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The steep drop in oil prices in recent years could be seen as just the end of another commodity cycle. However, a closer look reveals this downturn is in fact unique: a super-cycle termination that carries far-reaching implications and structural changes for the energy industry.

All of which will change the human resources requirements for the industry.

On the other hand, the future demand for energy will be influenced by new consumer behaviour, due to population growth, urbanisation, mobility, connectivity, environmental concerns and the water-food-energy stress nexus.

The situation is complex. It requires

A CREW CHANGE TO CHANGE THE GAME

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Make no mistake, the game is changing. We are currently living in a transition scenario. Energy companies are seeking to survive in the short run through massive lay-offs, mergers & acquisitions, project deferrals and divestments. But if they are to capture future opportunities they will have to go one step further and re-invent themselves.

There is a new energy world coming, where many different trends will shape the future. The industry is trying to understand the consequences these changes will bring about and how best to prepare for that future.

On the supply side, competition from renewable energy, climate change and emissions capping, fast-changing geopolitics and new threats such as cybersecurity will have an increasingly strong effect.

An array of new technologies and innovations such as robotics, sensors, 3D printing, big data and artificial intelligence will gradually open new opportunities to increase efficiency and reduce costs towards leaner operations.

a new global energy order in a world where petroleum and gas will likely remain the main energy sources. For that we need a generation of young, responsible leaders with a new mindset to re-invent the industry.

Effectively, to change the game, we need a crew change. That's what the WPC Future Leaders Forum (FLF) aims to discuss.

Brazil, a vast South American country with one of the world's most diverse energy mixes, has great geological prospects and also big challenges. How can we exploit its huge pre-salt ultra-deep water reserves in this current scenario? The answer lies in the hands of the new generation of future leaders.

Rio de Janeiro, the Brazilian oil capital, will serve as the main stage for young professionals from all over the world to participate in discussions on leadership, sustainability, technology and innovation in the oil and gas industry. This will be a great, exciting opportunity to learn and network with top industry leaders and inspiring keynote speakers.