SUMMARY:

A synthesis of offshore seismic sections, sub-surface data, onshore geological field campaigns and published data, able us to draw geological and structural maps of Eastern Asia. These maps comprise provinces of East and South China Sea, West Philippine Basin, Taiwan, China Margin, Vietnam, Northwest Borneo, Sulu Sea and the Philippines Provinces. Schematic geological cross sections illustrate the main structural types of Southeast Asian sedimentary basins, namely: intra continental rift basins, backarc basins, active margin accreted sedimentary wedges, forearc basins, pull apart and intra arc basins.

A synthesis of the onshore and offshore geological data of Eastern Asia carried out by the "Institut Français du Pétrole" able us to draw geological and structural maps of this region which will soon be published. These maps include three 1:2,500,000 scale color sheets and three plates of geological and structural cross sections. They focus mainly on the description and study of Cenozoic sedimentary basins and their structural framework.

Located between 4° and 35° North Latitude and 106° and 132° of East Longitude these maps comprise the following geographic domains: East and South China Sea, West Philippine Basin, as well as the onshore neighbouring domains: Kyushu and Ryukyu Islands, Taiwan, China Margin, Vietnam, Northwest, Northwest Borneo, Sulu Sea, and the Philippine Islands.

These maps have been prepared by the IFP, and represent a synthesis of seismic interpretations, oil well data, geological campaigns in South Japan, Taiwan, Borneo and the Philippines, as well as recent data published between 1976 and 1987.

Beside a detailed bathymetry, they include large structural units (oceanic crust, active margins, large tectonic trends, faults, subduction and collision trenches, troughs), folding, thickness of total sediment in meters (above economic basement), in both onshore and offshore sedimentary basins, and onshore geology with revised field data.

Geological cross-sections go across margins, main basins and the major structural domains. They have been prepared with seismic profiles, well data and available onshore and offshore geological data. These cross-section show basement composition and structures, different tectonic and sedimentary domains as well as structure and thickness of different sedimentary deposits (age, unconformities, geological structures, etc).

Figures 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 illustrate the main structural types of sedimentary basins present in the eastern Asian regions, with some examples of the above schematic cross sections.

The East China intra continental rift basin type developed during Paleogene-Early Neogene. Those half graben infilled basins, are present in the Yellow Sea, East China Sea, China Margin, Paracel and Macclesfield Provinces, are also present on Reed Bank, Dangerous Grounds and North Palawan.

Extension in the South China Sea occurred after a Late Cretaceous-Early Paleogene period of uplift and erosion which affected the whole eastern China area. Block faulting began at least in Late Paleocene time, but main rifting took place during the Middle Eocene. This extension was not