

# Highlights



*IOGP's team in Malta: EU Affairs Manager Bernard Vanheule (who drove the Association's participation in Our Ocean), Executive Director Gordon Ballard and Media & EU Affairs Manager Nareg Terzian*

- > Gordon Ballard addresses EU leaders at Malta ocean conference
- > IOGP award to 'inspire the next generation'
- > Assala Energy joins IOGP
- > Unto the third generation: IOGP's new Environment Director
- > Building on success: JIP33 begins second phase

## Gordon Ballard addresses EU leaders at Malta ocean conference

IOGP's Executive Director joined leading figures in the EU and the environmental sector – including the Prince of Wales – at 'Our Ocean', a conference organized by the European Commission in Malta on 5–6 October.

Addressing the conference, Gordon took the opportunity to renew IOGP's commitment to global conservation. This involved, in the first instance, opening up the Association's Seabed Survey Data Model (SSDM) to the scientific and business communities.

'Our industry has operated offshore for over a century. By giving free access to our data collection and processing model to environmental agencies, the offshore wind industry, port and harbour authorities and others, we are providing those working in the marine environment with the best tools available for overall ocean management,' Gordon said.

'In a 2°C scenario, oil and gas will still make up around 40% of energy used in Europe in 2040. Producing it in Europe means securing jobs and government revenues for decades, but also operating according to some of the highest environmental standards in the world,' he added.

Gordon went on to reaffirm IOGP Members' funding of the Proteus marine biodiversity data collection project, led by UN Environment.

The more information maritime industries have, the better decisions they can make. The oil and gas industry's contribution to Proteus is specifically aimed at strengthening the World

Data Base on Protected Areas, the most comprehensive global database of marine and terrestrial protected areas.

'Our members have been contributing financially to the Proteus project for nearly fifteen years, and continue to do so, despite a challenging economic situation for our sector. This is one of these projects where everyone wins: the environment, scientists, ocean conservation agencies, and business,' Gordon said.

Proteus is consistent with the upstream oil and gas sector's efforts to minimize the impact of its operations on the ocean. Partnerships with scientific bodies and R&D bodies help to further improve scientific knowledge of the seabed and marine environment, while access to reliable information reduces risk – both environmental and financial, Gordon said.

Both Proteus and the SSDM are indicative of the oil and gas industry's support for the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 14 on Life Below Water. They also advance the EU's own Blue Growth policy.

While he was in Malta, Gordon had meetings with Maltese Ministers Konrad Mizzi (Blue Growth), José Herrera (Environment & Climate), as well as advisors to the Maltese Prime Minister and Energy Minister.

## IOGP award to 'inspire the next generation'



Nominations are now open for the 2018 IOGP Outstanding Young Professional Award (OYPA).

This biennial award, first launched in 2015, recognizes the achievements of an individual with fewer than 10 years of professional E&P experience. The winner must demonstrate 'professional accomplishments and evidence of outstanding talent, dedication and leadership in at least one aspect of health, safety, security, the environment and/or social responsibility. IOGP established the award programme in association with the SPE HSSE-SR International Conference.

Speaking at Offshore Europe Conference in Aberdeen, IOGP Executive Director Gordon Ballard told his audience that 'The oil and gas industry needs competent and confident leaders for decades to come. We launched this award to inspire the next generation.'

IOGP is now looking to senior members of the industry to nominate candidates for the award. Nominees should:

- Be well-respected and in good standing within the community
- Serve as a role model for other young professionals
- Demonstrate noteworthy professional and personal achievement
- Demonstrate commitment to excellence and proven leadership
- Exhibit expertise, passion and the ability to inspire others.

A special awards committee will announce the winner the SPE HSSE-SR International Conference in Abu Dhabi, UAE, which runs from 16-18 April 2018.

The winner will receive:

- OYPA certificate and trophy
- Complimentary registration to the conference
- An invitation to join the OYPA and Young Persons Committees for the 2020 conference
- Recognition within IOGP and SPE.

For more information, and to nominate a young professional, visit [www.iogp.org/award](http://www.iogp.org/award)



## Assala Energy joins IOGP

The Association's newest Member takes its name from a breed of African elephant.

In Gabon, 'assala' is the local name given to smaller, individual elephants known for their vitality and tenacious character. As such, they are better able to move freely through and thrive in their dense forest environment.

Assala Energy takes its inspiration from this distinctive pachyderm.

The company's strategy is to seek out brown-field assets where an opportunity exists to streamline operations by making them more efficient. 'We are committed to long-term investment and building solid returns for our shareholders and host countries,' Assala Energy says.

The company's focus is sub-Saharan Africa. Its first acquisition has been Shell's onshore assets in Gabon. Production is approximately 60,000 barrels of oil per day (bopd) operated and



40,000 bopd net. Assala is building on Shell's 55-year legacy in Gabon and is planning to 'invest responsibly to secure and increase production levels as well as the oilfields' life. We look forward to working with the Government of Gabon, Gabon staff and our partners on this exciting opportunity,' says Assala Energy CEO David Roux.

The company's IOGP member representative is HSSE Manager Garry Evans, based in the company's London office.

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# Unto the third generation: IOGP's new Environment Director

Wendy Brown, IOGP's new Environment Director, comes to the role with quite a back story. Both of her grandfathers and her father had lifetime careers working in the downstream and upstream oil industry.

'You could say I have oil in my blood, and my childhood was certainly focused around the industry. I was born in Brunei and grew up in Gabon, Malaysia, Nigeria and The Hague' she recalls. So it was only natural that she'd eventually become part of the industry herself, having first got her feet wet working in the field as an environmental consultant for 12 years.

