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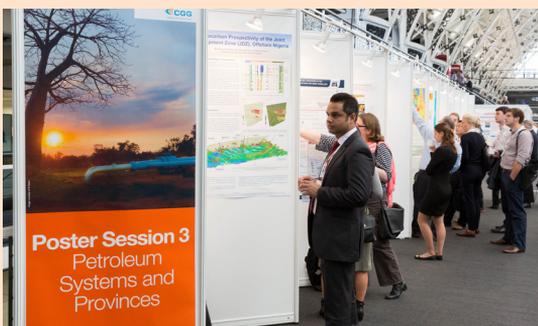
Ray Bate, Duncan MacGregor and the PESGB/HGS Organising and Technical Committees are to be congratulated. This year's Africa Exploration & Production Conference was a great success with 651 people attending despite the dark clouds looming. There were 60 vendor stands, an international pavilion with government representatives from Gabon, Madagascar, Mozambique, Nigeria-Sao Tome, the Republic of Congo and South Africa and 67 very impressive technical presentations covering a variety of geodynamic, tectono-stratigraphic and petroleum systems related topics from all parts of Africa in talks, posters and a seismic workshop.

Presentations focussed upon the Central Atlantic continental margin including an analysis of its tectono-stratigraphic evolution and relationship to precursor basement fabric, tectonic inversion of the Moroccan margin and structural and volcanic control on sedimentation, descriptions of Jurassic and Neocomian carbonate prospects, Jurassic and intra-Cretaceous source rocks and a review

of the FAN and SNE discoveries, offshore Senegal.

The Equatorial Africa margin presentations included descriptions of combination and stratigraphic plays in the deep water Cote d'Ivoire, the prospectivity of the JDZ offshore Nigeria, transform margin related heat flow, pore pressure prediction and shallow fluid flow in the Niger Delta.

Much attention was devoted the South Atlantic. Presentations covered rifting and breakup along the Namibe continental margin and the relationship between spreading history and compensatory intra-plate deformation. More stratigraphically focussed topics included descriptions of pre and post rift wedge edge outcrops fringing the Namibe, Benguela and Kwanza basins, reviews of microbial and travertine carbonate reservoir analogs, an elegant analysis of Valaginian to Aptian synrift, Sag 1 and Sag 2 depositional systems, Aptian turbidite sand plays, a prospectivity assessment of a block offshore Equatorial Guinea and a note caution about the pre-salt play in the Kwanza and Benguela deepwater.



A majority of the presentations reviewed various aspects of the East African Margin. These ranged from large scale plate tectonic modelling to more local descriptions of the Somalia and Mozambique Channel deep water basins and Davey Fracture Zone with some disagreement about the extent of oceanic crust. The prospectivity of the ultra-deep water off Tanzania, Kenya and Madagascar was assessed with speculations about potential source rocks. Episodic mantle drive uplift of Africa was touched on and related to East African rifting, evolving drainage patterns and sediment source terrains. Of particular note was a review of a recent seismic survey, offshore Somalia - until now a part of the margin almost completely unknown. Several oil/gas accumulations were also discussed ranging from the Panda gas complex in the south, Tsmiroro in Madagascar, Mzia and the recent Sunbird discovery offshore Kenya. Geochemical analysis of the oil from Sunbird suggested a Late Cretaceous-Tertiary source, arguably a first for this margin, while the source of oil at Inhassoro remains uncertain.

The geology and exploration history of the East African Rift System was summarized in several presentations ranging from a regional landsat based interpretation to more local reviews of the South Albert (Semliki) Graben, Lake Nyasa and a discerning analysis of the South Lokichar petroleum system and its associated source rocks.

There were only two presentations on North Africa, one included a description of a large mid-Cretaceous incised canyon system in the Western Desert but there was nothing about ENI's recent Miocene 30Tcf gas discovery, offshore Nile Delta. During the course of the Conference there was both formal and informal discussion about the need to screen opportunities in a more technically effective way. While this view is hard to fault, new play concepts such as Miocene reefs offshore Egypt are difficult to assess, often suffering as much from over-prediction than sketchy analysis. It was always thus!

Review by David Boote