

## EDITO



The economic crisis that we are currently facing has already outstripped most forecasts. It is deeper, longer and more global than was initially anticipated. It has intensified the differences in performance of different regions of the world and, consequently, the competition between the socio-economic players.

IFP School is no exception to this trend and must face increasing international competition in an economic environment that presents more and more constraints. Nevertheless, confidence reigns, thanks to the School's numerous assets. Results speak for themselves. It is highly likely that the Class of 2012 will have a placement rate, as in previous years, of over 97% four months after graduation.

Industrial support is as strong as ever and we continue to develop internationally at a steady pace. We have signed new partnership agreements with prestigious universities - *Instituto Tecnológico de Buenos Aires* (ITBA) in Argentina, *Kazakh-British Technical University* (KBTU) in Kazakhstan, to name but two of them.

It is clearly apparent that a network of partners which is dense, active, dynamic and based on mutual trust is one of the keys to our development. This newsletter serves to illustrate the various aspects of such a network.

The School therefore gives its full support to initiatives taken by the IFP School Alumni Association to develop the alumni network. The dynamism of the Alumni Clubs in Rio de Janeiro, Madrid, Houston and Athens is indisputably excellent news, illustrating the strong ties we have with our former students which play an important role in increasing the School's international reputation and influence. I am sure that you will also be extremely interested in the interview with our eminent alumnus Tan Sri Dato' Shamsul Azhar Abbas (EMP 90), President and CEO of Petronas, who has accepted to be the Honorary Patron of the 2013 Class and whose career path is a model for all our students.

Our network of industrial partners, built up and maintained over the years, is also one of our major assets. An illustration in this newsletter is the ambitious partnership agreement signed recently with Statoil which reinforces its support over the long term.

Happy reading!

Philippe Pinchon  
Dean  
IFP School

## BRIEF

### International Alumni Clubs

The IFP School Alumni network consists at present of 13 000 engineers working in over 100 countries. In view of this internationalisation, the IFP School Alumni Association (AAID), in collaboration with IFP School, has implemented numerous initiatives to enable former students to keep in touch with the School and to develop further contacts.

An International Committee was created in 2012 on the initiative of Patrick-Paul Duval, member of the Alumni Association Committee (GOP 84, Strategy Division at IFP Energies nouvelles). Its objective is to develop IFP School's international alumni network within a friendly and a professional framework. To do so, it encourages the creation of Alumni Clubs in different countries and liaises between them.

#### A community of Clubs creating a support network

At present the Alumni Association supports the Alumni network at the international level through its four Clubs in Athens, Houston, Madrid and Rio de Janeiro.

These Clubs are open to all IFP School alumni, whether members of the Alumni Association or not. Their main vocation is to enable former students to meet up through personal affinities, professional interest or geographical location. It also promotes solidarity amongst alumni to help young graduates find employment or to aid career advancement.

Run by IFP School alumni, these Clubs propose various events throughout the year, which are both convivial and professional, such as breakfasts, evening gatherings, sports or cultural events or debates on a variety of issues with eminent guest speakers. They are often supported by French Embassies who involve local partners (associations, companies, chambers of commerce and industry, etc.).

"These Clubs help to develop connections. They give former students the opportunity to exchange views on subjects close to their hearts and are a pleasant way of building up their network," said Patrick-Paul Duval. "They are also a means to promote and increase the prestige of IFP School and, by extension, IFP Energies nouvelles. They can sometimes open doors, boost our network and play an important role in developing our reputation."

#### The Club in Rio de Janeiro

The *Club Pétrole de Rio* is the oldest of the Alumni network. It was founded in September 2006 through close collaboration between Patrick-Paul Duval and Bertrand Velon who was, at the time, deputy head of the French Trade Commission in de Rio de Janeiro.

It was created to link together the 70 Brazilian IFP School alumni (from 1952 to 2006) and had immediate success. Thirty five alumni from Brazil, but also from other countries (Spain, France, Italy, Portugal, Venezuela), took part in its launch during a reception organized by the French Trade Commission and France's Consulate General.

Today, the Club has grown and has several Franco-Brazilian partners from the energy industry. It even receives financial support from various oil and gas companies. Members meet up two or three times a year to discuss a current issue or during important international conferences such as *Rio Oil & Gas*.

