



Communiqué

International Regulators' Forum Maintains Focus on Offshore Safety at the Annual General Meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark

4 October 2017

The International Regulators' Forum (IRF) held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) from 2-4 October 2017 in Copenhagen, Denmark. The AGM, hosted by the Danish Working Environment Authority, was attended by representatives from nine countries: Australia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. Discussions highlighted shared concerns and good practices amongst the countries, including: decommissioning, operator capability in management of late field life, subsea leak detection, well intervention in older subsea fields, data analysis, information sharing and supply chain quality control issues.

Each of the four working groups provided a status report on their efforts. Of special note:

- **Performance Measures** – The working group has been examining existing IRF data related to underlying causes for various barrier failures. Its final report with recommendations will be submitted at the 2018 AGM.
- **Asset Integrity** – The New Zealand and North Sea regulators have been piloting the use of a standardized template to evaluate maintenance of safe operations in a low oil price environment. The results of the pilot will be discussed at the 2018 AGM.
- **Culture of Safety** – The working group will conduct a workshop as part of the 2018 conference to gain insight from industry and workers regarding the suite of indicators that may be helpful in evaluating cultural strength and weakness.
- **Standards** – The working group has finalized its gap analysis of standards related to well integrity and is sharing its findings with standard development organizations and have been placed in the public domain.

Members of IRF agreed that better safety outcomes are achieved through sharing of information and data in order to better understand risks and mitigation solutions. A case study on incidents involving dynamic positioning system failures was considered. This issue highlighted the importance of data

sharing in order to identify trends. It was only by considering data from across jurisdictions that a fuller picture was obtained. The IRF will maintain focus on this matter.

Members addressed the need to maintain public confidence in the regulator and discussed opportunities to improve public engagement and transparency.

The IRF discussed how the industry is performing and identified there were some indications of increases in well control issues and hydrocarbon releases. ([2016 Performance Indicators](#)) Industry is encouraged to be vigilant with ensuring preventative barriers are in place and working.

Members are committed to continuing the information and outreach strategy. They will publish monthly articles on topics central to the current offshore oil and gas environment on the IRF website.

Members noted the value of international collaboration and identified further opportunities to enhance information sharing and capability development.

The 2018 AGM will be held in Aberdeen, Scotland in conjunction with the *Piper 30* offshore safety conference. Among the topics anticipated to be covered by the IRF during the conference are: Value of the Regulator; Knowledge Sharing and Big Data; Digitalization, Robotics and Cyber Security; Risk Analysis; Management of Change; and Asset Transfers.

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