'After that, I joined Total, and had several roles in Aberdeen and Calgary, before ultimately becoming responsible for the headquarters' upstream Environment Department in Paris and its support of all of the company's E&P activities around the world,' she says. In that role, Wendy gained extensive experience in defining environmental policies and strategies, as well as every aspect of the environmental management of the E&P life cycle. She also saw first-hand the varying challenges faced on the ground in different parts of the world.

'Throughout my 28-year career, I have been aware of IOGP. I regarded its mission, along with IPIECA's, as essential in providing industry leadership and technically sound reference documents that represent industry best practice. I also served as Total's alternate representative on the Environment Committee. So when the prospect of this secondment came up, I was keen to go for it,' she says.

'In my new IOGP role, I see myself as a 'global change agent' – a catalyst in improving the environmental performance of the industry and so its reputation as well. My remit also covers the Decommissioning, Arctic and Legal Committees and representation on regional and international organizations. Although IOGP is small in numbers as far as the secretariat is concerned, its reach is long thanks to the worldwide nature of the membership.

'And fortunately, I've been able to settle in fairly quickly. Although I just started at the beginning of September, I was asked to be part of the process in crafting the 2018 Business Plan, which means that I'm prepared to implement the thinking behind it, as well as the challenges we face.'

Among those, she says, is the widening of Members' participation in environmental reporting as well as increasing communications and outreach of our Environment Committee products.

'I'd particularly welcome more representation from our smaller member companies and new members from areas where there is scope for improvement in environmental performance. This would also reinforce the Association's international standing. We don't want IOGP to be misperceived as a body skewed to American and European interests and involvement.'



Wendy Brown

Wendy also wants to focus on future developments in environmental performance reporting in terms of both accuracy and credibility. This could involve an independent review of the process, together with special emphasis on methane emissions associated with natural gas production and transport, and energy efficiency benchmarking.

'Judging from the record turnout for the September meeting of the Environment Committee, there's enormous interest in what we are doing and what we want to do,' Wendy says. 'And beyond my specific responsibilities, I see a big role for our Environment Committee in helping to make the case for oil and gas, supported by positive environmental stories. For example, without the environmental baseline and monitoring work done by the upstream oil and gas industry, with which we're so closely involved, the world would have scarce knowledge of ecosystems in places like Papua New Guinea and the deep Atlantic Margin waters west of Shetland. And once operational, our facilities offer havens to wildlife onshore and off. The protection provided around coastal terminals and offshore infrastructure to adjacent coral reefs and other marine wildlife is a good illustration,' she says.

Wendy will be working in parallel with her predecessor, John Campbell, who will retire in 2018.

*'IOGP has a compelling story to tell on behalf of our industry, and I look forward to becoming involved in that as part of my role here at the Association. It's going to be a great challenge and great fun.'*

## Building on success: JIP33 begins second phase

'In our industry, we have been eroding value by developing bespoke components in each of our projects. JIP33's vision is to achieve industry-level standardization to enable efficient procurement and support delivery of safe, reliable and competitive projects and operations across the globe,' says Gordon Ballard, IOGP Executive Director.

'In other words, we'll stop gold-plating and over-engineering oil field equipment and pay more attention to harmonizing industry needs. It's just the sort of thing that other industries, like aviation and automobiles, have been doing for years.'

Following a successful initial phase to prove the concept of industry standardization in procurement, IOGP's Joint Industry Project (JIP) 33 is now in Phase 2.

It consists of five workstreams:

- Adopting specifications across the industry:** Embedding within operator companies specifications agreed in 2016.
- Understanding the value of standardization:** Updating the draft value document with the examples from the participating operators to enable communication of the value of standardization across the industry.
- Improving specifications:** The ball valves and subsea Xmas trees specifications and/or their quality and documentation requirements will be further improved to maximize the value based on the feedback from companies and suppliers.
- Changing culture:** Developing and implementing a communications plan to increase awareness and facilitate the culture change across the industry.
- Publishing procurement specifications for further equipment and package items:** These may include an air compressor package, centrifugal pumps, gate/check valves, heat exchangers, HV switchgear, linepipe for critical services, offshore cranes, pressure vessels and subsea tree 'top downs'.

The project has nine funding members and continued support by the World Economic Forum Capital Project Complexity workstream. It expects further support by stakeholder review groups and suppliers as in the pilot phase.

Aker Solutions Ltd is providing project management and Lead Subject Matter Expert services.

Operating companies are welcome to join. They should contact Sally Abou-El-Seoud at [saes@iogp.org](mailto:saes@iogp.org) for more information.

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## Meetings Calendar

November 2017						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			
Wells Expert Com						2-3
Safety Com						6-7
Geomatics Com						6-7
Offshore Structures SC 						6
EGM						8-9
Security Com						13-14
Health Com						14-16
Offshore Structures SC 						20
Electrical Standards SC						22-23
Energy Market SC						23
Competency & Training SC 						23
Legal Com						24
Instrumentation & Automation SC						28-29
Information Standards SC 						29
Communications Com						30

### Meeting types are abbreviated as follows:

Committee (Com) Skype   
 Subcommittee (SC) Task Force (TF)  
 Teleconference  Webex   
 Working Group (WG)

## IOGP Safety Alerts

Because workplace fatalities are unacceptable



Signup to IOGP's Safety Alerts and receive important information on incidents, potential hazards and the lessons learnt.

Visit [www.iogp.org/safetyalerts](http://www.iogp.org/safetyalerts) to find out more