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Global Training Challenges

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SUMMARY

The upstream petroleum sector is characterized by a high level of technology and a growing demand from producing countries for local content. There is therefore an educational challenge for all the players: NOC, IOC, service companies, training providers and universities. Several models are proposed to meet the challenge.

The upstream petroleum sector is characterized by a high level of technological progress which implies both a very technical initial education and continuing education throughout a person's professional life.

Moreover, this technical activity in exploration and production is not restricted to Europe but is spread all around the world, in producing countries.

These countries wish to become stakeholders in all E&P related aspects, including education to train their national workforce.

There is therefore an educational challenge for all the players: NOC, IOC, service companies, training providers and universities, which may all choose different ways to meet the challenge.

A first model has been to welcome foreign trainees to European universities. For the sponsoring companies – NOC, IOC, service providers - this is expensive. For the non-European countries, there is no global transfer of technology and for the welcoming universities, the major issue they have to deal with is the heterogeneity of the students' backgrounds.

Another model could be to export education programmes to producing countries. This can be done providing lectures abroad (EAGE Student Lecture Tour or Education Tour) or by providing a complete programme, possibly with a local academic partner.

This second model is cheaper for the sponsors but lacks international and multicultural exposure for the students. For the local academic partner, a lot can be gained from a successful technological transfer.

This global training challenge has become, in recent years, a crucial one especially as it is combined with the perspective of the "big crew change".

IFP School and IFP Training are involved in such processes, which will be discussed in the light of our experience.