

2,500 Delegates Descend On The World Geothermal Congress

Gareth Cooper, Hot Dry Rocks

(WGC2010), Bali, Indonesia, 26-30 April 2010.

The steamy climes of Nusa Dua were made even steamier in April as 2,500 delegates, including 100 Australians, descended upon the beach resort for five days of volleyball, pina colada sipping by the pool, massages ... oh, and the World Geothermal Congress (WGC).

This massive event, which occurs every five years, attracted heavyweights from the international geothermal community, including Chevron, the World Bank and Mitsubishi Power Systems, in addition to nearly all geothermal energy practitioners across the globe, of all shapes and sizes.

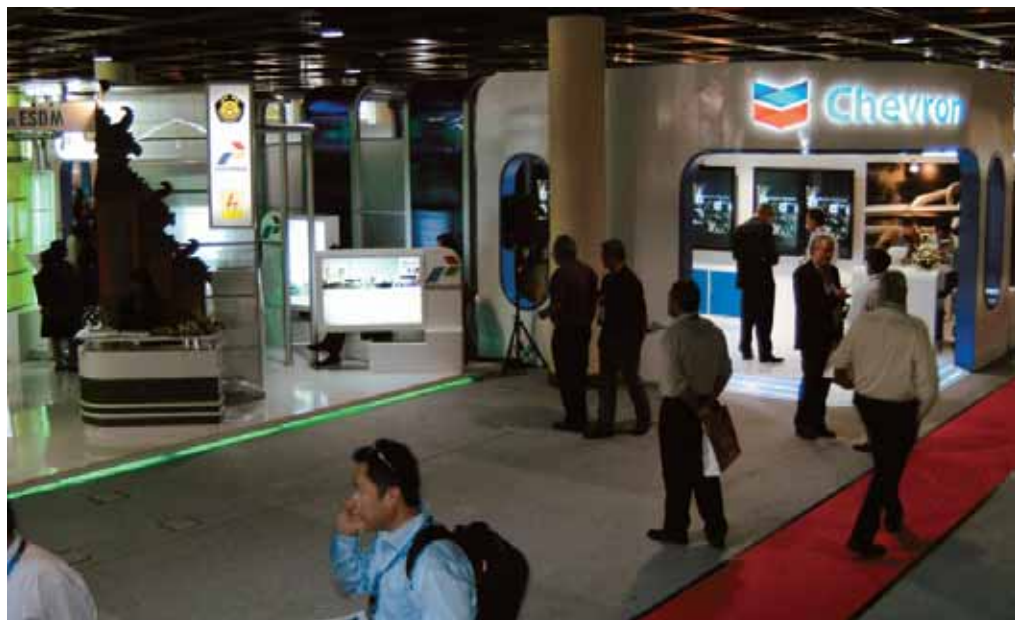
The WGC showcased over 1,300 presentations on all subjects, from global warming to reservoir modelling and developments in engineered geothermal systems. With over 10 GW of electricity being produced globally, and Indonesia being ranked three in the world's geothermal energy producers, the WGC was viewed as being important enough to attract a spectacular opening ceremony, officiated by both the President of the Republic of Indonesia, Dr H. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and the President of Iceland, Olafur Ragnar Grimsson. Both presidents gave excellent speeches, extolling the virtues and growing potential of geothermal power in the world's renewable energy mix.

Of interest to oily types was a conference session dedicated to the conversion of 'dry' oil wells to active geothermal wells. A number of presentations on this topic covered some interesting examples in district heating in Germany presented by OMV. The other related exciting news emanating from the WGC was that the world's largest oil and gas field service provider, Schlumberger, has acquired the world's largest and oldest geothermal energy consultancy, GeothermEx (located in Richmond, California).

However, my highlight was the massive 1,500-person, open-air, sit-down conference dinner within a limestone quarry, which was dampened but not extinguished by a torrential downpour during an interpretive dance version



Team Australia Booth, WGC2010, Bali. Peter Reid (Petratherm Ltd) to right.



WGC2010 Bali. One of the exhibition halls.

of the history of geothermal energy by 250 Balinese traditional dancers. Australia was aptly represented at the WGC through a multitude of presentations and the presence of the 'Team Australia' booth. As the sun sets on the

beautiful, yet highly volcanic and humid island paradise of Bali, the international geothermal community prepares for the next spectacular WGC, to be jointly hosted by Australia and New Zealand in Melbourne in April 2015. ■