

# THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF PEAK OIL AND GAS “ASPO”

## NEWSLETTER No. 100 – APRIL 2009

ASPO started as a European network of scientists and others, having an interest in determining the date and impact of the peak and decline of the world's production of oil and gas, due to resource constraints. Now, associate organisations are active in **Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, China, Croatia, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Ireland, Isle of Man, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Japan, Korea, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, Russia, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, USA** and Venezuela.

(Formally constituted entities are shown in bold face)

***Missions:***

- 1. To evaluate the world's endowment and definition of oil and gas;***
- 2. To study depletion, taking due account of economics, demand, technology and politics;***
- 3. To raise awareness of the serious consequences of oil and gas decline for Mankind.***

Foreign language editions are available as follows:

Spanish: [www.crisisenergetica.org](http://www.crisisenergetica.org)

French: [www.oleocene.org](http://www.oleocene.org) (press “Newsletter”)

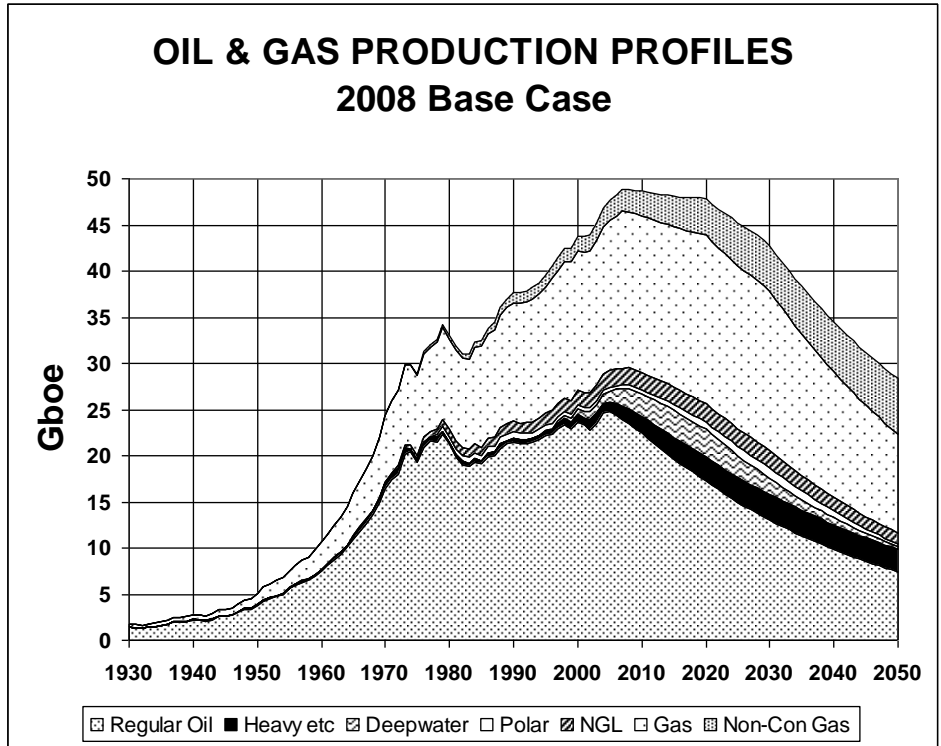
***1126. A New Mission***

***1127. A Valedictory Message***

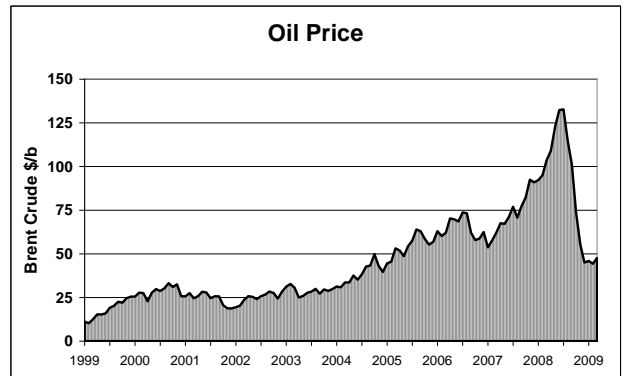
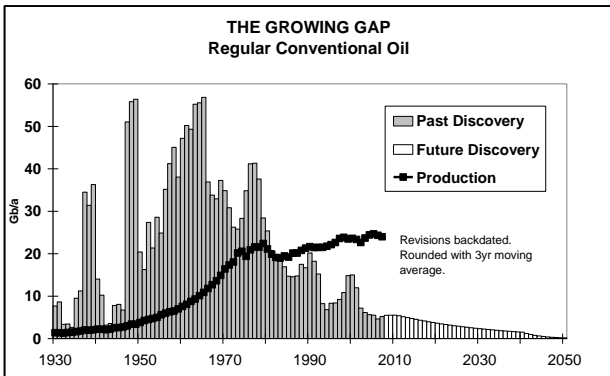
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### The General Depletion Picture



