Five years ago, the Petroleum and Drilling Engineering Division of IOM3 decided to rebrand as the Oil and Gas Division to better reflect the breadth of skills of members working in the Oil and Gas industries. At the time none of us could have known how rapidly the debate on climate change, fossil fuels, renewable energy and a net-zero carbon future would rise up the political agenda. Fast forward to 2020 and over 100 years of conventional oil and gas production in the UK, it is clear that society is demanding action to reduce global temperature warming and move to a low carbon, less polluting energy economy. Energy generation in all forms, be it power, heating, or transport, has a pre-eminent role to play in that.

Which is not to say that oil, and gas in particular, will not continue to be an important part of the energy mix during the transition. But even those of us who have made our careers in the industry realise that the time has come to work more closely with Governments, research, academia, and those in the wider energy industries to bring about change in a sustainable way that safeguards the future of the planet whilst meeting societal energy needs.

That is why the Oil & Gas Division Board have taken the decision to become the Energy Transition Group. Firstly, Energy Transition is now the widely used term to describe the challenge ahead. Both the UK Oil and Gas Authority regulator, and the Oil and Gas UK industry body now have an Energy Transition policy, and we feel that IOM3 needs to reflect that more explicitly. In addition, many of the major companies traditionally associated with the Oil and Gas sector are now playing a major role in technology development and providing capability for installation of the required process and transportation facilities associated with the drive to lower carbon emissions and cleaner energy. A good example of this is carbon capture use and storage. Secondly, a search of Whatuni.com shows that whilst 20 UK universities offer a total of 49 courses (undergraduate and post graduate) in Oil and Gas, for renewables the numbers stand at 39 and 62 respectively. For courses in energy, the numbers are higher still, with 67 universities offering 192 courses. Clearly these students are more likely to come across an IOM3 Energy Transition Group than the Oil and Gas Division as they look to a professional body to represent them. Finally, the recent IOM3 restructuring of the Industry and Technology Board to a Technology Communities Board under the guidance of eight Strategic Advisors has been designed to encourage greater cross-community collaboration and calling ourselves a “Group” rather than a “Division” seems an obvious way to break down perceived barriers to that.

While some long-standing Oil and Gas members may have reservations about the change, there is still very much a place for these members in the new Group. To that end, it is proposed to hold a one-day seminar in 2020 to explore what Energy Transition means and what role IOM3 can play in it.

Andrew Sturgeon, Oil and Gas Division chair, 2015-19

**Vacancy for Chair of Energy Transition Group**

Want to become more involved with the Institute? Are you looking to promote your area of expertise and influence the technical direction of the Institute? Why not put yourself forward to Chair the Board of the Energy Transition Group at this exciting time for the newly renamed group? Read more
Summary of news items published by the Oil & Gas Division/Energy Transition Group over the last few months. Click on the link to take you to the website for the full article.

**OGA Chairman challenges the sector to respond to the energy transition challenge**

17 Jan 2020

The Chairman of the Oil and Gas Authority (OGA) said that the oil and gas industry’s ‘social licence to operate’ is under serious threat and there is no scope of a second chance, adding that it must do more to help solve the challenges of climate change and the drive to net zero.

Read more

**OGA Digital Strategy 2020-2025**

30 Dec 2019

The strategy describes how the OGA will deliver, promote and influence digital excellence through digitalisation to support MER UK and the energy transition.

Read more

**Offshore energy integration in the UK a step closer**

18 Dec 2019

Innovative partnering between oil and gas, renewables, hydrogen and carbon capture can accelerate energy transition

Read more

**Demand for oil & gas grows faster than production in most of the world, new report shows**

4 Dec 2019

IOGP’s new Global Production Report shows oil demand stood 30% higher in 2018 than in 2000, while natural gas demand increased even more dramatically by 60% during the same period.

Read more

**2018 UKCS Projects Insights Report Published**

16 Nov 2019
Controversy over UK shale

Materials World magazine

27 Sep 2019

New research suggests that UK shale gas reserves could be exhausted in less than 10 years – far lower than previously thought. Ceri Jones finds out more.

Read more

Oil and gas industry publish blueprint for net zero

5 Sep 2019

The UK’s offshore oil and gas industry has outlined its contribution to the UK and Scottish Government net-zero ambitions as part of an ambitious blueprint showing what the sector could look like in future.

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