

Our energy future is not set in stone

Driven by growth in emerging countries, the demand for oil and gas will continue to grow steadily. Even if there are enough oil and gas reserves to see us through the next three decades, will the industry be able to exploit and produce new resources that are increasingly complex to develop at a sufficient rate and which are often located in politically unstable countries? Not to mention the added challenge of the growing numbers of stakeholders who are increasingly insistent on industrial safety, environment and societal issues? In particular, will non-conventional resources, whose production growth could defer the oil & gas peaks by several decades, be able to withstand political and environmental lobbies?

The evolution of oil & gas landscape over the past few years reveals a disturbing increase in the time required to develop large new fields and an accelerated

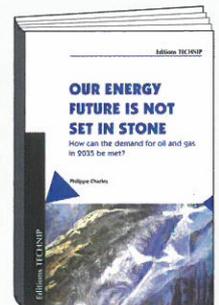
decline of the production base due to the ageing of most of the mature-field facilities. This book aims to analyze all the critical factors (technical, political, economic, social and human) that could potentially accelerate or delay the maintenance and redevelopment of mature producing fields as well as the discovery and development of new conventional and unconventional resources.

Insofar as in 2035, oil and gas still account for more than half of the world primary energy consumption, the appropriate management of these critical factors is crucial to ensuring, at least in the medium term, the "Grail of Growth".

However, the hope of achieving the 450 ppm targets of Copenhagen has been shattered – bad news for the human population which is becoming more concerned with ensuring its short-term growth than with its long-term survival. Our energy future is not set in stone.

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New Approaches in the Process Industries

The industrialization process can be defined as the process of converting research or laboratory experiments into a physical tool capable of producing a product of value for customers of specified markets. Such a process implies knowledge of BAT (best available techniques) in chemical engineering, plant design, production competitiveness, the proper utilization of tools (toolbox concept) such as value assessment, value engineering, eco-design, LCA (lifecycle analysis), process simulation, modelling, innovation and appropriate metrics usage.

This book mixes an academic approach and practices in industrial management. Manufacturing may be the new paradigm for the process industries and designing

the plant of the future hinges on a good understanding of traditional process development and engineering methods. This book is intended for students, chemists, chemical engineers, production workers and all professionals of the process industries such as supply chain managers, R&D and development engineers. Its objective is to provide new systemic insights into the evolution of the problems themselves and into the methods and tools that will be required by the professional, who has to integrate new skills, capabilities and perspectives for success in transition management for the 21st Century. These mandatory issues for ensuring commercial success are covered in detail by the authors of this book.

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