ESTIMATED PRODUCTION TO 2100										
Amount			Annual Production - Regular Oil					Total	Peak	
Regular Oil			Mb/d	2008	2010	2015	2020	2030	Gb	Date
Past	Future	Total	US-48	2.9	2.6	2.1	1.7	1.1	200	1970
Known Fields	New		Europe	4.0	3.5	2.5	1.8	0.9	75	1999
1054	736	110	Russia	8.8	8.2	6.8	5.7	4.0	230	1987
	846		ME Gulf	20	20	20	19	16	673	1974
<b>All Liquids</b>			Other	28	27	23	19	14	722	2005
1156	1269	2425	<b>World</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>1900</b>	<b>2005</b>
<b>2008 Base Scenario</b>			<b>Non-Conventional</b>							
Regular Oil excludes Heavy Oils (inc. tarsands, oilshales); Polar & Deepwater Oil; & gasplant NGL and Refinery Gains of ~3%			Heavy etc.	4.3	5.0	6.5	7.2	7.7	226	2030
Reference date : end 2008			Deepwater	5.9	6.6	8.1	8.1	4.7	89	2013
Revised 10/03/2009			Polar	1.4	1.5	1.7	2.0	2.3	52	2030
			Gas Liquid	5.1	5.5	5.6	5.9	5.6	156	2020
			<i>Rounding</i>			-1		-1	2	
			<b>ALL</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>2425</b>	<b>2008</b>



### **1126. A New Mission**

This newsletter has endeavoured to cover the general missions of ASPO : namely

1. *To evaluate the world's endowment and definition of oil and gas;*
2. *To study depletion, taking due account of economics, demand, technology and politics;*
3. *To raise awareness of the serious consequences of oil and gas decline for Mankind.*

There is in fact now a general awareness of the concept that the production of a finite resource, formed in the geological past, starts when first tapped and ends on exhaustion, passing a peak in between. While a certain debate still rages as to the precise date of peak and the shape of the depletion curve, the generality of the position becomes clear. It probably is no coincidence that what will likely prove to be the World's most severe economic depression more or less coincides with this recognition. If the cheap and abundant supply of oil-based energy fuelled the economic expansion of the First Half of the Age of Oil, it follows that the Second Half will be characterised by economic contraction. Furthermore, it is obvious that debt premised on eternal economic growth will lose its collateral in the face of a contracting economy.

The expanding economy of the First Half of the Age of Oil led to increasing globalisation based on growing world trade and financial hegemony by powerful countries. But the Second Half will likely see a reversion to localism as different communities come to terms with the changed circumstances and find new sustainable patterns of life to match the resources available to them.

There are now more than thirty ASPO organisations around the world which endeavour to address this issue giving particular attention to circumstances in their own country. ASPO-IRELAND is one such entity that indeed organised the 2007 Annual International Conference of the association. Consistent with the new unfolding circumstances, it has therefore been decided that in future this newsletter will be the mouthpiece of ASPO-IRELAND. It will give more emphasis to how this country responds to the challenges, although it will continue to cover the wider picture. The present editor will step down to be replaced by Tom McCarthy.

