
**The oil and gas development partnership,
Memorial University: recent activities and new initiatives**

MAUREAU, GERRIT T.
*Earth Sciences Building, Memorial University,
St. John's, NL A1B 3X5.*

The Oil and Gas Development Partnership (OGDP) was created in the fall of 2000, and mandated to develop a partnership between the Memorial University of Newfoundland (MUN), the oil and gas industry, associated service companies, and all levels of government. Ideally located in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, a major centre for oil and gas operations on Canada's east coast, and the centre of Provincial Government, MUN is well positioned to form these critical and important alliances. The OGDP is moving quickly to create lasting relationships with the industry and government. Several new research initiatives are under consideration, and discussions with various industry partners are well underway to solidify these proposals.

In addition the OGDP is working to implement new oil and gas related programs. In particular, a Master's Program in Oil and Gas Studies, a unique executive development program, will be launched in September 2003, subject to the normal approvals of Memorial University.

As a public service, the OGDP will continue the

Distinguished Lecture Series on current topics in the oil and gas sector which are of importance to the general public. Topics such as the Newfoundland/Nova Scotia boundary dispute have been discussed in the past, and new topics related to challenges and changes, and the development of stranded gas, are in the planning stages.

An important new program is the Executive Development Program. For 2003, the OGDG is planning a seminar entitled "*Sustainable Development: Getting it Right the First Time*", to be held in the St. John's and the Harlow campus. This particular topic will explore sustainable development as it will impact Newfoundland and Labrador, in particular because oil and gas developments are in their infancy in the province. Each year, the OGDG plans to sponsor at least one Executive Development seminar, always dealing with important oil and gas related topics of current interest to the global industry.