The person in charge is presently Michel Curletto, head of Oil, Gas and Shipbuilding of the French Trade Commission in Rio de Janeiro. You can get news of the Club on his [blog](#) or on his [Facebook](#) page.

## **The Club in Madrid**

The Madrid Club was launched after a visit from Olivier Appert, Chairman and CEO of IFP Energies nouvelles (IFPEN), during the *World Petroleum Council* held in Madrid in 2008.

Accompanied by Jean-Luc Karnik, who was then Dean of IFP School, Olivier Appert invited the School's Spanish alumni (over 400 former students) to meet up at a reception organized at the *Madrid School of Mines*, a longstanding partner of IFP School.

The Club was born a few months later, in April 2009, thanks to the dynamism of Mikel Ansareo (RIG 05). If you would like to join this club, contact [mikel.ansareo.2005@ifp-school.com](mailto:mikel.ansareo.2005@ifp-school.com).

## **The Club in Houston**

The Club in Houston is one of the most cosmopolitan of the Alumni network. It is open to participants of different origins with different professional backgrounds.

Set up with the backing of the French Trade Commission and France's Consulate General in Houston, it was inaugurated on 5 May 2010 at the residence of the Consul General Pierre Granjouan in the presence of around fifty IFP School alumni.



Launch of the Alumni Club in Houston, 5 May 2010

The Club was first run by Nathalie Cartier (GOP 98) then, since this year, by Paula de Oliveira (GOL 97).

The Club in Houston is also one of the most active. It gathers together 90 former students who meet up once a quarter. The last meeting was on 22 March at a cocktail organized at the residence of the French Consul General, Frédéric Bontems.

"We all started our careers as graduates of IFP School but the choices we have made along our career pathways have made us what we are today. It is fascinating to see what we have achieved, where we are now and where we plan to be in the future. The Houston club can play an active role in that future. This kind of group enhances networking, not only within our specific fields but also within the industry as a whole," declared Paula de Oliveira.

To learn more about the program of activities for 2013, contact Paula de Oliveira ([paula.oliveira.1997@ifp-school.com](mailto:paula.oliveira.1997@ifp-school.com)) or follow the [IFP School Alumni Houston](#) group on LinkedIn.

## **The Club in Athens**

This Club was launched on the initiative of Dimitrios Kolaitis (ENR 06), who contacted the Alumni Association when he learned that several fellow students were keen to meet up.

"Several former IFP School students living and working in Greece wanted to create a structure that would enable them to keep in touch with the School," he explained.

With the support of the Alumni Association, Dimitrios contacted the IFP School Greek graduates, over 70 in all. He then created a group on LinkedIn ([IFP School Alumni Greece](#)) and set up a [blog](#) with the same name to improve communication and facilitate networking.

The group, with around fifty IFP School alumni, first met on 13 October 2010 on the terrace of the President Hotel in Athens.

Since then, the Club regularly takes part in events organized by the Franco-Greek community. With the help of the French Embassy and the French Institute in Athens, the group organises numerous events on energy issues.

In December Dimitrios Kolaitis was awarded the *Prix de l'Amicale 2012* for his exemplary commitment in creating and running the Club in Athens.

### **A lively network**

New Alumni Clubs are on the drawing board in Belgium, China, Colombia, Germany, Netherlands and Switzerland. If these examples incite you to set up similar ventures, contact Patrick-Paul Duval ([patrick-paul.duval.1984@ifp-school.com](mailto:patrick-paul.duval.1984@ifp-school.com)).

## FOCUS

### Statoil joins forces with IFP School

Statoil, IFP School and the Tuck Foundation sealed an agreement in Trondheim on 27 February 2013 for a five-year partnership centered on two main axes: Statoil will support IFP School's development and the Tuck Foundation will award grants, funded by Statoil, to students on IFP School Masters programs.

This agreement, which is part of the Norwegian company's "Akademia" Program, was signed by Lars Høier, Vice-President of Statoil, Olivier Appert, President of the Tuck Foundation and Philippe Pinchon, Dean of IFP School.



