The continental shelf of Sarawak Basin is considered a sub-mature area for the oil and gas exploration. Hydrocarbons are found in the Oligocene to Early Miocene clastics (Balingian sub-basin), Middle Miocene carbonates (Luconis sub-basin) and Middle Miocene to Pliocene clastics of (Baram Delta sub-basin).

The early exploration wells were drilled on simple structural/fault closures as well as high relief carbonates. These conventional traps are normally associated with higher chance of success to find hydrocarbons. On the other hand, stratigraphic traps are considered very risky. The high uncertainty in the trap definition and difficulty in reservoir prediction deemed the stratigraphic play as unattractive.

Utilizing the advances of the geophysical tools such as DHI mapping, AVO, Seismic Inversion and Seismic/Sequence Stratigraphy concepts have led to the identification and discovery of Kumang stratigraphic trap in the Central Luconia Province.

Kumang is a low relief pinch-out stratigraphic trap. It is located in a depression, at the southern flank of West Luconia. The prospect is covered by 1988 and 1998 2D seismics with a grid spacing of 3 by 3 km. Kumang-1 exploration well was drilled by PMU in December 2003 and the well penetrated gas in a 200m gross interval. Two intervals were production tested with a combined flow rate of 40 MMScf/day.

The discovery of Kumang-1 has open up the prospectivity of similar subtle stratigraphic play in the Central Luconia Province and surrounding areas.