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### Petroleum Exploration Database Managers Group

*By Maureen Cooper, Premier Oil (WA Branch, February 1999 Luncheon Meeting)*

**A**t the February PESA (WA Branch) lunch in Perth, Maureen Cooper of Premier Oil, gave members a brief presentation on the Petroleum Exploration Database Managers Group.

The presentation outlined the membership of the group, which comprises of exploration and service companies as well as government organisations. Cooper also detailed the ways in which members have, over the past year, been able to promote the goals of the group by individual and group achievements. The following are examples of members' efforts:

Jeff Haworth, Petroleum Division, Department of Mines and Energy, has attended the National Consultative Petroleum Data Group (which advises the ANZMEC Petroleum Subcommittee on technical issues regarding petroleum data) to give recommendations from the group on topics as discussed. "A major area of discussion", Cooper explained, "has been the basic information needed in well headers."

Bobbie Bruce of BB Information has provided leadership for the group in the understanding of metadata standards and the application of these to data management. "The use of metadata is becoming crucial to understanding the provenance of data", said Cooper, "as companies merge and new alliances are formed, by giving the history of the data, it is possible to trace its path through a number of Operators."

Peter Goyne from PGS has shared his knowledge of POSC, while Helene de Beer of Woodside has given insight to the company's experience with implementing the PPDM data model. These international models for data management are a response to the need to integrate information from multiple geoscience disciplines. The two organisations (POSC and PPDM) were established to ensure that the manner in which data is accessed follows established standards and protocols.

Members have also shared benchmarking achievements, allowing best practice to

become the norm. While not all companies have the same expertise on staff, Cooper said that an example of 'benchmark sharing' is provided by the work done by Apache Energy in the use of CD-ROMs for well completion reports.

Marcelle Inkster and Alexandra Carter represent Apache Energy at the group, who are responsible for digital data control within the company's exploration department. With the support of key staff, changes to procedures at Apache have resulted in lower costs and increased efficiency in data control. "There has been progress to higher density media, or in some cases from paper to digital media, for example, well completion reports are now provided on CD-ROM and seismic sections are available as CGM+ files", said Cooper. Through liaison with contractors, it is now ensured that Apache's data requirements are met via specifications in the relevant contracts, e.g. data must be provided

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with adequate information to both identify and upload the data and in the volumes necessary for data distribution to JVPs and the WA Department of Minerals and Energy.

Cooper concluded with the words, "It is this networking and sharing of knowledge between members which is able to provide support and education for members in the diversity of data management requirements. The pace of change within our industry and the technologies required to deal with the ever-increasing volumes of data generated, means that it is impossible for people to remain insulated within a static discipline. Data management is a process, which is rapidly evolving and creating new processes as improvements are sought for workflows to allow faster and more dynamic access to both geotechnical data and industry information."

For more information on the group's activities contact the Chairperson, Valerie Martens at 0413 995 910 or via email at [valeriem@smileys.net](mailto:valeriem@smileys.net).

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