

Capacity Crowds Expected At APPEA Conference

The Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association (APPEA) Conference is expected to be bigger and better this year, likely to draw the event's largest-ever attendance, with over 2700 industry professionals scheduled to attend.

The event will be held at the Perth Conference and Exhibition Centre from 10 to 13 April.

APPEA Chief Executive Belinda Robinson said that with the Australian petroleum sector booming and its future looking very bright, there is a high level of interest that enables the staging of a large, high-quality conference and exhibition.

"From sweeping overviews to detailed technical presentations, the APPEA Conference has developed a reputation for presenting interesting, relevant and topical content combined with world class networking opportunities", Robinson said.

"Over the three-day conference program, international experts and Australian industry leaders will provide up-to-date analysis, case studies and technical know-how on the big issues facing our industry. These issues include frontier regions, gas projects, gas storage, greenhouse policy and exploration technology."

Perth is Australia's leading oil and gas centre and hosts the event every three years.

Several conference sessions will examine developments in the West, including LNG and domestic gas projects and exploration for unconventional gas.

The conference will also cover developments in other parts of Australia – from LNG in the Northern Territory, to coal seam gas and LNG in the eastern states, and oil, gas storage, and unconventional gas across Australia. Sessions will also include presentations on technical innovations in areas such as deep-water drilling and floating LNG development, as well as the exploration potential of various frontier basins. In addition, there will be a strong emphasis on environmental, safety and operational issues.

More than 135 papers will be presented during the event. With more than 150 companies booking booths, some international companies will feature at the conference for the very first time.



Federal Resources and Energy Minister Martin Ferguson addressed the crowd at the APPEA Conference last year in Brisbane.

Experts will discuss a range of issues such as *What Is The Role For The Middle East In Future Global Gas Demand And Supply?* To be presented by the world's largest LNG exporters, Rasgas, Chief Executive Officer, Hamad Rashid Al Mohannadi.

What Do The Numbers Say? Global Statistics And Trends – Implications For Australian Oil And Gas by BP Group Chief Economist, Christof Rühl.

The World Turned Upside Down: The Energy Of Geopolitics - Today And Tomorrow by Dr Joseph A Stanislaw, Independent Senior Advisor, Energy and Sustainability, Deloitte LLP.

Asia's Energy Future: The Evolution Of Asia's Gas Markets And What It Means For Producers by Matthew Rogers, Former US Administration Official and Energy Director, McKinsey & Company.

Outgoing Woodside CEO Don Voelte will also share his views on the future of Australia's LNG industry.

The Australian Industry Response To Montara And Macondo, by Bruce Lake, Managing Director, Vermilion Oil and Gas Australia Pty Ltd.

Community Engagement – A Critical Component Of Risk Management And Project Viability by Geoff Allen, AM, Director, Allen Consulting Group and National Chair, Committee for Economic Development.

Deep Water Drilling: Technologies And New Innovations by Jean Francois Poupeau, President, Drilling Group, Schlumberger.

Australian National University Professor of Sociology Professor Andrew Hopkins who is currently involved in investigating the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico will also speak.

"I am going to be talking about what leaders can do on site visits", Hopkins said.

He will emphasise what needs to be asked and looked at.

"I am going to be suggesting they direct attention on major hazards. Research shows that companies are not sufficiently focused on this."

Last year Brisbane hosted the event in May with 2500 industry professionals from 25 countries attending.

Western Australia Department of Industry and Resources, Director of Petroleum and Royalties, Bill Tinapple, said that APPEA coming back to Perth so soon reflects the importance that WA has for the Australian petroleum industry.

"APPEA rotates its conference around the Australian capital cities", Tinapple said.

"However, due to the high attendance level when it is in Perth, and the fact that most of the Australian industry is located here, the APPEA Council has decided to hold every third annual conference in Perth."

For APPEA 2011 Conference updates go to www.appeaconference.com.au ■