Challenges in Petroleum E&P in Myanmar

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Abstract

Myanmar is endowed with so much of abundant attributes of petroleum geology, which should be blessed with more discoveries of hydrocarbon than it is now. Myanmar already identified 16 onshore sedimentary provinces and 4 offshore sedimentary provinces. Taking stock of hydrocarbon discoveries made since 1963, the year Myanmar started running its own show in petroleum exploration, Central Myanmar Basin may have more than 1.6 billion barrels of oil equivalent, Pyay Embayment about 70 mmboe (excluding light oil accumulation in Htontaung field), Irrawaddy Delta Basin about 165 mmboe. Offshore in Moattama Basin, discoveries in Adana, Zawtika and Aung Thein Kha altogether may amount to 2 billion boe, Yetagun in Tanintharyi Shelf about 500 million boe and Shwe in Rakhine Shelf may have about 750 mmboe. Altogether, from 1963 to 2015, Myanmar may have made several discoveries of hydrocarbon roughly amounting to a tune of 5 billion boe. It is believed that technology, finance and aggressive E & P program should be able to tap more hydrocarbon accumulations as Myanmar is endowed with favorable geological attributes. Yet, unconventional hydrocarbon accumulations are not even explored and there are good chances of making several more significant discoveries of conventional accumulations (like Yenangyaung, Chauk and Mann fields for example).