

Exploration of the Miocene Turbidite Play Fairway, Offshore Palawan Basin, Philippines

Quaife, Paul, Nido Petroleum Ltd, Perth, Australia

The Palawan basin, Offshore Philippines evolved as part of the South China Sea rift system in the Cretaceous, developing both carbonate and clastic plays during the Miocene. Exploration in the basin has been very successful with 1 in 3 wells encountering oil and approximately 1 in 5 wells leading to commercial discoveries – testifying to the presence of an effective oil prone source and trapping mechanisms.

Miocene turbidites have been encountered as channelized facies on the basin platform at the Galoc Field location and elsewhere where they provide the primary oil bearing reservoir. 3-D seismic data indicates that this channelized facies is extensively developed on the platform and extends to the limit of the 3-D, which is at the platform edge. 2-D coverage in the deeper water basinal area provides support for turbidite fan deposition.

For some years Nido Petroleum, and our JV Partners, have recognised the significant potential of the turbidites and have now built up an enviable acreage position and seismic database in the entire Miocene fairway. This presentation provides an exploration insight into the development of the Miocene turbidites, their reservoir potential and a comparison to worldwide analogs where this play has proven so successful.