market.

IOGP also represents the industry before other regional organizations such as OSPAR and the Arctic Council.
Collaboration and consensus

It is complex, time-consuming and costly to find oil and produce oil and gas. A single upstream project can span national borders, take a decade or more to complete and call on billions of dollars of investment. That’s why the industry relies so much on partnerships and alliances.

So does IOGP.

We work closely with other bodies such as IPIECA, the global oil and gas industry association for environment and social issues, and FuelsEurope, which represents the region’s refining and marketing industry.

IOGP also initiates major research, particularly in the fields of health, safety and the environment. This, too, often involves other associations.

A joint project to better understand the impact of upstream-generated noise on marine life is a good example. The programme involves several member companies and the International Association of Geophysical Contractors.
Experience and expertise

IOGP’s committee structure draws on industry experts from a wide variety of disciplines including: health, safety, security, the environment, engineering and corporate social responsibility.

This collective knowledge results in authoritative technical reports and guidelines. For example, our annual report on safety performance indicators covers millions of hours of working time in upstream operations around the world. First produced in 1985, it’s now the largest cumulative safety database of any industry.

IOGP also plays a leading role during difficult periods for the industry. In 2010 the Association established a Global Industry Response Group (GIRG) to ensure that the lessons learned from that year’s deep water Gulf of Mexico incident were widely absorbed and applied. The GIRG worked closely with international oil companies, national oil industry associations, regulators and other government agencies to improve the safety and sustainability of deep water operations around the world.