

# PETROLEUM GEOLOGISCHE KRING



## KONINKLIJK NEDERLANDS GEOLOGISCH MIJNBOUWKUNDIG GENOOTSCHAP **PGK**

<b>President:</b>	Gitta Zaalberg	070-3170509	<a href="mailto:g.zaalberg@fugro.com">g.zaalberg@fugro.com</a>
<b>Vice-president:</b>	Bas van der Es	070-3170509	<a href="mailto:Bas.VanDerEs@shell.com">Bas.VanDerEs@shell.com</a>
<b>Excursions:</b>	Henk Kombrink	030-2564643	<a href="mailto:henk.kombrink@tno.nl">henk.kombrink@tno.nl</a>
<b>Webmaster:</b>	Adriaan Janszen	015-278 5771	<a href="mailto:a.janszen@tudelft.nl">a.janszen@tudelft.nl</a>
<b>Secretary:</b>	Christian Derer p/a Wintershall Noordzee B.V. Bogaardplein 47 2284 DP Rijswijk The Netherlands Phone: tel. 070-358 3188 E-mail: <a href="mailto:christian.derer@wintershall.com">christian.derer@wintershall.com</a>	<b>Treasurer:</b>  Phone: E-mail:	Wiebe van Driel p/a PanTerra Geoconsultants B.V. Weversbaan 1-3 2352 BZ Leiderdorp tel. 071-581 3505 <a href="mailto:w.v.driel@panterra.nl">w.v.driel@panterra.nl</a>
<b>Venue:</b>	PGK's monthly meetings are held at the KIVI building, Prinsessegracht 23, Den Haag. Drinks are served from 17:00 hrs; the lecture starts at 18:00hrs.		<a href="http://www.pgknet.nl">www.pgknet.nl</a>
<b>Membership:</b>	Apply for membership by contacting the secretariat. The annual fee is €15.-		
<b>Accounts:</b>	Fortis Bank: 88.65.82.733 (PGK, Den Haag)		

## APRIL 2010 NEWSLETTER

### 21<sup>st</sup> APRIL:

The next PGK meeting will be on **Wednesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010.**

17:00-18:00 hrs: Social hour  
18:00-19:00 hrs: Lecture by Harald de Haan (Energie Beheer Nederland)  
**“Unconventional gas in the Netherlands”**

*Abstract on separate pages*

### MAY PGK MEETING

The May meeting takes place on **Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> of May 2010.** It is a joint PGK-KNGMG happening. During this meeting a **PhD-Event** is organized: three geoscience PhD students from Dutch Universities will present their work. The titles and authors will be announced in due time.

### NEW MEMBERS

Applications for membership have been received from Bart Meijninger (Fugro Engineers B.V.), Colin Reeves (Earthworks BV), Hamza Abou Rafea (Wintershall Noordzee BV), and Berend Vrouwe (T&A Survey).

If no objections are received prior to or during the next meeting, they will be automatically admitted as member of our society.



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**FIRST PGK EXCURSION OF 2010: FRIDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2010** **!DO NOT MISS!**

**To AKZO Nobel salt mining facilities and the Winterswijk Muschelkalk quarry**

Program:

07h45 Departure from Utrecht Central Station, busstop Moreelsepark

09h45 Arrival AKZO Nobel, Hengelo

13h00 Departure AZKO Nobel

14h00 Arrival Winterswijk, museum

17h00 Departure Winterswijk

19h00 Arrival Utrecht Central station

The salt-deficits of this year's winter led to an increasing public interest in evaporites; the first PGK-excursion of the year 2010 will pay attention to these materials as well! Frans Bianchi will drive us to the eastern part of the country, where the AKZO Nobel salt mining facilities in Hengelo will be visited. We will listen to a presentation about the mining techniques and will learn about the production process. In the afternoon a visit to the Winterswijk Muschelkalk quarry, where limestones and dolomites are being mined, is scheduled. First a presentation will be given on the geology of the area (in Dutch), followed by a walk through the quarry itself.

Please bring firm shoes, helmets will be available in the bus.

**Registration:** please register **before the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April** by contacting **Henk Kombrink** [henk.kombrink@tno.nl](mailto:henk.kombrink@tno.nl) Tel: **030 2564643**. Or by directly filling out and sending the registration form attached to the e-mail.

## **PGK GROUP CREATED ON LINKED-IN:**

One of the important goals of the PGK is to give members the chance of networking. The monthly pre-lecture social hour is one way of doing that. To expand the networking possibilities the PGK board has supported the creation of a PGK group on Linked-in.

This group is open to PGK members only. Requests to join are administrated by the PGK board (now the treasurer) who will first check the PGK membership status.

As a PGK member you are free to choose whether to join the group, or not. If you have a profile on Linked-in you are invited to join and start a discussion.

