

Ceramah Teknik (Technical Talk)

Upstream of the petroleum industry: is there a future for professionals in oil and gas?

JOHN G. KALDI

Laporan (Report)

Professor John G. Kaldi, Director, National Centre for Petroleum Geology and Geophysics, University of Adelaide, Australia, gave the above talk on 25th April 2003 (Friday) at the Department of Geology, University of Malaya at 5.00 pm. It was well attended by over 40 participants, the majority being students.

Abstrak (Abstract)

This talk addresses the continuum between tertiary education and the petroleum industry. The key challenge to maintaining a robust petroleum industry is ensuring an adequate supply of well-trained professionals. Education of students in petroleum is more critical than ever, as the work force in the oil and gas industry is aging, and employee numbers are dwindling through attrition. There are not enough students in the "pipeline" to meet the opportunities being provided by rapidly developing technologies in the fields of Petroleum Geoscience and Engineering. Universities are being challenged to provide not only well-educated and highly motivated graduates, but also ones able to "hit the ground running". Unfortunately, as industry's need for qualified professionals increases, most departments are finding their funding from traditional sources diminishing markedly. Can Universities remain viable by being opportunistic with regards to industry's needs? Because most oil and gas companies no longer cover their training needs or research with in-house expertise, practical, industry-focussed training and research could be an important role for Universities

to play. Universities must provide courses and degrees that are relevant and taught by dynamic and enthusiastic scientists who stay in touch with industry problems by undertaking applied contract research. As funding for education from government sources decreases, companies must apply the same carefully planned investment strategies toward their future human reserves as is done for their in-ground resources. Many companies are already aware of this and are willing to engage and invest in the Universities. For their part, Universities must be willing to make substantial changes to traditional formats of degrees, courses and research, while maintaining educational integrity. Students need to be aware and actively involved in their career development throughout their studies. In short, the general academic ethos should be in balance with industry needs.

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