### **1127. A Valedictory Message**

A lecture given at the University of Clausthal in Germany in December, 2000, led to the idea of forming an organization to evaluate the depletion of oil. The first encouragement came from Dr Wellmer, the Director of the Bundesanstalt für Geowissenschaften und Rohstoffe (BGR), an arm of the German Government, who gave his informal support, followed by Oystein Kristiansen of the Norwegian Petroleum Directorate. Early contacts, including especially those listed in the table, contributed greatly to the idea for what became known as *An Association for the Study of Peak Oil (ASPO)*. The term *Peak Oil* underlined the concept that oil, being a finite resource formed in the geological past, was subject to depletion, such that production must start and end, passing a peak in between.

On January 5<sup>th</sup> 2001, a short informal newsletter was distributed by e-mail to an initial small network of interested parties in order to give the undertaking a certain identity. Interest grew thereafter, and the members began to develop organisations in their own countries, giving lectures, publishing articles, and granting interviews to the press.

In March of the same year, Professor Aleklett of Uppsala University in Sweden, paid a visit expressing keen interest in the subject, which led him to organize a conference in May attracting some sixty participants and influential press coverage. An informal committee was formed, headed by Professor Aleklett, to try to arrange for annual international conferences thereafter.

The ensuing years saw growing interest around the world with major international conferences in Paris, Berlin, Lisbon, Pisa, Cork and Barcelona, and the development of national organizations in more than thirty countries, some of which put on major conferences of their own. The media began to take an increasing interest with coverage in the press, radio and television. In February 2003, the BBC broadcast a programme, produced by David Strahan, touching on *Peak Oil* as one of the factors influencing politics in the Middle East. He went on to write a book entitled *The Last Oil Shock*. Many subsequent radio and television interviews were given to producers from around the world, resulting in *Peak Oil – Imposed by Nature* (Amund Prestegard); *Oil Crash* (Gelpke & McCormack); *Crude* (ABC TV); and *Petroapocalypse Now* (Andrew Evans), to mention a few.

Meanwhile, Professor Aleklett created a unit at Uppsala University to evaluate Peak Oil and related topics, maintaining a website which receives much attention. It affords a point of contact for the many different ASPO organizations around the world.

Ugo Bardi	Italy
Roger Bentley	UK
Klaus Illum	Denmark
Wolfgang Blendinger	Germany
Bruce Robinson	Australia
Rui Rosa	Portugal
Chris Skrebowski	UK
Ron Swenson	USA
Werner Zittel	Germany
Walter Youngquist	USA

The Newsletter continued to be written over the ensuing years to an expanding audience, being distributed over the internet by Richard O'Rourke. At first, it tried to concentrate on the analysis of oil depletion, which was largely based on a proprietary study, made in 1995 with Jean Laherrère, who brought his mathematical skills, including the parabolic fractal based in field-size distribution. The results were later summarized in *The End of Cheap Oil* (Scientific American, March 1998). Efforts have been made to update the assessment every succeeding year, providing a summary for the Newsletter, although the task became ever more difficult as the quality of the available information on discovery and production deteriorated. Later, the Newsletter found itself turning to related geopolitical issues, helped by a growing list of contributors who furnished relevant material from around the world, notably William Tamblyn and Virginia Abernethy.

This is the hundredth and final Edition of the newsletter. It has been a stimulating experience engendering a deep sense of gratitude to all those who have supported the endeavour with such enthusiasm, many to become close personal friends.

#### NOTES

This newsletter is produced and distributed for perusal primarily by ASPO members.-  
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*Compiled by C.J.Campbell, Staball Hill, Ballydehob, Co. Cork, Ireland.*

#### PUBLICATIONS

Multi-Science Publishing Co. (Sciencem@hotmail.com) wishes to advise that copies of the book *Oil Crisis* by C.J.Campbell, providing background reading, are still available for purchase.

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A privately printed booklet entitled *Living through the Energy Crisis* by C.J.Campbell and Graham Strouts is available from [www.zone5.org](http://www.zone5.org) (price €7 plus postage)

~

#### *An Atlas of Oil and Gas Depletion*

By C.J.Campbell and Siobhan Heapes

Provides an evaluation of oil and gas depletion, together with political and historical summaries, for 65 countries, which are summed into regional and world totals. *Non-Conventional oil and gas* are also covered, and a final chapter places the Oil Age in an historical perspective.

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