**Important Notice: All official PGK announcements will continue to be distributed, as usual, by the PGK board via the PGK Newsletter, PGK website and PGK Secretariat.**

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## **BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT:**

Announcement of a book published by one of our PGK members:

**“HET BLOED DER AARDE: een olie- en gasbonanza in Marokko?**

*Dollars, macht en terreur”*

**“THE BLOOD OF THE EARTH: an oil and gas bonanza in Morocco?**

*Dollars, power and terrorism”*

**by Gé Boorman**

A PGK member ran into an incredible story about an oil and gas discovery in Morocco. Six years ago he approached the owner of a small American oil company, Mike Gustin, for possible participation in the development of the field. Mike told him that a combination of Saudis accused of sponsoring Al Qaeda, Osama bin Laden and the 9/11 suicide pilots, in combination with the Moroccan royal family was trying to squeeze him out of his discovery and his exploration licences. Checks in the Moroccan, American, Spanish and oil and gas press revealed an even more unlikely, but apparently true story. Friends of the author suggested writing a book about it and so he did – for good reasons under pseudonym. It is available in the bookshops now and we thought that members might be interested in reading about the adventures of some of their co-members.

A Texan wildcatter, Mike Gustin, acquired several exploration licences in Morocco, assisted by two cousins and a friend of the present king. They received a 12% carried interest in the deal for their help. A new “magic” magnetic exploration tool revealed many anomalies, several of which were confirmed by seismic. The new king became most interested and received Mike and his business partner twice in his palace. In the year 2000, the first well hit gas and oil, but money ran out. Mysterious investors, unknown to Mike and his partner but known to the king, put in an equivalent to the \$27 million that the Americans had already invested so far, for half of the remaining interest of 88%. Then, things did not go the way everybody had hoped and the new partners made themselves known: the ambassador of Saudi-Arabia in Washington with the nickname “Bandar Bush” and the third-richest Saudi, sheikh Saleh Abdellah Kamel and his son, owners of (amongst others) “Al Jazeera”. With the help of the Moroccan royal family they started pushing the Americans out of their discovery and their licences.

Without knowing this background, three very experienced and reliable PGK members who appear in the book under their own names, were asked to evaluate the discovery and the licences for the opponents of the Americans. A very experienced British operations manager, based in the Netherlands and known to many of the PGK members, took care of the operational aspects on the American side. Several Dutch companies got involved in the seismic and drilling operations. The PGK members worked professionally and in good faith, but were most surprised to meet Robert L. Shapiro - the lawyer who kept O. J. Simpson out of jail - speaking for the Americans at a meeting with contractors who had not been paid. They got involved in an incredible series of events that even writers of a soap series could not have imagined.

After 9/11, all three Saudis were accused of contributing to Al Qaeda, Osama bin Laden or the plans of the suicide pilots,; sheikh Saleh’s name even figures on the list of initial contributors to Al Qaeda. For Mike Gustin, a dream turned into a nightmare ...

From these ingredients, a most fascinating story developed, with the Moroccan king figuring in a most bizarre role.

The book has been published by Uitgeverij Aspekt and costs €18.95.

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**Monthly meeting:** Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2010  
**Address:** KIVi building, Prinsessegracht 23, the Hague  
**Social hour:** Between 17:00 and 18:00 hrs  
**Lecture:** 18:30-19:00

## UNCONVENTIONAL GAS IN THE NETHERLANDS

Harald de Haan, Raymond Godderij, Fokko van Hulten & Berend Scheffers.  
Energie Beheer Nederland B.V. – Utrecht, The Netherlands; harald.haan-de@ebn.nl

The Netherlands is a major gas province of North West Europe partly due to the giant Groningen gas field. Contrary to other parts of the world (USA, Canada, Australia) there is as yet hardly any production from unconventional resources from the Dutch subsurface. With declining production and aging infrastructure these resources can help to limit the decline in production from conventional resources and contribute to the stretch target for 2030: To produce approximately 30 BCM from non-Groningen gasfields in the Netherlands.

Although potentially large volumes of non-conventional gas are in place, these are generally difficult to develop. A first step towards unlocking these resources is to make an overview of where we can expect to find these resources and the potential volumes involved. Since no public inventory of unconventional gas was available, EBN initiated a study performed by TNO which has resulted in a first effort to characterise and estimate the potential of unconventional gas in the Netherlands. This presentation will give a brief overview of five major categories of potential unconventional resources. A summary of distribution and volumes of shallow gas, tight gas, coalbed-methane (CBM), shale gas and basin centred gas will be presented.

Dutch shallow gas fields were already discovered offshore in the early 70's, but it took more than 35 years before the first offshore field came on production. Production from this field started in 2008, with production from the second shallow gas field following in 2009. Also several tight gas fields were already discovered in the early exploration phase of the sixties and seventies, but until today only a few fields within the 'better' reservoir quality range are in production. Only very recently some companies have started to explore for shale gas and CBM in Europe. The first unconventional exploration licenses in the Netherlands have been granted in the last few months.

The recovery factor for these unconventional gas resources, especially for Coal Bed Methane, Shale gas and Basin Centred Gas, are not known for the Netherlands since there is as yet no production from these resources. Only input data from other parts of the world can give an indication of the reserves which can technically be produced.

There are challenges in exploring and developing these unconventional resources. These can be grouped in the following way:

- Subsurface: Are the expected volumes really there?
- Technology: Can gas be brought to surface for a reasonable price? Can we reduce the costs?
- Social-Economic: Can we exploit these resources with an acceptable social and environmental imprint (densely populated area)

The challenge for the coming decades is to continue exploring and developing conventional resources while at the same time bringing unconventional resources online.

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