

IQPC Middle East Data and Document Management in Oil & Gas, Dubai

The fourth IPQC Data and Document Management in Oil and Gas conference was held at Dubai's Jumeirah beach hotel with a small but representative attendance from Middle East IOCs and NOCs. Three presentations, from ODC, PDO and Qatargas focused on security and compliance – increasingly important issues as Middle East regulators are raising reporting requirements.

PDO presented work on a new records management initiative which has seen a move from a 'guerilla filing' mentality to a managed central archive of physical documents.

IQPC has extended the 'Data and Document' of the conference title to embrace 'knowledge management,' the subject of presentations from Saudi Aramco, ENOC and others. A common theme is the move from 'unmanageable' Excel files to a more structured environment. Adgas for example has moved to Intergraph's SmartPlant and Saudi Aramco has migrated from Excel to a structured drilling and workover management system developed in-house.

On the technology front, the web front end is now *de rigueur* – whether (as for Caligari Hess' 'GeoX' portal) it is a Microsoft SharePoint development or, as for KOC, an in-house developed solution.

Interestingly, the IQPC Middle East Data and Document conference was instrumental in Caligari Hess' development which was inspired by a 2008 presentation of RasGas' portal.

An insightful presentation from KOC illustrated the difficulty of realizing the 'digital oilfield' dream. Even where real time data is available, it has been under utilized and even neglected. A new portal-based production optimization information system is now targeting specific workflows such as automated daily production reporting and worksheet generation and is rekindling interest in the possibilities of real time data.

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