



## **Communiqué**

### **International Regulators' Forum Calls on Industry to Further Enhance Offshore Safety at its Annual General Meeting in The Hague, The Netherlands**

20 June 2019

The International Regulators Forum (IRF), comprised of 11 countries' regulators of health and safety in the offshore upstream oil and gas industry, held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) from June 18-20, 2019. This year's meeting was hosted in The Hague, The Netherlands by the State Supervision of Mines and included participants from Australia, Brazil, Canada (Chair), Denmark, New Zealand, Norway, the United Kingdom, the United States, and IRF's newest member from Ireland. Unfortunately, representatives from Mexico were unable to attend.

The IRF exists to promote health and safety improvements globally to protect workers and the environment. This year, the IRF reiterates its call to action to international petroleum industry associations and individual operators for enhanced safety leadership with sustained efforts to prevent incidents, particularly with respect to process safety and Major Accident Events. Common areas of priority for improvement in risk reduction include the prevention of well control incidents through effective barrier management, maintaining safe operations in production, learning and knowledge sharing across the industry, and ensuring the safe implementation of digital technologies. The IRF is determining its next steps to best influence industry to implement the necessary improvements required in these areas.

IRF members shared lessons learned from their respective jurisdictions over the past year. Case studies were presented highlighting significant risk gaps that were evident. Of particular note were:

- Well control incidents and causation trends;
- Risks presented by ageing assets, particularly when new entrants are involved; and
- Situations where the regulator had to step in and shut down operations as a result of cumulative risk.

Recognizing the rapidly changing nature of today's energy sector, members also discussed the development of renewable energy sources and other emerging challenges and opportunities.

The next IRF Offshore Safety Conference and AGM will be hosted by Australia's offshore regulator, the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA), in Perth, Australia in October, 2020.

