



Fuel the Youth - Future Energy Leaders **WPC Youth presents its view of Energy Future in India**

- Young talent, knowledge and perspectives are vital for the world to solve our future energy challenge.
- Addressing the youth and involving young people in the design of our future energy solutions is therefore one of the key issues for the more than 60 member countries of the World Petroleum Council (WPC).
We recognise their significance to the future of the petroleum industry and the importance of giving the young generation scope to develop their own ideas, talents and competencies to create viable solutions for the future of our world.
- To increase the participation of young people and women in oil and gas issues, WPC set up a dedicated Youth Committee with young representatives from its member countries. We support the development of active networking opportunities with young people and hope that the WPC Youth Committee will help address some of the issues raised by the serious shortage of young talented employees to replace the ranks of experienced professionals about to leave the industry.
- The number of young people joining the industry or even graduating in related areas has been steadily decreasing. Therefore, the petroleum

industry is now on the edge of a demographic cliff with an ageing workforce retiring shortly while not enough young people are finding the industry attractive enough to join. This growing skills gap may impede the industry's very ability to operate, especially with respect to major exploration and production projects.

- This challenge is particularly significant in the context of the world's rapidly growing demands for energy and calls for greater adherence to responsible social and environmental practices.
- It is in response to this challenge, that the World Petroleum Council created its Youth Committee to bring a higher profile to the issue and form an alliance with young people themselves in order to find possible solutions to our challenges. We feel that it is important that young people are at the forefront of resolving this issue as they are the ones who will inherit this industry, and should be involved in crafting its future.
- The WPC Youth Committee is intended to promote a realistic image of the petroleum industry amongst the youth together with its challenges and opportunities. It is also initiating the creation of a collaborative and global forum for young people to be heard and new ideas to be championed. This is done both at our triennial World Petroleum Congress and at the WPC Youth Forums.
- So far we have held two WPC Youth Forums. The first was initiated by our Chinese National Committee in 2004 with over 500 young delegates focusing on 'Youth and Innovation – the Future of the

Petroleum Industry'. It played an important role in implementing WPC's strategy to attract more young people to WPC activities and the petroleum industry.

- The 2nd WPC Youth Forum took place last November in Paris. Under the theme of "Energize your Future" It provided an innovative approach to the challenges and opportunities facing the oil and gas industry.
- The Youth Committee also prepared a programme of activities for young people at the 19th World Petroleum Congress in Madrid in 2008 including a special round table with industry leaders to discuss the question of "Does the industry need an image makeover?" Plans are already being developed to take the discussions and activities further at the 20th World Petroleum Congress in Qatar in December next year.
- Now we are hosting the 3rd WPC Youth Forum here in New Delhi. Our Indian National Committee have done a tremendous job bringing so many young people under 35 together to participate first in the online discussions and competitions and now live at this event. Being held next to the respected Petrotech event, they can benefit from personal engagement with current industry leaders whilst having a dedicated place here today to discuss their own vision of the future under the theme "**FuEL the Youth: Future Energy Leaders**".

- So, what do young people really think about the energy industry and its role in achieving a sustainable future? What are their expectations for energy over the next fifty years? And what role do they see there for themselves?
- We asked the attendees at the 2nd WPC Youth Forum in Paris last year to discuss the future of the energy industry and their role in it. With eighty percent of the participants under the age of 35, we could hear first hand from the next generation: the young professionals and students. Under the theme 'Energise Your Future' we invited the young people to present their views and to create an international forum for an open exchange between the generations to address the challenges for our future energy.
- The young professionals on the programme committee focused on four key areas: sustainability, future energy outlook, ethics and social responsibility and future leadership. During the opening of the 2nd WPC Youth Forum Total's CEO, Christophe de Margerie, called on everyone to "think in the future". He said that there will be a need for all types of energy – carbon and non-carbon - in the coming years. We cannot look at growth or global warming separately, but must address both by finding solutions for our future energy needs without burning our systems. However, he also urged caution, as we do not have the answers yet but that we are working in the right direction to bring more energy and more growth to everyone. Hydrocarbon is as much a part of the sustainability solution as it is of the sustainability challenge.

- However, there still remain a range of issues that need to be addressed by the industry, such as improving diversity and helping women achieve technical distinction in the field which remains a major prerequisite to moving up the career ladder in the engineering field.
- Some of the CEOs shared some very practical advice on becoming an energy leader with the young people: **YOU** have to take responsibility: economic responsibility, social responsibility and environmental responsibility.
- At the end of the event we promised to keep the exchange with young people going and to continue the dialogue at the 3rd WPC Youth Forum in India. We have done so and found some truly inspiring feedback in the online discussions and the quality of entries to the competitions.
- This event will be a strong indicator for a truly promising future. In time you will have to take full ownership for the future of the energy industry. In order to deliver energy to all we need an injection of youth energy. You can do so through three key factors: the sharing of knowledge, choosing and adapting technological solutions and by challenging conventional wisdom and thinking outside the box.
- As we are now here in India for the 3rd WPC Youth Forum we are ready to engage with you on those issues that **YOU** consider to be the key drivers for all our future.