# INTERNATIONAL EXPLORATIONISTS

**HGS INTERNATIONAL GROUP DINNER MEETING—FEBRUARY 22, 1993**
**Post Oak Doubletree Inn**
**Social hour, 5:30 p.m., Dinner, 6:30 p.m.**
**Technical Presentation, 7:30 p.m.**

DAVID D. SKEELS—Biographical Sketch

Dave Skeels graduated with Honors in Geology from the University of Sheffield, England in 1968. He worked with the Oasis Oil Company of Libya both in Tripoli and the Sirte Basin during the years 1968-1971. Following post-graduate research in carbonate petrography at the University of Liverpool, England, he joined Conoco in London in 1973. He held a number of positions involved with activity in Europe, North and West Africa and then as Chief Geologist for Conoco UK Ltd., 1979 - 1981. Following a staff position for Europe -Africa in Houston, he transferred to Jakarta, Indonesia as Vice President and Manager Exploration in 1984. Since 1990 he has been involved with Conoco's Russian activities, most recently co-ordinating a reservoir and geoscience team evaluating field development and exploration opportunities in West Siberia.

During his career he has been involved with teams whose work resulted in a number of new field discoveries, such as Mangara, Chad; Miller, U.K. North Sea; and Belida, Indonesia.

He gave the presentation at the very first HGS International Group Meeting in March, 1983.

## A PETROTOURIST IN WEST SIBERIA

The objective of this presentation is to provide an overview of the West Siberia Basin. Production, resources, geography, and geology will be addressed together with a series of slides of landforms, cultural aspects as well as exploration and production activities.

West Siberia is home of the world's largest basin, which currently produces approximately 6 million barrels of oil and 55 billion cubic feet of gas per day and has major undiscovered potential. As the dramatic political and socio-economic changes in Russia take place, opportunities for foreign investment in this basin are currently being evaluated by many companies.

The basin covers over 3 million square kilometers, creating the largest flat area on the earth's surface. From summer time temperatures of over 80° F, the swamp-like tundra and forest change by virtue of their northern continental location into one of the world's toughest operating areas with winter temperatures below -50° F in the north.

The Basin was initiated by Triassic rifting with a major sag phase existing through the Jurassic and Cretaceous. Most of the oil in the basin is reservoired in the Lower Cretaceous Neocomian sequence, while gas is primarily concentrated in the Cenomanian. Other plays exist in the Lower Cretaceous, Upper Jurassic, Mid - Lower Jurassic and Triassic to basement sequence. Plays can be generally related to regional seals such as the Cretaceous Kuznetsov and Alym shales and the Upper Jurassic Bazhenov. These regional shale units are also believed to play a key role in sourcing hydrocarbons in the basin, with the Bazhenov being most well known as an oil source. Other geologic aspects of the basin including further potential will be addressed.

The local upstream oil and gas industry structure exists as separate exploration, oil and also gas production associations. The organization of these associations together with their activities will be reviewed.

Finally, some factors recently affecting these West Siberian organizations and the activities of foreign companies will be briefly addressed.