

World Petroleum Congresses: Past & Present

By Ing. Carlos Bechelli, consultant to the President of the DAPSACo.



After four years of organizing effort, we are now holding the 13th World Petroleum Congress. This event is the culmination, too, of Argentina's involvement in these Congresses, an active involvement since the time we joined in 1964 ● You and I are aware that the 1,500 delegates here are attending an event of fundamental importance, and not only because of those who will be taking part in the plenary sessions or the subjects they will be discussing. For the first time since the Gulf War the principal speakers on behalf of the world petroleum industry will be gathered under one roof ● The speakers here will be dealing with the most complex problems our industry has. Dr. Subroto, Secretary-General of OPEC, will talk about prospects for oil in the Nineties. L.C. van Wachem, President of the Committee of Managing Directors of the Royal Dutch Shell Group will talk about challenges and opportunities for the petroleum industry. ➤

The Argentine view will be covered by the Vice President of Pérez Companc S.A., Ing. Oscar Vicente. Allen E. Murray, President of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of the Mobil Corporation in the United States, will talk about the economy and finances of the world petroleum industry. Dr. Teruo Noguchi, President and Director of Koa Oil Co. Ltd. of Japan will talk about the environmental challenge faced by the petroleum industry. L.I. Filimov, Minister for the Petroleum Industry of the USSR, will talk about the situation, problems and prospects for the petroleum industry in his country. Dr.

In 1937, The French Association of Petroleum Engineers organized the second Congress in Paris, under the chairmanship of C. Bihoreau of France.

During the Second World War, and up to 1951, there were no further Congresses, although in 1949 a meeting was held to approve the first constitution of the World Petroleum Congresses. There the Permanent Council was formed, with members from nine countries: Austria, Belgium, Canada, France, Great Britain, the United States and Venezuela. T. Schuitemaker, of Holland was named Chairman.

The third World Congress was finally

year Gibson decided to create an Executive Committee for the organization, consisting of the members of the Permanent Council, which was joined that year by Iran and Japan, making up a total of 14 countries. 4,400 delegates attended this Congress.

The sixth Congress was held in 1963 in Frankfurt, Germany. R. Navarre of France was elected Chairman and E.B. Evans, of Great Britain, was named Treasurer. This Congress was attended by a record number of delegates: 5,800.

In 1964 the first revision of the Constitution was made and the Scientific Program

The last meeting of the National Committee before the Congress



Andrés Sosa Pietri, President of Petróleos de Venezuela S.A., will talk about the development and future of the Latin American petroleum industry. And lastly, Euan Baird, President and Director of Schlumberger Ltd. of the United States, looks at prospects for the petroleum service industries.

A BIT OF HISTORY

These congresses began almost 60 years ago in London, when, in 1933, the World Petroleum Congresses were created, with a headquarters in the British Petroleum Institute. T. Dewhurst was elected Chairman and it was decided to hold a meeting every four years.

held in The Hague, the Netherlands, in 1951 and another country joined the Permanent Council, Mexico. On this occasion the first Secretary General was appointed, D.A. Hough, as well as the first Treasurer, S.J.M. Auld, both British. The Chairman was E.V. Murphree of the United States.

In 1953 the Federal Republic of Germany joined the Permanent Council.

The Fourth World Council was held in Rome, Italy, in 1955, when the Chairman and Treasurer were re-elected.

In 1958 the Soviet Union joined the Permanent Council.

The 5th Council was held in New York in 1959 and this time Sir Stephen Gibson of Great Britain was named Chairman, while the Treasurer was re-elected. The following

Committee was formed, with R. Navarre taking on an extra role as its first Chairman. The same year, Argentina joined the Permanent Council, through the Argentine Petroleum Institute.

At that time, with new members joining, it was decided that the Executive Committee should now consist of 14 permanent members from the so-called founding countries, with two more places to be allocated in rotation from among the rest of the members.

The seventh World Congress was held in 1967 in Mexico. There Prof. F. Rossini of the United States was elected Chairman, while Romania and Algeria joined the Permanent Council. D.C. Ion was appointed Chairman of the Scientific Committee, along with G.A. Dickins as Trea-

surer, both of them from Great Britain. 3,100 delegates attended.

The eighth World Congress was held in Moscow in 1971. Saudi Arabia joined the Permanent Council. The Chairman, the Treasurer, and the Scientific Committee Chairman were re-elected. 3,850 delegates attended, and Argentina was elected to the Executive Committee as one of the non-founding members.

In 1973 the first Secretary General retired and his place was taken by D.C. Payne, also of Great Britain.

The ninth World Congress, in 1975, was held in Tokyo, Japan. India, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, Spain and Yugoslavia all joined the Permanent Council, which now included 24 member countries. W. von Ilseman of Germany was named Chairman, the post of Deputy Chairman of the Executive Committee was created, and Anibal Martínez of Venezuela appointed to it. Dickins was re-elected Treasurer and G. Govier of Canada was elected Chairman of the Scientific Committee. Argentina and Romania were elected members of the Executive Committee for the 1975-1979 period, Argentina for the second time. Between 1975 and 1979 Denmark, East Germany, Hungary and the Philippines joined the Permanent Council.

The tenth Congress was held in Bucharest, Romania, in 1979. Australia, Brazil and China joined the Council, while the Philippines left it, so there were now 30 members. The Chairman and the other officers were re-elected for a further term. Algeria and Romania were elected to the Executive Committee for the 1979-83 period. 4,300 delegates came to Bucharest.

How was Argentina Elected?

Ingeniero Bechelli tells how, by stages, Argentina ended up being elected as host country for the 13th Congress.

- 1 - The IAP joins the world organization in 1964.
- 2 - At the 8th WPC, in Moscow, the Argentine delegation raised the possibility of their country being selected as the venue of a future congress.
- 3 - At the ninth WPC in Tokyo, a proposal was put forward to make Buenos Aires host of the tenth World Congress, in 1979. At that meeting, Romania was chosen.
- 4 - At the eleventh WPC in London, Argentina once more put itself forward as host to the 12th WPC. The United States won by 16 votes to 15.
- 5 - At the 12th WPC Congress (Houston) Argentina's efforts bore fruit. Nominated by both the USSR and the United States, our country was unanimously elected as the venue for the thirteenth World Congress in 1991.

The World Petroleum Congress' eleventh session was held in London in 1983, the 50th anniversary of its creation. Finland, Sweden, Indonesia and Pakistan joined the Permanent Council, which now had 34 members. Von Ilseman was re-elected Chairman for a further four years, his third successive term. Martínez was also re-elected. P. Jacquard of France was made Chairman of the Scientific Committee, with N. White of Great Britain as Treasurer. Argentina and Algeria were elected members of the Executive Committee for the 1983-87 period. The low figure of 2,500 delegates at this Congress, considerably less than expected, was due to a reduction of international oil trading.

The twelfth World Congress was in Hous-

ton, Texas, in 1987. Klaus Mai of the United States was elected Chairman, with M. Suguchev of the Soviet Union as Deputy Chairman, while Jacquard and White were re-elected as Chairman of the Scientific Committee and Treasurer, respectively. 1,600 delegates attended, half of them Americans. The largest foreign delegation was from France with 162 delegates, next came Japan with 147 and then Argentina with 113.

In Houston Argentina was chosen as host country for the thirteenth World Congress, and was elected to the Executive Committee for the fourth time, along with Norway. Argentina also joined the Scientific Program Committee and the Congress Planning Committee.

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