Through this partnership Statoil wishes to support talented young students and to make its contribution to the evolution of competences in strategic energy fields whilst promoting the development of educational innovation at IFP School. The agreement provides for the appointment of a steering committee that, each year, will define the fields and actions of the cooperation according to the industry's needs.

"With this agreement, Statoil is reaffirming its commitment to supporting future professionals in the energy sector" said Lars Høier.

At the beginning of the academic year in September 2013, up to eight Statoil scholarships could be awarded by the Tuck Foundation to students following courses in Exploration-Production.

This agreement also aims to reinforce the application dimension of IFP School's courses. Statoil will provide real reservoir data to enable IFP School to develop case studies for its Masters programs. Experts and professionals from Statoil may also participate directly in the development and teaching of courses, giving students the opportunity to benefit from their knowledge and know-how.

"We are extremely happy to sign this agreement as it reinforces already existing ties with our partner. Through this agreement Statoil reasserts its commitment to enhancing higher education" declared Philippe Pinchon.

## QUESTIONS TO

### Interview with Tan Sri Dato' Shamsul Azhar Abbas

*President and CEO, Petronas*

Every year, the graduating Class of IFP School is sponsored by a leading figure from the energy and transportation world (a CEO, a Minister, etc.).

In 2013, IFP School has the opportunity to welcome as Honorary Patron an IFP School alumnus, a former student of the Energy Management and Policy program (today the Petroleum Economics and Management program) who graduated in 1990.



#### **1. What does it mean to be the Honorary Patron of the Class of 2013? What message would you like to convey to the students?**

It means a lot to me as I feel that the School has greatly contributed to my personal development as well as to my career. I have benefited tremendously from my studies here and being the Honorary Patron is a way for me to give something back to the School. I appreciate this opportunity and deem it a great honor.

What I would like to say to the Class of 2013 is that they are in the right industry at an exciting time. They will enter the workforce at a pivotal moment of change. I have great hopes and dreams for them to continue to bear the torch and to innovate to find solutions that will drive the industry forward.

#### **2. What is your fondest memory of IFP School?**

I feel a deep appreciation for IFP School. When I joined the Energy Management and Policy program in the late 80s, I was the oldest of my class. I was also the only one married. I never thought that after 14 years of working for Petronas I would eventually go back to school.

It was very interesting to study with younger classmates and to be able to share my work experience with them. I made many friends who now work all over the world for companies such as ExxonMobil or Shell.

Having this maturity allowed me to compare the theoretical knowledge we gained in class with my work experience at the time. It was a great challenge!

#### **3. Any advice for our future engineers who will be soon pursuing or starting their professional careers?**

In our industry, technical knowledge is critical. You must ensure that you are up to date with the latest technology and innovations. I find it equally important for engineers to equip themselves with the necessary non-technical knowledge to develop their business acumen. This is the key to being a well-rounded leader in this industry.

#### **4. The energy industry has faced many challenges throughout its history. What do you think will be the next challenges for those in the industry?**

Firstly, access to reserves has always been one of the main challenges we've faced in this industry and it will continue to be so. This time around though, I feel that the dimension and complexity are somewhat different – there is stiff competition with new players entering into the mix, especially NOCs.

On top of that, easy oil is gone and we must battle with more challenging conditions to make it economically viable.

Secondly, with the advent of new technologies, public awareness is increasing and there is more scrutiny than ever. The management of stakeholders is becoming more complex. To ensure the rights to develop resources, we must show that we are responsible corporate citizens, both in our operations and in the way in which we do business.

A third challenge lies in the cultivation and development of talent. The oil and gas industry is very specialized and it takes time to train experts. In previous years, with the increase of new players, we have seen a lot of cannibalism within the industry itself, in terms of poaching talent from other companies. This does not help and is counterproductive in the long run, for we are actually slicing the same pie when we should be focusing on enlarging it. As such, I feel that it is more important than ever for the industry to come together and work more closely with universities, technical colleges and tertiary education to train new people in the industry. IFP School plays a key role in training the future leaders of our industry.

Finally, the key challenge for oil and gas companies today is sustainable development. The answer lies in finding the optimal point between responding to today's energy needs in the most environmentally friendly way whilst simultaneously conserving resources for tomorrow's generation.

