

## Thinking “Out of the Box” — the role of the geologists in meeting future energy demand

ROBBIE GRIES

### Report (Report)

Robbie Gries, President of the American Association of Petroleum Geologist (AAPG) gave the above presentation on Monday 29 October 2001 at 3.00 pm at the Geology Department, University of Malaya. It was attended by about 40 participants.

Robbie has been active in the petroleum industry for 28 years, working initially for Texaco Inc., then Reserve Oil Inc. She is the founder and President of Priority Oil & Gas LLC.

After her talk she met and posed for photographs with members of the local AAPG Student Chapter.

### Abstrak (Abstract)

The demand for oil and gas in the next century will greatly increase in the next few decades and reserves are limited. Converting vast amounts of “undiscovered” resources into proven reserves will require geologists “to think out of the box”. This means looking at methods no one has tried before, looking for accumulations previously thought unlikely, and looking in places where others have overlooked or thought impossible.

This has never been easy, but it has been the key to giant new reserves being developed. Overturning the “dogma” that is currently favoured by explorationists with a new “heresy” has a history of difficulty. From the “anticlinal theory” in the 1880’s to sequence stratigraphy in the 1980’s, geologists have had to persevere to get an idea tested. The latest plays that have convincingly converted former “undiscovered resources” into “proven reserves” are basin-centered gas, coal bed methane, and sub-salt exploration. Some plays, like the early offshore Indonesian exploration, required not only creative geology, but unusual deal making.

Buying reserves or increasing reserves by merging with another company does not discover new oil and gas. Taking the risk to develop a new idea, to finance an unusual idea, and to drill is what will provide the supply needed in the next century.



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