

IBP Promotes Brazil's Energy Industry

Editor's note: SPE seeks to develop strong relationships with other oil and gas societies worldwide. Many of these societies partner with SPE and other organizations on conferences, workshops, and other programs, at both the local and international levels. This series offers an overview of some of these societies. This first installment in the series spotlights the Instituto Brasileiro de Petróleo, Gás e Biocombustíveis, commonly known as IBP, which has been operating in Brazil for more than 50 years.

The Instituto Brasileiro de Petróleo, Gás e Biocombustíveis (the Brazilian Petroleum, Gas, and Biofuels Institute, often referred to as IBP) is a private, nonprofit organization whose objective is to promote the development of a competitive, sustainable, ethical, and socially responsible petroleum, gas, and biofuels industry. Founded in 1957, IBP has achieved acclaim in Brazilian industry and government for its promotion of technical know-how and also for its important contributions since 1996 in the discussion and implementation of regulatory and sustainability issues related to the development of an open petroleum market in Brazil. IBP lists among its goals representation of the industry, public awareness about the oil and gas industry, promotion of technical development, and protection of the country's environment and safety.

With 220 member companies among the oil and gas, goods and services, and other related industries, IBP has more than 42 committees, subcommittees, and ad-hoc committees. The organization's membership totals 950 and includes executives and other professionals from not

only the oil and gas industry but also from scientific and academic institutions, governmental bodies, and related associations.

The committees provide support to IBP-member management and help put together events, courses, standards, and certification. IBP also produces and sells technical publications, and its library has a wide variety of archives for local and online consultation. One of the main activities organized by the institute is the largest oil and gas show in Latin America, the Rio Oil & Gas Expo and Conference, held every 2 years in Rio de Janeiro. IBP organizes about 15 events per year, and conducts an average of 120 courses a year in 85 different subjects along the petroleum production chain.

IBP and SPE have been partners since 1990 in the organization of international events in Rio (such as the Latin American and Caribbean Petroleum Engineering Conference in 1990 and 1997), and, in 2004, the two signed a memorandum of understanding to develop technical events and courses in Brazil. Recently, both entities and the Offshore Technology Conference began a partnership with Reed Exhibitions to organize Brasil Offshore, a conference and exhibition to be held every other year in the city of Macaé, the main operational base of the Campos Basin. IBP also works closely with the SPE Brazil Section on several activities.

The main challenge for IBP, says its Executive Secretary, Alvaro Teixeira, is keeping alive the legacy of IBP's history, widely recognized as one of the most important oil and gas forums in the country. "Knowing how to manage and balance the interests of our associated companies, and seeking the best for the industry and society as a whole, this is the ultimate challenge of IBP's activities," he says.

Brazil and IBP are poised to have an exciting future, says Teixeira, with members seeing the potential for growth in the domestic natural gas market, the increasing importance of biofuels and renewables in the Brazilian energy mix, and the upstream oil sector. By far the most important challenge in the short term for Brazil is the development of its recently discovered high-potential offshore presalt province, as that may include important new technological developments and even a possible new regulatory framework for exploration and production in the area, he says.

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IBP at a glance

Founded: 1957

Number of members:
950 individuals, 220 companies

Major conferences:
Rio Oil & Gas Expo and Conference,
Brasil Offshore

Website: www.ibp.org.br