IOGP’s Warsaw meeting: focus on four key issues

Management Committee Chair Fuzzy Bitar welcomed representatives from 14 countries across four continents for IOGP’s EGM in Warsaw on 14-15 November. Fuzzy pointed out that timing for the Association’s second get-together in Poland’s capital was a bonus, since it coincided with the nation’s centenary celebration of its independence.

In an upbeat opening, he reminded participants how continuing implementation of the Association’s strategy has helped to make IOGP more effective in terms of achievements and delivery. In particular, he cited the widening application of the Life-Saving Rules and Joint Industry Project (JIP) 33 on standardization in procurement as prime examples.

“Increasingly, IOGP is being recognized as an organization that makes things happen,” he said, going on to emphasize recent successes in working with others including IPIECA on oil spills, the International Regulators’ Forum and API.

Fuzzy went on to applaud the Association’s core committee work and the tasks undertaken by joint industry projects.

Remarking on the UN’s COP24 conference on climate change – also in Poland – he noted that, for the first time, IOGP would be involved with full observer status. “I think that says a great deal about how the successful implementation of our strategy has raised IOGP’s standing within our industry and beyond. That’s consistent with our role as the ‘voice of the upstream industry’. Increasingly, it’s a voice that the world is listening to,” he concluded.

IOGP Executive Director Gordon Ballard introduced the four panel discussions that proved to be a popular EGM innovation. These covered:

1) Getting the most out of standardization

Continued overleaf
2) Outreach and implementation: working with regulators and promoting IOGP products

3) Learning lessons from shared industry data

4) Climate change: IOGP’s role in mitigation and adaptation

Other EGM highlights included presentations from PGNiG, the host company. Marek Woszczyk, PGNiG’s General Manager in Norway, spoke about the successes and challenges in achieving diversification of Polish gas supplies to meet the country’s growing demand.

Krzysztof Kaczmarczy, PGNiG’s Director of Geology in the company’s Geology and Hydrocarbon Branch, focused on the potential of Poland’s unconventional gas resources.

As usual, the autumn EGM also included votes on resolutions covering the following year’s cost of unit account, the EU supplement and the overall budget. Member representatives voted to approve all three resolutions.

The stage is set

As ever, IOGP’s EGM was serious work. But as usual, there were also delightful distractions. Host company PGNiG generously organized an evening at one of Warsaw’s most splendid royal palaces. A Court Theatre piano recital devoted the works of Chopin and Padarewski preceded dinner in the newly-restored 18th century Orangery.

Walter Jardine retires as Geomatics Chair

Retiring Geomatics Committee Chair Walter Jardine received a commemorative IOGP obelisk from Gordon Ballard to mark his four years of service. “Geomatics is one of the most complex – and crucial – aspects of upstream technology,” Gordon said, and Walter is one of the industry’s leading Geomatics figures. Under his direction, our Committee has become more influential and widely respected than ever before.” Walter will continue to represent BP on the Committee, serving under Sigrid Matthes as Chair.
Tribute to Tim Magee

On a sombre note, the EGM paid tribute to Tim Magee, vice-chair of the Land Transportation Subcommittee.

The news this summer of Tim Magee’s sudden death shocked and saddened his colleagues and friends in the IOGP community. Tim was a very active member of the Subcommittee; it was his proposal that IOGP Members should commit to 5-star NCAP rated light vehicles. IOGP’s Safety Director, Chris Hawkes, reflected that “Tim would be immensely pleased to see the number of companies that believed in his vision – their commitment is saving lives today”. Tim first entered the IOGP community through the Geomatics committee in the 1990s, when he was instrumental in facilitating the incorporation of EPSG within IOGP. Richard Wylde, past Geomatics Committee Chair, recalled that Tim “was larger than life, great at keeping the Committee on track yet always ready to lead everyone astray once the work was done! A keen hunter [probably stemming from his army days], he had a keen eye for the best non-vegetarian restaurants.”

