History of Petroleum Exploration in China

Jianrong Gao¹

¹PetroChina Research Institute of Petroleum Exploration and Development, Beijing, China.

ABSTRACT

It has been over One thousand years since the birth of research on Chinese Petroleum Exploration history, Petroleum Exploration history has roughly experienced three stages in China. The first stage is the study of individual researchers. It spanned approximately in 1086, the main character is Shengkuo. According to his book "Dream Brook Sketchbook", which recorded the discovery of a lot of oil, He found a black liquid in the northwest of China, which was leaking from the rock cracks. He wrote that the material needed to have an important role in the future. The second stage is Learning foreign geological knowledge and Preliminary understanding of Chinese geology from the early 20th century to the end of the 1950s. The research contents were mainly based on the evolution of geological organizations, the development and utilization of individual mineral species, the history of deposit discovery and the research of geological characters. The main representatives are Zhang Hongzhao, Li Siguang and Ye Liangfu. The most prominent feature of this period is the accumulation of a very valuable document for the study of the history of China’s geological history and lays a foundation for the exchange of geological science between China and foreign countries. The third stage is organized group study and application. It took around many years from the 1950s to this day. In 1955, the crude oil was discovered in the northwest, with an annual output of 307 thousand tons, natural gas was discovered in the southwest, with an annual output of 60 million cubic meters. In 1959, found the first large scale oilfield, Daqing oilfield in the northeast. In 2015, natural gas production was 130 billion cubic meters, crude oil production was 215 million ton. At present, geological research has been formed to a professional research team. From conventional oil and gas exploration to the current tight gas, shale gas and coalbed methane exploration.