After a packed week of high level speeches, expert presentations, international networking and amazing social events the 19th World Petroleum Congress in Madrid was declared a resounding success by all involved. This 19th Congress exceeded expectations, not only in terms of organisation, but also because it has surpassed almost every magnitude of previous editions.

Under its theme of “A World in Transition: Energy Supply for a Sustainable Growth” the Congress addressed crucial issues in the global petroleum sector: demand and supply challenges, pricing, efficient consumption, sustainability, social responsibility and human rights. Ministers, CEOs, world experts, thousands of attendees and even the King contributed to the success of the 19th WPC on the eve of the 75th Anniversary celebrations of the Council.

The President of the World Petroleum Council, Randall Gossen, stated he was “very satisfied with the magnificent organisation of this 19th edition, as well as the number of attendees, the high level of the topics discussed and the large number of authorities who have assisted on a global level. Madrid has been a great host and this has been one of the best Congress’ ever organised.”

The Chair of the Spanish Organising Committee for the 19th World Petroleum Congress, Jorge Segrelles, declared that “we are extremely delighted by how the Congress has progressed. All our expectations have been exceeded and I believe that we have rewarded the trust given to us by the World Petroleum Council in November 2004, when we were chosen to organise the 19th Congress.”
Highlights from the Congress—a review in pictures
New Executive for WPC

The WPC Council elected a new Executive Committee for the coming cycle from 2008-2011. Dr Randy Gossen was reconfirmed as President for the next three years and thanked all the members of the Council for their confidence and trust. He took the opportunity to thank all the members of the previous cycle and reward them with a little gift before welcoming the newly elected officers to the Executive Committee of the WPC.

Dr Renato Bertani was also re-confirmed in his position as Vice President Programme. As Chair of the Congress Programme Committee he paid respect to the excellent work issued by the CPC for the 19th World Petroleum Congress and welcomed all the members to the newly formed Programme Committee for the 20th WPC in Qatar in 2011.

We take this opportunity to say good-bye to those that have so diligently served on the Executive Committee during the previous cycle including Jacqueline Lecourtier who supervised the launch of the WPC Youth Committee and Hege Marie Norheim, who became the first female WPC Vice President.

A special thank you goes to Bob Goldman who resigned as Vice President Finance for his excellent direction of WPC's financial affairs over the last six years.

EC Members 2008 – 2011:
President: Dr Randy Gossen, Canada
Senior Vice President: Dr József Toth, Hungary
Vice President Finance: John Martin, UK
Vice President Programme: Dr Renato Bertani
Vice President Membership: Prof Anatoly Zolotukhin, Russia
Vice President Marketing: Wu Yaowen, China
Vice President Youth and Gender: D K Pande, India
Representative of Host Country: Issa Al-Ghanim, Qatar
Representative of Previous Host: Jorge Segrelles, Spain
Special Advisor, Member Issues: Pedro Baridon, Uruguay

WPC Youth Programme at 19WPC

For the Youth Committee of the WPC the Congress proved to be its first major challenge after its launch at the end of 2006. In less than two years this new Committee had to get itself organised, set aims and targets and deliver a Youth Programme at the 19th WPC. With the support of the Spanish Organising Team the 17 members of the WPC Youth Committee put together a full programme of activities for the Congress. They hosted a Special Session on ‘Does the oil and gas industry need an image make over’, organised a Youth Party and managed the Youth Centre, where all students and young professionals were welcomed by the members of the Committee. There they could find out more about WPC, listen to presentations of personal job experiences from other young professionals in the industry, join one of the guided tours of the exhibition or pick up an invite for the Youth Party. The best young authors were also recognised there with a prize from the Spanish Organising Committee.

WPC Excellence Awards 2008

The WPC Excellence Awards were one of the highlights of the Congress. H.M. Juan Carlos I, the King of Spain personally handed over the Awards to the winners in the Technical and Social Responsibility categories.

Mr. Sasho Dontchev from Overgas in Bulgaria received the WPC Excellence Award for small companies in the Social Responsibility category, while John Watson picked up the award for large companies from His Majesty on behalf of Chevron.

In the Technical category the award for small and medium sized enterprises went to Sarkhoon & Qeshm Gas Treating Co. in Iran and was received by Mr. Gholamreza Bahmannia. The Chair of Indian Oil Corporation, Mr S Behuria, was there to personally receive the award for large companies from the King.

A special Award for best Young Author had been initiated by the Spanish Organising Committee to recognise outstanding papers and posters presented by young people during the Congress. The first prize went to Jaime Turazzi Naveiro, a young engineer from Petrobras in Brazil for his gas paper at the Congress.
20th WPC in 2011 off to a good start

Qatar used the opportunity of the 19th World Petroleum Congress to start its promotion for the next Congress. With the 20th WPC the first Congress to ever be held in the Middle East when it comes to Doha from the 27th November to the 1st of December 2011, the Qatari delegation made a big impact with its participation at the 19th WPC in Madrid.

As the next host country of the Congress they were present with a major delegation led by the Deputy Premier and Minister of Energy and Industry of Qatar, H.E. Abdullah bin Hamad Al Attiya. Besides taking one of the largest exhibition stands in the Global Business Opportunities Centre (GBOC) part of the parallel exhibition, they also hosted a special area providing a taste of Qatar and all it has to offer to the delegates of the next Congress.

During the Official Closing Ceremony of the 19th WPC, Mr. Jorge Segrelles, Chair of the Spanish Organising Committee handed the WPC flag over to Qatar’s National Committee Chair, Mr. Abdulla Hussain Salatt.

