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HYDROCARBON RESOURCE BASE OF BANGLADESH

A reliable estimate of the hydrocarbon potential is critical to the effective management of a hydrocarbon resource base whether at the field, trend or country level. An assessment of the countrywide resource base is important for any nation in formulating an appropriate energy policy. A determination of the countrywide resource base allows energy policy makers to meet not only domestic needs but also determine opportunities for economic growth. With a broad and comprehensive assessment, the government and oil industry can work together to explore and develop a hydrocarbon resource base into commercially viable oil and gas reserves.

An understanding of the full lifecycle of a hydrocarbon resource base is the initial step in developing an approach to a reliable resource estimate. Varying methodologies are required to assess the uncertainty associated with a reliable resource assessment, depending on the stage in the resource base lifecycle.

The primary objective of this study is to quantify reserves from known fields and to estimate the ultimate recoverable reserves by understanding the entire resource base potential. This would include analysis of areas that are believed to hold substantial hydrocarbon resources but have not been thoroughly explored.

The hydrocarbon resource assessment of Bangladesh involves study of the country's exploration history, an analysis of the geology and petroleum systems within the various trends, a review of currently available technical data such as geophysical surveys and well results, and an examination of previous studies.

The resource base of Bangladesh can be divided into three primary categories. These include proved and probable reserves of existing fields, field reserves growth through application of the latest technologies and field management practices, and exploration potential of identified leads and prospects. This paper summarizes the current knowledge of the resource base of Bangladesh from each of the three categories and provides evidence to support a current resource estimate that ranges between 35 and 50 Tcf of recoverable gas reserves.