

by Andy Johnson,
Totalfina

Play and prospect diversity, a platform for continued success at Totalfina

Total (now Totalfina) experienced rapid growth in production and reserves during the last decade, fueled by a variety of fields in different parts of the world.

These fields exhibit great geological diversity, from complex thrust structures in Colombia, Venezuela, and now Bolivia, through the challenges of very different types of traps in carbonates in Iran, Myanmar, and Libya, to the multitude of (often thin) fluvio-deltaic sands of the Mahakam Delta and Gulf of Thailand.

Over this period, assets in both the Far East and Latin America have become important contributors to the performance of the company. Illustrations of a selection of these fields will demonstrate their extraordinary diversity. It is also interesting to try and trace some of the exploration decision points leading to the steps in the growth of the portfolio of producing assets in these areas.

This geological diversity has ensured that both our geoscientists and exploration management are offered excellent opportunities to gain experience, which is essential to enable the right

decisions to be made. This experience will give the company a good chance of maintaining its growth in the future and of adapting to the abrupt changes that the coming years are likely to bring.

Biographical Sketch



Andy joined the oil industry in 1969 armed with an honours geology degree from Reading University, England. After 4 years with Abu Dhabi Petroleum Company in the Emirates, he joined Total in 1974 and transferred to Paris for a few years (which enabled him to become fluent in French.)

He was promoted to Exploration Manager in 1984, first in the UK and then in Indonesia until the end of 1990. After another spell in the Paris head office, he moved to Nigeria in 1994 to open up the E&P office in Lagos, and moved on from there as General Manager of the Singapore New Ventures office in 1997 until its closure in April 1999. He is currently assigned to the Totalfina Worldwide Business Intelligence Group in Paris. □

HGS International Explorationist Meeting • Monday, November 15 • Westchase Hilton, 9999 Westheimer, 5:30 Social 6:30 Dinner