

## **Hydrocarbon Potential of Cenozoic Basins in the Tuman River area of North Korea (DPRK)**

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The Tuman River area is located in the extreme NE portion of the DPRK (North Korea) near the border of the PRC and Russia. For obvious political reasons, the region has been “out of bounds” to western explorers. Recent “softening” of the world’s view of the DPRK allows access to this exploration area untouched since the mid 1960’s. Russian-Korean exploration teams explored this region during that period and prematurely concluded that no commercial accumulations of hydrocarbons were present in any of the several Cenozoic basins located in the area. The stratigraphic sequence includes alluvial fans, fluvial channels, coal beds, lacustrine deposits and volcanic units within these fault bounded half graben basins. Outcrop and core hole sampling provided source rock data that suggest hydrocarbon generation. New geological ideas and unconventional business concepts encourage a re-evaluation of the prospectivity of the region. Over the years, gravity, magnetic & seismic surveys were undertaken in the study area and can be used to test new geological concepts. Exploration is also encouraged by the fact that most of the 14 wells drilled in the 60’s had oil & gas shows. Recent field trips have been made to verify results from these data, mainly gathered in the 60’s. This talk will summarize the earlier exploration results, present the expected plays types and methodologies for evaluating the prospectivity of this region.