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he World Petroleum Council (WPC) recognised the key role of the Youth in the energy future, way back in 2006, since then WPC has initiated a number of activities to engage youth in the industry. With a vision of designing a sustainable future by engaging the power of the youth, WPC established the official WPC Youth Committee in 2007, targeting WPC's key strategic area of Youth and Gender engagement. WPC provides the youth with a voice through its formally organised Youth Committee and a chance for future generations to get involved in WPC activities in an equitable way through various task force members and volunteers.

The objective of the Youth Committee (YC) is to create a collaborative global platform to be heard by the industry, to champion new ideas, to promote a realistic image of the industry and to bridge the generation gap in the oil and gas business. The Youth Committee fulfils its objective through three main channels: Knowledge Sharing, Global Networking and highlighting youth perspectives in discussion forums. Not only has the Youth Committee organised youth activities at the 19th WPC in Madrid and the 20th WPC in Qatar, but it has also successfully executed for Youth Forums, including "Youth and Innovation: the Future of the Petroleum Industry" in China (2005), "Energise Your Future "in France (2009); "Fuel the Youth: Future Energy Leaders" in India (2010) and "Unconventional solutions for an Unconventional World" in Canada (2013).

At present the Youth Committee is composed of more than 20 Youth Committee Members from different countries. It is led by a Chair and assisted by the Vice Chair. The different Team Heads lead their projects. The projects are



Youth Forum participants attend an interactive session in Calgary

aligned with the objectives of the WPC and it is a collaborative effort within the WPC YC team, with their support of globally present volunteers.

Currently, the major projects focusing on Network building and sharing information via electronic media is Youth Connect (an online platform), Youth Relations and Knowledge Management. The Mentorship Project, after its huge success of the first round, is now developing global cooperation and a wider platform of discussion through its mentees & mentors. Similarly, the Youth Magazine project, now in its third edition is set to spread the words and views of the youth across the globe at various WPC events. To attract and retain young talent in the hydrocarbon industry by highlighting its contributions to the public and by providing a realistic image of the industry are the scheme's core objectives.

Russia, Qatar and China are already at the forefront with their established NYCs. Now, Argentina, the United States, the UK and India are joining the league of NYCs to strengthen the key objectives of the WPC. The guidelines to set up an NYC are handled through another YC project called the National Youth Committee. Apart from the above mentioned projects, the YC always promotes new ideas to achieve its objectives and support upcoming projects by volunteers and members.

The WPC YC is leaving its imprint in every continent of the world and growing with time. So far, the WPCs activities have been so successful that they have attracted bright men and women, with different backgrounds and cultures to create a global permanent network. WPC Youth Committee activities constitute a platform where the young people gain from the experiences of senior colleagues, share the views with worldwide counterparts, discuss the current and potential future issues, and get involved in the entire spectrum of hydrocarbon industry activities from upstream to downstream, from regulators to stakeholders, from profit to social responsibility and from energy to environment.

The WPC Youth Committee wants to lead the way for the youth, to get them interested in engaging in thought-provoking conversations. Our Youth Connect platform has a huge potential to poll the opinion of youth and to disseminate the vision of future from the youth to whom the future belongs. Our motive is to spread the message from the youth to the boardroom and to have a say in our Energy Future.

We are in the process of shaping the future and would request all our colleagues to support this initiative in your own way at WPC, National and individual level. The WPC-YC wing provides a great opportunity for the youth to cast themselves as future leaders. The Committee is trying to encourage maximum participation from youth around the globe to develop new ideas, to collaborate with senior colleagues and to shape the future of the oil and gas industry. There are many opportunities for youth to associate themselves with the World Petroleum Council through events, youth committees, projects, task forces, student grants or as volunteers. To explore more options please contact the WPC Youth International Committee with any questions, ideas, suggestions or submissions at:

Email: youth@world-petroleum.org **Website:** www.world-petroleum.org