



WPC Youth Committee Final Report 2008

The 19th WPC marked an exciting milestone in the arrival of the next generation of energy professionals. An unprecedented total of more than 700 young professionals and students under the age of 35 attended the Congress. Outside of the outstanding technical sessions and plenary presentations, what youth participants found at the 19th WPC was an entire programme dedicated to helping them get the most out of the event in Spain. Leor Rotchild reports.

The 19th WPC's youth programme, the first of its kind, was organised by the World Petroleum Council's Youth Committee. This is a group of 17 young professionals all from different countries who volunteered their time over a period of a year and half leading up to the Congress in Madrid. The WPC Youth Committee has a vision for

“Youth engaged in the petroleum industry to design a sustainable future” and they plan to achieve this vision through their mission to:

- Create and nurture a collaborative, global forum for young people to be heard;
- Champion new ideas within the petroleum industry;
- Promote a realistic image of the petroleum industry, its challenges and opportunities; and
- Bridge the generation gap through mentorship networks.

The WPC Youth Committee maintained a highly visible presence at the 19th WPC, thanks in large part to their prominently positioned, Nexen-sponsored Youth Centre in the Global Business Opportunities Centre. The Youth Centre served as a busy congregation point for youth participants to interact with each other, take part in an online survey, listen to guest speakers, and

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The Youth Centre was a busy congregation point during the 19th WPC.





sign up for the Technology Showcase Tour.

The tour began at the Youth Centre and ended at the Social Responsibility Global Village. Along the way, students learned about leading-edge practices in:

- Exploration from CNPC, StatoilHydro and Weatherford;
- Production from Petrobras, Schlumberger and Total;
- Transportation from Chevron and RasGas; and
- Refining from BP and Repsol YPF.

The interest for the Technology Showcase Tour was overwhelming and the activity will serve as a template for future Youth Committee initiatives.

A night club in downtown Madrid served as an informal setting for more than 400 youth delegates to interact with one another. The evening was sponsored by Nexen and WPC President, Dr Randy Gossen kicked off the celebrations with a rousing version of “Twist and Shout” on the piano. It set the tone for an evening of fun and new friendships.

The large youth turnout at the 19th WPC was a result of the successful utilisation of scholarship programmes such as the Spanish National Organising Committee’s grants to give 50 students from around the world the opportunity to attend, as well as free attendance to 50 Spanish students in return for part-time assistance during the Congress. Some National Committees also tapped into local available funding resources which allowed them to send even more students to



the 19th WPC. The Spanish NOC also sponsored three prizes worth a total of €5,000 for outstanding papers authored by delegates under the age of 35.

● **Special session**

Prior to the Dewhurst Lecture and the closing ceremony, the 19th WPC wrapped up with a Youth special session attended by approximately 800 people. Entitled “Does the Petroleum Industry Need an Image Makeover?” the special session addressed the negative perception that many young people today have toward the petroleum industry. As Secretary of the WPC Youth Committee I facilitated an inter-generational dialogue with senior industry leaders including Sergio Gabrielli, CEO of Petrobras;

▲ Over 400 young delegates attended a party at Moma night club in downtown Madrid on July 2.

▼ The special session was held on the last day of the Congress.





Awards for Young Authors

The Spanish NOC sponsored three prizes worth a total of €5,000 for outstanding papers by delegates under the age of 35.

Pictured being presented by HM King Juan Carlos I, the first prize of €3,000 went to Jaime Turazzi from Petrobras for the project named "Perspectives to the southern cone gas balance using a game theory approach", with Fernando Mauricio de Aquino and Pedro Leonardo Neves as co-authors.

The second place awards, of €1,000 each, were given to Laura Watt, from the Accenture in the United Kingdom with the collaboration of Carlos Torres, Damían Payiatakis and Yasmin Lilu as co-authors, for the project titled "Putting talent at the heart of your strategy can mean success in frontier

markets"; and Jifeng Liang, from China National Offshore Oil Corporation with the collaboration of Yuzhen Zhang as co-author, for the paper "A new method of processing heavy oil: residue decarbonisation technology".



Andrew Gould, CEO of Schlumberger; and Rich Patterson, Global Energy, Utilities and Mining Leader at PricewaterhouseCoopers along with young professionals Ingvild Meland, Advisor, Department of Projects and Strategy, Petoro SA, Norway and Vice President of the WPC Youth Committee; Pedro Martínez Conesa, R&D Refining Portfolio Manager, Technology Centre, Repsol YPF; and Maria Carolina Acosta Pirella, student at Instituto Tecnológico y de Energías (ISE). The discussion touched on climate change, gender issues, human rights concerns, and the perception of the industry's innovativeness as major barriers to young people choosing careers in oil and gas.

The WPC Youth Committee produced a video of interviews with students and young professionals from around the world to highlight some of the perceptions they have about the petroleum industry. This video formed part of the introduction during the Youth special session. This video is available for download from the WPC Youth Committee website at www.world-petroleum.org/youth1.htm.

● Looking ahead

With the 19th WPC out of the way and under their belt, the WPC Youth Committee is already busy working on the 2nd Official WPC Youth Forum "Energise Your Future", which will take place in Paris, France, November 18-20, 2009. The Youth Committee is also advising a student-run conference known as the International Student Energy Summit (ISES) taking place in 2009 in Canada.

Under the direction of new President Wail Mousa, Research Scientist, Schlumberger Middle East SA, the Committee is looking forward to co-ordinating more youth events, formalising partnerships with other international youth organisations, encouraging national WPC Youth Committees in different countries, and promoting its vision within the petroleum industry, the WPC and the 20th World Petroleum Congress taking place in Qatar in 2011.

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