

# The World Petroleum Council Youth Committee: Youth Contribution to the World

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Over June 29<sup>th</sup>-July 3<sup>rd</sup> 2008, the newly established World Petroleum Council Youth Committee (WPC-YC) and, for its first time in history as well as the history of the WPC, has contributed in the largest and most prestigious WPC activity, namely, the 19<sup>th</sup> WPC congress held in Madrid, Spain.

Since the first youth committee meeting in Madrid early January 2007, the WPC-YC started to work together for this event. The excellent Youth Exhibition Center Stand, which was dealing with more than 670 youth including more than 120 top students from all over the world, was the best witness of such outstanding efforts from the members of the WPC-YC. One of the main activities that were running there was informal talks given by well known key figures in the petroleum industry such as the one given by Mr. Olivier Peryet, Vice-President Products and Solutions, Schlumberger, about challenging conditions in the industry. In addition, the activities included technology showcase tours for students visiting various companies at the exhibition area from exploration to production, a video showing some of the youth thoughts world-wide regarding the industry, and a survey targeting youth visiting the stand to know more about what they want and what they think about the industry.



The Youth Exhibition Center at the WPC congress,  
Madrid, Spain, June 29<sup>th</sup> July 3<sup>rd</sup> 2008



Mr. Andrew Gould, and to the right Mr. Abdul-Rahman Al-Shuhail (one of the students representing Saudi in the WPC Student Program) and myself

The WPC-YC has arranged a special youth session for two hours under the theme: ***Does the Petroleum Industry Need an Image Makeover?*** This session was honored by the presence of Mr. Andrew Gould, CEO & President of Schlumberger, Jorge Sergio Gabrielli, CEO & President of Petrobras, and Mr. Rich Paterson, Global Energy-Utilities & Mining Leader, Pricewaterhouse Coopers. The discussion additionally included two youth participants (a male and a female) who both are working for the energy industry as well as a female postgraduate student studying petroleum engineering. This special session was also attended by large number of delegates attending the WPC congress.

On a lighter note, a party for youth attending the congress provided an excellent opportunity to network and share good times.

## Taking the lead

Youth participation at the congress demonstrated our significant contribution to sustaining a better future for us and for coming generations. However, we still need to vastly increase our efforts to do more for the future. As H.E. Ali I. Al-Naimi, Saudi Arabian Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, stated in his speech at the 19<sup>th</sup> WPC congress *“The energy industry already faces critical shortages across the entire spectrum of skilled positions and our future needs will only grow. We must educate and train tens of thousands of new scientists, engineers, geologists, geophysicists, technicians and other vital workers.”* Schlumberger has already taken the lead on this challenge as Mr. Gould stated during the panel discussion of the image of the petroleum industry.



The WPC-National Committee of Saudi Arabia with H.R.H Prince Faisal Bin Turki, Chair of the WPC-NC



H.E. Ali I. Al-Naimi, Saudi Arabian Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources

One example is the Schlumberger Dhahran Carbonate Research (SDCR), which is located in the grounds of one of the top schools in the Middle East, King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals. As well a close physical proximity, the SDCR center also enjoys very warm and healthy relations with the university, from the very highest level represented by Mr. Andrew Gould, Schlumberger CEO & President, Mr. Ashok Belani, Schlumberger Chief Technology Officer, and Dr. Mohammed Badri, SDCR Managing Director, down through the ranks of our scientists and technicians. As well as offering a multitude of seminars, teaching sessions and training, the center also involves postgraduate and undergraduate students in research projects with our scientists.

Schlumberger senior management efforts will continue to give more support to this important collaboration with Saudi universities which should ultimately result in developing more young talented and gifted Saudi national and Middle Eastern scientists that with their colleagues from all over the world will work side by side to sustain a better future.

Since Saudi Arabia holds today the largest oil reserves and is currently the largest oil producer in the world, it is expected to continue to supply future generations constantly with energy. The Kingdom is taking this commitment very seriously through opening two new institutions: King Abdullah University for Science and Technology (KAUST) and King Abdullah Center for Petroleum Research and Studies. Eight years ago, Schlumberger management had the vision to establish a world-class research center of excellence in the Middle East and Saudi Arabia was chosen to host this center. The proximity of the center near the world largest oil reservoirs will enable field experimental research aimed at optimizing oil recovery. Although SDCR is a growing center, it has already started to achieve an international recognition of being a center of excellence in carbonate research.

## **The future**

To maximize our contribution in the coming years, the WPC-YC is looking forward to:

- Network and collaborate with all existing and active youth and student societies that are interested in energy and, in particular, in the oil industry.
- Establish and have active student and youth branches within our WPC national committees and within universities
- Be visible in all major activities running in the oil industry such as conferences, forums, congresses, workshops, etc
- Show strong presence through various activities in the coming WPC congresses similar and in addition to those that were done in the 19<sup>th</sup> WPC congress beside the main WPC-YC forums
- Publicize our activities and efforts through internet and all types of media
- Invite elite companies in the industry to establish research facilities that together will form science parks in respected universities all over the globe similar to the one existing at King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals
- Strategically plan for our WPC-YC to successfully last for ever

Finally, during 25-27 November 2009, the WPC-YC along with the French WPC-National Committee are preparing for the 2<sup>nd</sup> WPC Youth Forum that will be held in Strasburg with the theme: Energise Your Future (<http://www.energiseyourfuture.com>). Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to invite the youth in Schlumberger to participate in this youth forum especially that Schlumberger is a main sponsor for this important event. Mr. Chakib Sbiti, Schlumberger Executive Vice President Oilfield Services, and Mr. Olivier Peryet, Schlumberger Vice-President Products and Solutions, both are personally looking forward to this event.