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# WPC Youth Forums UNIQUE EVENTS WITH CONTENT DEFINED BY YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

The World Petroleum Council's (WPC) Youth Forums are a veritable gathering of young and veteran, fresh and experienced, seasoned and budding. Being one of the few truly global platforms of its kind, where the young minds of the hydrocarbon industry coalesce to focus on the future of youth and discuss contemporary issues and concerns, the Youth Forums are the experience of a lifetime for the energy leaders of tomorrow.

WPC Youth Forums provide students and professionals with a fantastic opportunity to have a say in defining and resolving current and future industry challenges, elaborating on social and environmental issues and contributing to finding potential solutions to problems. The way WPC Youth Forums are organised is quite unique. Firstly, the initiative of organising these events comes directly from the youth! Secondly, it is the students and young professionals who constitute the Programme Committee for the Forums, formulate their content and key points for discussion, choose the distinguished speakers and communicate with them on stage. Have you ever seen or heard of such a thing happening before? Finally, each Forum has a distinctiveness that makes it completely different from previous ones.

For instance, the 1st WPC Youth Forum *Youth and Innovation – the Future of the Petroleum Industry* held in Beijing (China) from 17-20 October 2004 was the first of its kind in which young people played a leading role in the WPC's 71-year history. This Youth Forum laid the foundation for international exchange and cooperation between students, young professionals and senior colleagues from oil and gas companies and academia, and that became the



Members attend a panel at the 2nd WPC Youth Forum in Paris

genesis for the creation of the WPC Youth Committee in late 2006. Since then, young professionals and students have been on the World Petroleum Council's agenda as one of its most significant, foremost concerns.

The 2nd WPC Youth Forum *Energise Your Future* held from 18-20 November 2009, in Les Pyramides, Paris (France) pioneered the use of a special on-line platform "Energise Your Network" as a new, interactive communication tool that helped young participants from all over the world engage in straight talking about a broad range of critical and sometimes controversial issues: Where is the energy market heading? How should all stakeholders work better together to build an ethical and sustainable future? What kind of leadership is needed to navigate this fast-changing environment? And much more besides. The plenaries gave young people the opportunity to discuss these issues on stage with senior colleagues. Following the plenaries, workshops were held where young people had a chance to discuss solutions to the industries' challenges, contributing by presenting creative ideas. In addition to this, during the event 1,200 young professionals, students and experts from 110 countries got together to enhance their knowledge of the oil and gas industry and exchange their opinions at the 'Knowledge Cafés', areas exclusively earmarked for the purpose.

Carrying forward the legacy of the two previous Youth Forums, the 3rd WPC Youth Forum *FuEL The Youth: Future Energy Leaders*, held from 1-3 November 2010, in New Delhi (India), on the sidelines of Petrotech-2010, a biennial International Oil & Gas Conference, was the first carbon neutral event in India and first such event held under the aegis of the WPC. The highlight of the forum was

the debut of various competitive on-line events, the finale of which was held live during the main Forum on 2nd Nov, 2010. Competitions like "Corporate Ranneeti" – a contest aimed at achieving corporate supremacy in a fiercely-fought virtual business battle; "Energy Extempore" – interactive debate with the objective of stimulating office, college and informal arguments towards common platforms for finding solutions to the world's energy problems; "Mind Odyssey" – a free-wheel Creative Odyssey of seeking that one gem of an innovative idea that has the potential to revolutionise the Energy Industry and "Bizethics" – a High-on-Ethics event to present one's comprehension of how a company can balance its social, ethical, environmental and profit-making concerns, not only witnessed overwhelming participation from across the globe but were instrumental in mainstreaming several issues critical to industry through a unique approach. Competition finalists were fully sponsored by the organisers for participation in the main Forum and attractive prizes were up for grabs by the competition winners. Further, the young panelists for Theme Sessions were on the stage during the Forum, who were identified through extensive online discussions on the youth forum web portal.

As reflected by these past Forums, our aim is to continue organising the WPC Youth Forums in different geographical locations, providing an arena for youth to be heard, promoting a realistic image of the industry amongst the youth, and trying to attract more talented young people to work towards a sustainable energy future. We stand for *Fuelling the Youth* and *Energising our Future* and we encourage *Innovation by Youth!* So come and join us at our next Youth Forum! ■