## ASSOCIATION

### Drinks & Network

The 5th "Drinks & Network", organized by the IFP School Alumni Association (AAID), was held on 20 February at the *Atelier Renault* in the 8<sup>th</sup> arrondissement of Paris.

This convivial gathering organized to develop and reinforce the Alumni network, drew together around thirty former students from different programs, especially young graduates, and also several students from this year's class. The next event is planned for 17 April 2013. Keep in touch!



### Members: remember to send in your CV!

If you are looking for a job or for career advancement, the IFP School Alumni Association's Careers Service can be of help.

As a fully paid member of the Association, you can post up to five anonymous CVs on the new [Alumni](#) site. This puts you in a privileged position in the extensive database of recruiters approved by the Association. If they are interested in your profile you will be contacted by the recruiter, without your identity being disclosed.

For further information, contact Claudia Bataille, in charge of the Careers Service ([claudia.lancheros.1997@ifp-school.com](mailto:claudia.lancheros.1997@ifp-school.com)).

### Directory

The printed version of the 2012-2013 alumni directory, published by the IFP School Alumni Association, is now available. To receive a copy, contact [amicale-ifpschool@ifpen.fr](mailto:amicale-ifpschool@ifpen.fr).



## NEWS

### Lifetime e-mail address

IFP School provides all former students with a lifetime e-mail address, which is written: [firstname.familyname.classyear@ifp-school.com](mailto:firstname.familyname.classyear@ifp-school.com).

It is a virtual address in the sense that it does not correspond to an e-mail account. It has to be linked to a real e-mail account to which it will forward all the messages it receives.

You can verify your lifetime e-mail address or direct it towards the e-mail address of your choice by logging into the [Alumni](#) website: Home page > Connection.

### Powertrain Engineering graduates gathered in Shanghai

As part of a recruitment mission and meeting with partners of the transportation sector in China, Pierre Duret, Director of the IC Engines and Hydrocarbon Utilizations Center, and Ouafae El Ganaoui-Mourlan, supervisor of the Powertrain Engineering (PWT) program, travelled to Shanghai from 9 to 13 December 2012.

On this occasion, a dinner was organized to bring together all Powertrain graduates since 2008 (year of the first Class) currently working in Shanghai.



Except for Bofeng Pan (PWT 2008) who was on a business trip, all gathered to share a moment of conviviality over a meal. This dinner was an opportunity for students to evoke fond memories of IFP School and their education. Graduates expressed their gratitude towards their School and the PWT program for what they have brought them in their careers.

"During a pleasant evening, we gathered the Powertrain family in China for the first time. We wish all the best to our School in the new year!" they said.

Photo, from left to right: Yijun Elaine Ren (PWT 2011), YingLiang Sindy Wang (PWT 2010), Weiwei Zheng (PWT 2011), Zhijie Kong (PWT 2010), Pierre Duret, Jingjing Zhao (PWT 2011), Qi Li (PWT 2011), Xin Tai (PWT 2008), Xavier Demeulenaere (MOT 2010), Ouafae El Ganaoui-Mourlan, Dan Li (PWT 2011), Chen Gao (PWT 2009) and Yuwei Luo (PWT 2009).

### Karting race

Fifty students of the IFP School 2013 Class participated on February 2<sup>nd</sup> in a karting race on the Corneilles track.

Organized by the Student Association, this competition allowed many students to learn how to drive a kart.

Drivers Alexis François and Thomas Le Bihan from the Powertrain Engineering (PWT) program shone on the circuit and captured the podium. Benjamin Guerpillon from the Développement et exploitation des gisements (DEG) program and Etienne Martin from the Énergie et motorisations (MOT) program

won second place. The third place was claimed by Adam Karl and Fuki Makut from the Petroleum Economics and Management Program (PEM).



### **Visit to the Schlumberger Riboud Product Center**

Twenty-four IFP School students visited on February 6<sup>th</sup> the Schlumberger Riboud Product Center (SRPC) in Clamart.

Students first attended a demonstration on the technology implemented by Schlumberger in order to optimize performance in the oil and gas industry. They then toured the facilities and equipment on site.

Organized by the IFP School SPE Student Chapter, this visit allowed students to discuss industry professions and issues with SRPC scientists, engineers and technicians.

The three-hour visit ended with a cocktail attended by young Schlumberger engineers.