The handover was followed by a cultural show with demonstrating typical Qatari dances and music accompanied by local images. At the end a wedding party invited the participants to join then for the farewell reception which gave a first taste of the culinary delights to expect in Doha in three years.

Recognising excellence in WPC’s members

The Executive of the World Petroleum Council nominated a number of deserving individuals from the WPC membership to receive an outstanding achievement award during the official Welcome Reception for all WPC members in Madrid. The nominated individuals were Carlos Becchelli from Argentina, Wilhelm von Ilsemann from Germany, George Warne from Canada and Takaaki Yamaguchi from Japan. The nominations had been kept a closely guarded secret till the very end.

Due to illness and other reasons only Carlos Becchelli could attend the meeting in Spain in person where he was recognized for his outstanding achievements in the Argentinian National Committee for the World Petroleum Council during his many years of service.

Dr von Ilsemann who led WPC between 1975 and 1987 as its longest serving President received the award in absentia during the 75th celebration festivities of the German National Committee in Berlin earlier this year.

WPC celebrates its 75th Anniversary

This year is a very special year for the World Petroleum Council. Founded in 1933 WPC celebrates 75 years in 2008.

The first World Petroleum Congress was held in London in July 1933. The anniversary coincided with our 19th World Petroleum Congress where we celebrated the 75th birthday of the WPC with many of the members and supporters of our organisation. Many greetings were received from our National Committees and other industry stakeholders during the Congress, including Saudi Aramco who are also celebrating their 75th anniversary this year.

To remind us of the achievements of the past 75 years, we also produced an anniversary book of the WPC and its Congresses depicting the history of our association and the development of the petroleum sector during that period. Filled with many original photos from the early Congresses and their era this book is an excellent showcase of our industry.

To end the year on a high note, the Corporation of London is inviting all Chairs of the WPC National Committees and special guests to a celebratory dinner at the Old Museum wing of the Guildhall in London. The Guildhall already hosted a similar dinner for WPC when the first Congress convened in London in 1933 and the celebration dinner will be the big finale of a very special anniversary year.

A sad farewell to George Warne

One of the longest serving and most dedicated members of the WPC family, George Warne from Canada, died suddenly and unexpectedly a month before the Congress.

As Secretary Treasurer of the Canadian National Committee he was a lynch pin in the organisation of the Canadian representation at this and many previous Congresses. The 19th WPC was going to be his final event with WPC in nearly 30 years of activity.

The WPC was going to surprise him with a special recognition during the Congress. Unfortunately he could no longer be there, but his daughter and family members took the trip to Spain to receive the Award on his behalf.
2nd WPC Youth Forum gathers pace

At the recent WPC World Energy Conference in Madrid, The French National Committee of the World Petroleum Council officially launched the 2nd WPC Youth Forum “Energise your Future”. More than an event, this is a unique initiative to allow young people from across the world to debate with the industry’s current leaders the major issues and challenges facing our industry in the coming years. It is the first time that young professionals are offered such a platform to voice their concerns, hopes, expectations about the future of our energy world. From a dedicated community platform, “energisemynetwork” will form part of the event and will allow young people to help define tomorrow’s energy roadmap and to actively contribute to the agenda of the 2nd WPC Youth Forum next year. This will be a key milestone gathering 1000 participants at Les Pyramides Convention Center in Paris in November 2009. Young industry professionals will be able to engage in strategic forward-thinking with a wide range of international experts, students and academics to grow understanding of how the industry is evolving, the opportunities it offers and what role everyone needs to play.

Key energy players such as Total, GDF Suez, Schlumberger are already supporting this initiative as host sponsors, conscious of the need to really listen to young people and encourage them to take ownership of the issues and opportunities that they will be managing in the future as they recognise that their future is already today.

News from the Members

WPC receives diplomas from Romanian NC

Having recently celebrated the 150th Anniversary of its petroleum industry, the Romanian National Committee handed commemorative diplomas of hat event to the President, the Director General and the Director of Communications during the Council Meeting.

Speaking Engagements—Autumn/Winter 2008

The President and Director General of WPC have accepted a number of invitations to give presentations in the next few months at the following events:

Oct 8-10 Turkey—Northern Arabian Plate Oil and Gas Summit. The WPC President is presenting a keynote speech and is meeting with the new board of the Turkish National Committee.

Oct 14-17 China—China International Forum for Oil and Gas. The President and Director General will be joining the Opening Plenary and present keynote at the conference before meeting with members of the Chinese National Committee.

Oct 17 Japan—The WPC President and Director General are visiting Tokyo for a meeting with the newly re-formed Japanese National Committee.

Nov 6-7 Azerbaijan—Azerbaijan Scientific Conference. Dr Randy Gossen has been invited to give a plenary address at the conference in Baku and will meet with the Ministry and members of the National Committee.

Nov 11-13 Romania—Energy in Central and Eastern Europe. The President and Director General have been invited by the National Committee to give keynote presentations at the conference and meet its members in Bucharest.

Nov 16-19 USA—Greenhouse Gas Control Technologies 9 (GHCT 9). The Director General has been invited to attend the 9th international conference on Greenhouse Gas Control Technologies in Washington.

Diary Dates

Forthcoming Events & Meetings

Dec 2, London—CPC Meeting
Dec 3, London—EC Meeting
Dec 3, London—75th Celebration Dinner,
(all Chairs of the National Committees are invited)
Dec 4, London—2nd WPC Youth Forum Launch