

First Continentwide Latin American HSE Workshop Held

SPE and the Brazilian Petroleum, Gas and Biofuels Institute (IBP) held the industry's first continentwide Latin American Workshop for Health, Safety, and Environment (HSE) in Exploration and Production (E&P) 23–24 August in Rio de Janeiro. The workshop drew some 170 professionals, which exceeded expectations. Participants came from 14 countries, including France, Malaysia, Russia, and the United Kingdom.

Designed to promote the exchange of knowledge and ideas, especially HSE best practices, the workshop focused on a broad array of topics:

- Effective HSE management
- The impact of human behavior in safety and on the environment
- Best safety practices in the real world
- Health issues in E&P
- Managing and monitoring environmental resources
- Oil-spill response plans
- E&P in sensitive areas
- Climate change



Estrella

The tension between society's increasing demand for energy and its need and desire to reduce emissions was the theme of the workshop's first plenary session. Guilherme Estrella, director of E&P for Petrobras and president of the Administration Council of IBP, was session chairperson, and speakers included Beatriz Nassur Espinosa, Petrobras; Emmanuel Garland, Total; and José Félix García, Regional Association of Oil and Natural Gas Companies in Latin America and the Caribbean (Arpel).

Estrella noted the societal pressure on oil companies to change paradigms and the evidence of some shift

in direction already seen as oil companies transform into energy companies. Themes covered by the speakers included the necessity of fulfilling the requirements of the next generation without neglecting the present one, the comprehensive need for effective HSE performance throughout the production chain, the importance of proactive alignment with society on biodiversity and ecosystem sustainability, and the value of strategic planning in the HSE sphere as a means of enhancing the sustainability of the E&P segment.

A second plenary session dealt with global warming, focusing on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports and the coming challenges for the oil industry. Luiz Igrejas, Petrobras, chaired the session, and the speakers were Garland; Suzana Kahn, State Government of Rio de Janeiro; and Philip Hauser, EcoSecurities. Discussion encompassed the IPCC commitment to effect major change and also dealt with the technological and commercial responses under way in the attempt to meet this need for change, including various CO₂ technologies and the development of a trading market for capped carbon emissions. All agreed that work has a long way to go simply to meet existing targets.

A panel session on effective HSE management systems was chaired by Don Salmond, Battelle Memorial Institute, and featured as panellists Juan Ramon Candia, Fundación Chile; Hubmaier Andrade, El Paso–Brazil; and Tatiana Botelho, consultant. Session proceedings focused on the importance of management systems as essential tools for identifying and managing risk. Management systems and risk mapping are now considered fundamental inputs to company decision making.

A second panel looked at the impacts of human behavior on safety and the

environment, with Rodger Melton of ExxonMobil chairing the discussion and with panellists Ivan Betancourt, Schlumberger; Luis Bruno, Esso–Brazil; and Joe Deeb, ExxonMobil. The three panellists discussed their companies' programs for preventing unsafe and/or environmentally risky acts. Improper personal behavior by employees ranks as one of the main causes of field accidents, Betancourt emphasized. Discussion dealt with the increasing need to take into account factors such as employee attitudes, confidence levels, and interpersonal relational issues.

In addition, a special forum was held on HSE challenges in an open market. Chairing the forum was José Augusto Fernandes Filho, Queiroz Galvão Óleo e Gás, and featured speakers were Álvaro Teixeira, executive secretary, IBP; and Mark Rubin, executive director, SPE. With the industry's large-scale investment in E&P, meeting environmental standards and regulations is critical, and these requirements are becoming ever stricter, the speakers observed. Predictability concerning changes and evolution in the regulatory sphere, they noted, is essential to sustaining needed investment levels, and continuing dialogue with environmental bodies is likewise of great importance.

There were two technical sessions devoted to best safety practices in the real world. Carlos Derossi, Petrobras, chaired the first session, which included speakers Ivan Rezende, Petrobras; Betancourt; and J. Lopez, Schlumberger. The optimization of safety-management models and the importance of proactive employee involvement in the safety effort were key themes. The desirability of internationally unified safety standards, protocols, and certifications also was emphasized.

The second session on best safety practices focused on critical field

equipment that may represent various HSE hazards. Chairing the session was Oton Correa, Abespetro, and the speakers were Marco Túlio Barbosa, Transocean; Antonio Dias, BJ Services; and Paulo Correia, Halliburton.

Healthcare issues in the offshore industry were discussed likewise in two technical sessions. The first was chaired by Nelson Salem, Transocean, and featured speakers Ivan Drummond, Schlumberger; Armando Pimenta, Petrobras; and Ricardo Palma, consultant. The presentations centered on employee-health issues such as cardiovascular, weight, and hearing problems and the need for healthcare professionals on offshore platforms. The second session was chaired by Marcia Sales Reis, Petrobras, with speakers Mauricio Cerqueira de Souza, Shell; Helen Vervloet, Save Saúde; and Michel Oliveira Haddad, Petrobras. The speakers focused on programs to assess employees' physical and mental health to determine their fitness for work. The need for high-quality diagnostics was emphasized.

Environmental-resources management and monitoring was the subject of another technical session, which was chaired by Luiz Molle, Petrobras, and included speakers Alexandre Campos, Shell; Ângela Martins, Petrobras; and Alexander Mokalenko,

GCE Group. Discussion covered environmental management and monitoring systems of various companies, the need for effective use of available tools and knowledge, and the specific use of mathematical modeling as an environmental-management tool. International efforts in the industry to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions, particularly those based on energy efficiency, were also discussed. Speakers additionally called for further transnational information exchanges on environmental-resource management practices within the industry.

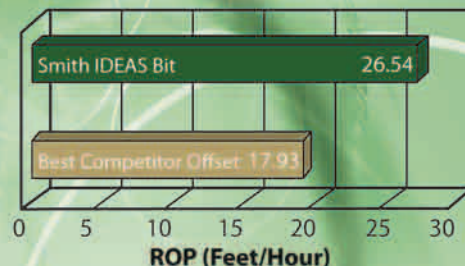
The technical session on oil-spill response plans was chaired by Marcus Lisboa, Petrobras, and speakers included Miguel Moyano, Arpel; Álvaro Bezerra de Souza, Golder Associates; and Marco Dertoni, Petrobras. The strategic sharing, between companies, of resources and information for oil-spill responses has proved successful and is strengthened when coordinated through a regional association such as Arpel, it was noted. In addition, speakers called for continual updating of regulatory standards to reflect the industry's evolving technology.

On the basis of the workshop's participation level and overall success, the event's technical committee announced that a second Latin American HSE workshop will be held in 2009. **JPT**

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