



Welcome to Perth



On behalf of the Organising Committee, it is with great pleasure that I extend to you a very warm welcome to the 2006 AAPG International

Conference and Exhibition, jointly sponsored by the Petroleum Exploration Society of Australia, in Perth, Western Australia.

Perth, one of the world's most isolated cities, is also one of the most welcoming. Late spring is one of the most pleasant times of year to visit. With a population of 1.2 million, it has all of the attributes of a big city with the easy familiarity of a big country town. Perth is blessed with a warm, maritime climate, beautiful beaches, a wide river foreshore, diverse cuisine, including extraordinary seafood, and a range of sports, including a wide variety of golf courses, all within 20 minutes drive of the city centre. Western Australia, at 2.5 million sq km, is almost 4 times the size of Texas, sprawling from 14°S to 35°S and 113°E to 129°E, containing some of the oldest rocks on earth, at 4 billion years, and hosting a wide variety of landforms upon its ancient craton.

With a population of only 2 million (including Perth), the expression "get lost" takes on a whole new meaning when you choose to venture out into the countryside.

Petroleum exploration in Australia began in 1892 with the drilling of the Salt Creek #1 bore, 170 km southeast of Adelaide in South Australia. This dry bore reached TD in Precambrian marble at 281m and an opportunity for a geologist was immediately created. The first commercial discovery was made just 45 short years ago, in 1961, when the Moonie oilfield was discovered in

Lower Jurassic sandstones of Queensland's Surat Basin. Since then, resources discovered total approximately 7 billion barrels of oil and natural gas liquids and some 170 Tcf of gas. Much of this gas is located in the world-class gas province on Western Australia's North West Shelf, which is also a major

Resources; Maximising Value from Mature Petroleum Assets; New and Emerging Technologies; Petroleum Development and the Environment and Non-conventional Hydrocarbon/Energy Resources. Our challenge is to apply new thinking in each of these areas. The words of Mahatma Gandhi –

Photo courtesy of Tourism Western Australia



oil province. Oil production is commencing a decline from peak production of 700,000 barrels per day in 2001 whereas gas production is forecast to increase to more than 5 Bcf per day by 2010. Australia is no different to any other nation in wishing to maximise the utilisation of its hydrocarbon resources and our industry is looking to its geologists to apply new technology, seek out new frontiers, and structure new deals such that the goal of providing reliable and secure energy, both domestically and abroad, can be achieved.

In this regard, our 2006 Conference is timely, with a technical program of oral and poster sessions woven around 10 major themes: *Management and Decision Making; Petroleum Systems Analysis; Gondwana Evolution and Petroleum Systems; SE Asian Petroleum Provinces; West Australian Basins; Asia Pacific LNG*

"The difference between what we are doing, and what we are capable of doing, would suffice to solve most of the world's problems" – are as applicable to the world of oil and gas as they are to the issues of society at large.

This program will be enlivened by an Exhibition, Icebreaker Reception, and a wide variety of short courses and field trips, which have been designed to be stimulating, relevant, insightful, educational and provide genuine value. As well, the Organising Committee will facilitate a variety of other travel and tourist ambitions and I would encourage all delegates to take time out to enjoy some of what our unique part of our unique continent has to offer.

I look forward to welcoming you personally to Perth.

Agu Kantsler, General Chair