

## **Shale Gas Potential in Yangtze Area, South China**

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Taken as the eastern prolongation of Tethyan tectonic domain, Yangtze area in South China is covered by far-ranging marine deposits as carbonate, black shale and mottled sandstone. Paleozoic marine black shale in the area is of huge thickness and acreage, high TOC and thermal maturity, intensive tectonic deformation, and extensive gas-bearing. Regionally, black shale of Lower Cambrian, Upper Ordovician - Lower Silurian, Lower Permian and Upper Permian are the four sets of main gas shales in South China. Similar to the geology setting and distribution of black shale, and resource potential of shale gas in the East America, Yangtze area is of ascendant prospect for shale gas. Wells outside the Sichuan basin for traditional petroleum exploration disclosed that the gas content from black shale are high enough for industrial exploration and exploitation. Taken as the most favorable area in China, Yangtze plate possesses the principal part of shale gas resource from Paleozoic Group.