Subcommittee Chair Albert Ploeg lamented the loss of Tim’s wisdom and friendship. The work of the Land Transportation Subcommittee continues and the IOGP community is grateful to have had the opportunity to work with Tim.

SPE and IOGP formalize joint efforts on sharing knowledge & improving sustainability reporting

The Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) and the International Association of Oil & Gas Producers (IOGP) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU). This formalizes and expands existing arrangements to share technical knowledge and collaborate on meeting the world’s energy needs in a safe and environmentally responsible manner.

The MOU allows IOGP and SPE to work together on improving the sustainability performance among oil and natural gas companies. It was signed on 19 November at IOGP’s London office by Sami Alnuaim (shown left), 2019 SPE President and Gordon Ballard, IOGP Executive Director.

"Oil and gas continue to provide a significant proportion of the world’s energy to meet growing demands for heat, light, and transport;” Gordon said and “Our collaboration to improve sustainability performance and reporting shows our strong commitment in this area.”

Mark Rubin, SPE’s CEO and Executive Vice President, commented that "This MOU formalizes a long-standing collaboration between SPE and IOGP. Our two organizations have been closely aligned for many years and we have appreciated IOGP’s support for our programs, especially their active involvement in our international HSE conference series.”

Looking ahead, opportunities to work together on sustainability performance include creating conversations in workshops, conference panel sessions, and publications that support decision-making to help integrate sustainability factors into business performance. To that end, IOGP will participate in SPE’s conferences and workshops; in turn, SPE will promote IOGP reports among SPE’s membership.

The two organizations will also promote STEM education. SPE’s global energy education program, Energy4me, relies on hands-on activities that use simple components to teach complicated engineering functions used in oil and gas exploration and production. SPE will provide ideas and content based on this program to support IOGP’s global advocacy programme.
New IOGP Global Production Report documents need for oil & gas investment

In most regions of the world, oil & gas demand has risen or reached all-time highs in 2017, highlighting the significant need for investments to keep up production levels, IOGP’s new Global Production Report shows.

Records for oil & gas demand were set in Africa, Asia Pacific and the Middle East, and demand came close to historic highs in North America, Europe and Central & South America. The current depletion rate of 6% in most existing fields implies that significant investments will be needed to meet this demand in the foreseeable future. Regional and local policies can encourage the responsible development of resources needed to do so.

To download the report in full, visit: https://www.iogp.org/bookstore/product/global-production-report-2018/

Bookstore orders made easier

IOGP’s bookstore, launched last year, now hosts hundreds of its reports and publications. Recently, the shopping process has been simplified to make the process easier.

Start by visiting https://www.iogp.org/bookstore/ and then select the publication you want. Then click ‘Add to cart’ to begin the checkout process. You will then reach a checkout page where you are asked to add your first and last name and email address. You may also choose to add your industry and company website details.

After clicking ‘Place order’, you will come to the download page to receive the report you have selected. In addition, you will receive an email with your order summary.

‘Since we simplified the process, we have seen an increase in order completions.’ said Danny Walsh, IOGP Communications Manager. “Previously, users were required to set up an account before they could order a report.”

For further information on the bookstore ordering process, contact Danny Walsh at dw@iogp.org.

Meetings Calendar

December 2018

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EU - Energy & Climate SC  3
Environment Com  17
Standards - Offshore Structures Specifications TF  18

January 2019

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Standards - Administration TF  9
Subsea Com  17
Standards - Coatings SC  22
Standards - Offshore Structures SC  22
Standards - Coatings SC  23
Standards - Information Standards SC  27
Engineering Leadership Council  30
Standards - Information Standards SC  30

Meeting types are abbreviated as follows:
Committee [Com] Skype [Sk]
Subcommittee [SC] Task Force [TF] Teleconference [Tel]
Webex [We] Working Group [WG]

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Because workplace fatalities are unacceptable

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Visit www.iogp.org/safetyalerts to find out more