

The Tembungo Field, 1979-1982**M.R. DIXON & S. CHAKRAVATHY, Esso Production Malaysia Inc.**

The Tembungo field, located 75.6 km (47 miles) northwest of Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, in 84 m (277 feet) of water, was discovered in 1971 by Esso Exploration Inc. The major reservoirs are Upper Miocene turbidite sandstones. Four delineation wells defined the field and 18 conductor production platform was installed in 1974. Thirteen development wells, using 12 conductors, were drilled from 1974 to 1977. The results of these wells changed a simplistic structural picture to a complexly faulted structure that has multiple hydrocarbon systems. In 1977 production began to decline and reached a low point by late 1981.

Escalating oil prices in 1979 initiated another look at the Tembungo field. An additional seismic survey was shot, but there was no significant improvement in data quality compared to previous surveys. One exploration well was drilled on the basis of the new seismic data but it was unsuccessful in proving sufficient reserves from an additional platform. A development programme from the existing platform utilizing the six remaining conductors was successful in increasing production significantly.
