The Evolution of Two World Class Oil and Gas Fields in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq

Speaker: Ke Lovan | WZR Development ULC (WesternZagros)

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1 CPD (Continuing Professional Development) credit will be awarded for this event

ABSTRACT
Oil and gas fields in the Middle East account for over a third of global oil production and a fifth of global gas production. The Chia Surkh-1 well, spud in 1901, was the first exploration well drilled in the Middle East in the western part of the Zagros fold and thrust belt. While the Chia Surkh Field is located in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI), much of the KRI remained unexplored for decades during the Saddam Hussein era, which ended in 2003. A significant number of oil and gas discoveries have since been made in the KRI due to exploration efforts of international oil companies. WesternZagros started G&G evaluation of the region in 2005, which included satellite imagery studies, geological field programs, sampling of oil seeps and soil gas for geochemical evaluation, plus three phases of 2D seismic acquisition programs. Two large discoveries were made by WesternZagros, as the Operator, with the drilling of the Sarqala-1 and Kurdamir-1 wells targeting the Neogene and Paleogene carbonate reservoirs. 3D seismic programs were subsequently acquired for further appraisal and development of these two discoveries. The Sarqala Field Development Plan was approved in 2016 and to date, total production from the Sarqala Field has exceeded 31 million barrels. Negotiations for the approval of the Kurdamir Field Development Plan are ongoing. Oil and gas exploration and development has materially impacted the local communities near our operations and has brought about positive economic changes to the KRI as a whole.

BIOGRAPHY
Mr. Ke Lovan is the Managing Director of Exploration at WZR Development ULC (WesternZagros). He brings over 20 years of domestic and international oil and gas experience that includes technical and managerial positions with Goodwell Petroleum, GEDCO, Paradigm Geophysical Corp., Sproule International Limited and Western Oil Sands.

Mr. Lovan's expertise includes structural and stratigraphic plays in carbonate and clastic environments and advanced 3D seismic interpretation, visualization, modeling, seismic characterization and geostatistical analysis. He played a crucial role in the discovery of oil and gas resources in excess of 700 MMBOE recoverable on WesternZagros’s two blocks in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

Mr. Lovan holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Geophysics from the University of Calgary and is a member of APEGA, CSEG, SEG, AAPG, and EAGE.