



## Media Release

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### **Exploration and investment in people and technology the key to ongoing economic prosperity**

There is little doubt that Western Australia is the hub of the Australian resources sector and that exploration is the front end that drives it.

In 2007, the investment in exploration activities in Australia for both minerals and petroleum is about AUD\$6billion – this is a significant increase from previous years – with the majority of this being spent in Western Australia.

Australia is in the top five countries for finding new hydrocarbon resources over the last 5-7 years – with some of the major gas discoveries in northwest Australia.

With the Chinese economy and its demand for mineral and energy resources expected to continue to play an important role in the outlook for exploration in Australia for some time to come, exploration becomes all the more important.

That's why more than 250 speakers and 100 exhibitors from around the world are heading to the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre between 18 - 22 November for the 19<sup>th</sup> International Geophysical Conference and Exhibition '**Exploration & Beyond**'.

Australian Society of Exploration Geophysicists co chair and Professor of Geophysics at Curtin University Dr Brian Evans said more than 800 delegates were expected to attend this year's conference, which is the largest in Australia encompassing the petroleum, mining and environmental industries.

"Exploration is the exciting side of the resources sector. The investment required is substantial and risk is high, with commercial success in the 10 percent probability range," Dr Evans said.

"The challenge for the explorer is to make the most of the investment using technology and best practices to increase the chance of success of finding the next big deposit or field."

The 19<sup>th</sup> ASEG International Geophysical Conference and Exhibition will showcase examples of discoveries; new technologies and tools to further contribute to future success and wealth creation for Australia and do it in an environmental sustainable manner.

"This year's conference will highlight the importance of investing in people and technology for the exploration of mineral and energy resources in a safe and environmentally responsible manner to ensure long term economic growth," he said.

The programme offers a wide variety of topics for best practices and new techniques to improve the industries impact of finding new minerals and petroleum resources and discusses its use in environmental studies.

**'Exploration & Beyond'** will feature three days of exhibitions and four days of technical presentations, as well as pre and post workshops and field trips to Barrow Island and Kalgoorlie.

A panel discussion on *'Peak Oil'* will open the conference on Monday, 19 November. The panel discussion will feature keynote conference speakers Dr Bruce Robinson from the Australian Association for the Study of Peak Oil and Gas (ASPO) and Mr Abdulla Al Naim (VP Exploration, Saudi Aramco) and be moderated by Professor Lyn Beazley (WA Chief Scientist).

"With such eminent speakers presenting quite opposing views on the issue of *Peak Oil*, this panel discussion is a highlight on the programme and is bound to attract keen interest," he said.

Other topics being presented include:

- Shell Development (Australia)'s views on technology and geophysical technology as an enabler to realise the potential of the region;
- The issues surrounding CO<sub>2</sub>-Greenhouse gas monitoring and sequestration and consideration of CO<sub>2</sub> disposal/storage; and
- The application of Underwater Seismic Refraction methods and its important contribution to shallow marine exploration and geotechnical investigations in Australia's coastal areas.
- Case histories of global diamond and metals exploration success

If you would like to register to attend the conference a program overview and online registration is available at [www.promaco.com.au/2007/aseg](http://www.promaco.com.au/2007/aseg)

**Please note: Media will need to register for the conference.** For your **free registration** please contact Lynda Ravis-Hermann as below.

A fully equipped media room, consisting of desk space, broadband and telephone access is available to all media wishing to attend this event.

The **Australian Society of Exploration Geophysicists (ASEG)** is a learned society of approximately 1,400 members, embracing professional earth scientists specialising in the practical application of the principles of physics and mathematics to solve problems in a broad range of geological situations. To find out more about ASEG visit [www.aseg.org.au](http://www.aseg.org.au)

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