Petroleum Composition in the Central Burma Depression, Myanmar – A Preliminary Assessment

Jørgen A. Bojesen-Koefoed[1], Michael B.W. Fyhn[1], Lars Henrik Nielsen[1], Hans Peter Nytoft[1], Ioannis Abatzis[1], and U Nyan Tun[2]

[1]Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland (GEUS), Oester Voldgade 10, 1350 K, Denmark
[2]Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise (M.O.G.E.), Complex-44, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

ABSTRACT

The petroleum geology of onshore Myanmar is excellently summarised by Ridd and Racey (2015). The Salin Basin is one of at least seven sub-basins found within the large (approximately 2000 km long) down-warp known as the Central Burma Depression, developed along the Indo-Burman Ranges that border the depression to the west. Among the petroliferous basins onshore Myanmar, the Salin Basin is the more important, with an exploration history extending approximately 130 years back in time. This study includes a series of 15 produced oil or seepage oils that were sampled either by the authors or kindly provided by the Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (M.O.G.E.). The samples were subject to organic geochemical analysis using MPLC, GC, GCMS and GCMSMS techniques. The aim of the investigation was to demonstrate if further details could be added to the conclusions made by Curiale et al. (1994) by analysis of a partly similar set of samples using present-day techniques. The study serves as a pilot-investigation to assess the potential, in collaboration with the Myanmar authorities, for producing a "catalogue" of petroleum composition in Myanmar, by later including and analysing more samples, preferably to cover the entire territory of Myanmar.