



Communiqué

International Regulators' Forum Offshore Safety Conference 2015 – *From Desktop to Deck Plate: A Holistic Approach to Risk Management*

27 October 2015

The 2015 International Regulators' Forum (IRF) Offshore Safety Conference "From Desktop to Deckplate: A Holistic Approach to Risk Management" was held in Washington, D.C. on 19 and 20 October. More than 200 participants from 21 countries attended the conference, which focused on moving safety in the offshore petroleum industry from concepts discussed in the boardroom to effective implementation out in the field. It provided a forum for regulators, industry, academia, federal organizations and other practitioners to openly discuss best practices and industry trends. This year, the IRF Conference featured speakers and panelists from several different industries discussing a holistic approach to risk reduction that could be applied in the offshore oil and gas sector. The agenda was developed to provide new inspiration for implementing risk reduction strategies offshore.

Conference participants examined risk-related best practices and experiences from other industries, whose different approaches to identifying, understanding, and managing risk can provide new insights to managing risk in the offshore oil and gas industry. They also thoroughly explored the concept of a social license to operate and regulate, which is essential to both industry and regulators, emphasizing that hydrocarbon resources belong to the people or the State, not to the operators extracting them. As such it is imperative that the needs and interests of local stakeholders are considered at the onset of an oil and gas project. A key takeaway from the conference was the need for regulators and industry alike to make safety a central part of organizational culture, and understand that prioritizing efficient sustainable production, corporate reputation, and long-term shareholder value will help to build this culture of safety.

During the 22nd Annual General Meeting (AGM) that immediately followed the conference, IRF members reached several key decisions regarding the strategic path forward and Management Committee governance reform. The group has resolved that its role should be to identify key risks that would enable IRF members to engage and share experience with the international stakeholder community with greater consistency. Members agreed that they want to engage and encourage the industry to find solutions and mitigate risks. The dialogue that was initiated during the conference concerning organizational culture was discussed in detail at the AGM. IRF members will be seeking to identify factors that impact broader organizational culture – such as human factors, communication, and leadership – and determine how to address issues with these factors.

For the coming year, IRF members have formed three working groups that will focus on distinct areas of technical collaboration reflecting shared organizational priorities, including; performance measures,



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asset integrity, and culture. Each working group held an initial meeting and identified specific action items to address. For the performance measures group, the goals are better identification of risks, tighter focus on system risks, and improved root cause analysis. The asset integrity group will work to understand the factors affecting maintenance backlogs and to investigate whether there is any identifiable effect on maintenance activity from current oil price levels. The culture group will aim to identify five key components of organizational culture that impact safety, and find factors that inspectors may observe in the field that are indicators of strong safety culture. Further information will be provided on the IRF website as it is finalized. Each working group will be working to complete its first set of recommendations by the 2016 AGM to be held in October in Auckland, New Zealand.

Under the leadership of the newly elected Management Committee, comprised of the United States' Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (Chair), Norway's Petroleum Safety Authority, and Australia's National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority, the IRF looks forward to enhanced engagement with the global stakeholder community.

The IRF members will hold a mid-year meeting at the 2016 Offshore Technology Conference in May in Houston, TX.

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