

# **Serendipity, Axioms, Old Areas, New Ideas and New Exploration – Cagayan Valley, Northern Luzon, Philippines**

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Partial quotes of Wallace E. Pratt and Parke Dickey of the 1950's when blended with conversion from skeptic to agnostic to advocate of the importance and application of surface geochemistry, review of old data, new interpretations, and changing economics precipitated an exploration program believed to have found, among others, the largest onshore, potential, hydrocarbon trap seen in the Philippines to date (The Baggao Reef).

After several waves of limited exploration in the 1950's, 1960's, 1970's, and 1980' by several operators, the Valley has been the site of 36 exploration tests; resulting to date in only one small but apparently economic gas discovery (San Antonio) in the southern part of the Valley and one significant gas show (Abaca) in the northern part of the Valley.

In 2000–2001, the writer observed the results and correlation of surface geochemistry with the San Antonio gas field and learned the economic importance of gas to electricity from such a small field (4 BCF). This, in conjunction with gas shows remembered from 50 years ago in the north part of the Valley led to definition within Service Contract 52 of a clearly defined, small, but significant reef trap with favorable geochemical data and more amazing one very large, potential trap in the Baggao Embayment. This feature could rival the trap size of the largest field (Malampaya) in the Philippines, Surface geochemical surveys on these features are encouraging and wells will be drilled to test them in the near future.