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Angolan Geosciences and Total: A fifty years perspective

CS SEYVE* (Total Exploration Production Angola)

SUMMARY

Since the beginning of Angolan petroleum Exploration and Development Total has been closely associated with the geosciences education system and professionals. Such a long term investments have proven efficiency.

When **Total** started its “*Science Education Initiative in Angola*” almost fifty years ago, in the early Sixties, nobody was talking about sustainable development, the peak oil definition issue, or the lack of young skilled geoscientists in the employment markets.

But since the beginning of Angolan petroleum Exploration and Development, the three historical companies (**Fina**, **Elf** and **Total**) have been closely associated with local institutions on the educational side, like the **Agostinho Neto University**, the research side like the **I.I.C.A** (Instituto de Investigação Científico de Angola), and the professional side with the National Oil Company **SONANGOL**.

This historical partnership will be highlighted through various examples illustrating the richness of the **Total**-supported programs that were built during 50 years of continuous human investment.

Developing the knowledge base is a key issue, and it has been achieved through a great variety of projects. Posting of full time teachers at the University, post-graduate training abroad associated with PhD theses grants and research programs, local geoscience training curricula, sponsoring of conferences, editions of scientific books and educational manuals, were, among others, the most prominent efforts undertaken in order to support the Angolan geoscience education system, during the last half century.

Even if “faster and cheaper”, and “new technologies” are the most popular present day catch phrases, one must not forget that long term investments in local cooperation and education are the stable roots for the future, and have proven efficiency. This has been **Total** policy in Angola since the Sixties. It has been maintained during the 1975-2002 civil war. Today it is still ongoing, not only for the benefits of Science and Technology, but as a part of the company human investment for the future.