

To all current IGU WOC3
Members

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Date	Telephone
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Our reference	Your reference
Subject	

Dear WOC3 member,

Because of the fact that all incoming chairs will present their approved working programmes on Friday 9 October 2009, the call for the committee members normally starts after this presentation in the World Gas Conference. For the next triennium 2009-2012 we have prepared a challenging and interesting working programme that can be of benefit for all gas transmission companies (see enclosure).

However, due to the late date in the year of the IGU World Gas Conference in Buenos Aires, the next triennium is effectively shorter and therefore the time schedule for the realisation of the working programme will be very challenging. That is why the IGU secretariat already approached the IGU members with the request to nominate representatives for the different committees.

In order not to lose too much time, I kindly request you to consider already your participation in the next IGU WOC3 triennium 2009-2012 and to send your formal confirmation as soon as possible to the IGU Secretariat. This helps us to make a flying start with the IGU WOC3 kick-off meeting that will be held on 13-15 January 2010 in Amsterdam.

I also inform you that we will organise an exploratory WOC3 meeting in Buenos Aires during the 24th IGU WGC starts, viz. on 5 October 2009.

Hopefully you are willing to continue your contribution to WOC3 in the next triennium.

Yours faithfully,



E. Dam
Incoming chairman IGU WOC3 2009-2012



WORKING COMMITTEE 3: TRANSMISSION



Introduction

Different studies have shown that during the next decades there is an increasing demand for natural gas in the global gas markets as the most environmental friendly fossil fuel.

To fulfill the increasing demand for natural gas, more strategic gas transmission infrastructures and long distance pipelines, sometimes operating under extreme conditions, will be necessary.

New gas transmission infrastructures will be the bridge between the market and new or existing gas reserves. This system must be operated with the goal of ensuring security of supply, within safe and environmentally friendly sets of practices. This means that the new gas infrastructures become more complex and the design and operation of the gas infrastructures must be based on the latest safety regulations and best technical practices. Therefore it is necessary to make use of the best technological innovations available.

During the last decade we saw the beginning of a technical skills shortage affecting the energy industry, including gas. At the same time, gas transmission systems have become more complex due to various technological developments and breakthroughs. The critical question is - do the personnel responsible for maintaining and operating these complex systems have sufficient education and skills to perform the tasks adequately?

To address these issues in a comprehensive manner, three different study groups have been set up:

Study Group 3.1 (SG3.1)

Strategic gas transmission infrastructure projects

Scope and Purpose

To share lessons learned and practices from strategic gas transmission infrastructure projects (pipelines and compressor stations) and the construction of pipelines under extreme conditions. This cover:

- Cross border pipeline systems:
 - An inquiry into existing and new planned cross border pipelines (including compressor stations)
 - Investigation into experiences of planning, constructing and operating cross border pipelines/compressor stations
- Construction of pipelines under extreme conditions:
 - Investigations (inquiry) into experiences, codes applied, practices and problems in constructing pipelines:
 - In deep water (>1000m)
 - In high mountains
 - In marshy areas (including permafrost)
 - Over long distances (>1000 km)

- In protected areas
- In densely populated areas
- List of do's and don'ts

Study Group 3.2 (SG3.2)

Integrity of gas transmission systems and environmental footprint reduction

Scope and Purpose

- To investigate the most important threats to the integrity of pipelines in the different parts of the world and to obtain more insight into the effectiveness of the threat reducing measures.
- To investigate whether the national and international safety and environmental regulations (including emissions) are increasing and whether these regulations are issued by the authorities alone or in close cooperation with gas transmission companies.

The study will cover:

- Investigation into external threats affecting the integrity of pipelines and the measures to reduce these threats with regard to:
 - External interferences
 - External corrosion (incl. SCC)
 - Ground movement
 - Third party intrusion
- Increasing influence of governmental bodies with regard to the design, construction and operation of gas transmission systems (safety and environmental issues), an IGU inquiry into:
 - Increasing national governmental binding regulation/rules
 - Possibilities for gas transmission companies to influence national governmental regulations/rules
- The societal responsibility of companies to measure their own environmental footprint and to define measures to reduce emissions. This study will investigate the status amongst IGU WOC3 members.

Study Group 3.3 (SG3.3)

Securing sufficient expertise to operate gas transmission systems safely and adequately

Scope and Purpose

To study possible means to provide for sufficient expertise in gas transmission companies to operate and maintain complex gas transmission systems safely and adequately.

Qualified expertise is necessary but is becoming in short supply for the purpose of operating and maintaining gas transmission systems safely and adequately. How to provide for this issue? This study group will examine:

- How to determine the required expertise level of personnel?
- Other organizational models necessary to provide for this scarcity (e.g. pooling of personnel, outsourcing activities)?
- Other equipment or systems that require less expertise?
- Does ageing of gas transmission systems require more personnel and other expertise?

This study group will contribute to the work of the Task Force 1: "Building Strategic Human Capital", which is one of the special projects defined by 2009-2012 Triennial Work Programme.

Eric Dam
Chairman, WOC3