

Global Neoproterozoic Petroleum Systems

The Emerging Potential in North Africa

Edited by

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Global Neoproterozoic Petroleum Systems: The Emerging Potential in North Africa

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Preface

The papers published here are a selection of those presented at a conference held at the Geological Society of London in November 2006. The conference was organised by convenors Jonathan Craig (Eni), Juergen Thurow and Bindra Thusu (MPRG, UCL), Andy Whitham (CASP), and Yousef Abutaruma (Earth Science Society of Libya), with support from the Moroccan Society of Petroleum Geologists and the Geological Society of Oman.

This volume is introduced by the editors' review of existing and potential petroleum plays around the world and their relationship to the controversial 'Snowball Earth' hypothesis. The papers in the first part of the book set the scene by defining the current state of knowledge of the Neoproterozoic – stratigraphy, palaeogeography, geochronology and a global review of Infracambrian petroleum systems. The succeeding papers represent research focusing on the Neoproterozoic in North Africa, India, Spain, Namibia and South America.

Many people helped to make the meeting in London a success and have assisted in the completion of this volume. In particular we thank

Faraj Said, NOC Libya, R. Abourawi, Libyan Oil Holdings, Dr B. Belgaseum, Libyan Petroleum Institute, A. Asbali, Arabian Gulf Oil Company, Eni, Shell, Chevron, Hydro, Petro-Canada, BP, Baker Hughes and Lynx gave financial support for the conference and the production of this volume.

In the completion of this volume the editors are particularly indebted to Angharad Hills at the Geological Society who has steered and encouraged us through the publication process. Sebastian Lüning, Dan Le Heron, Bashir Ahmad, and Heather Cheshire gave invaluable assistance during the editing process.

Finally, we thank the authors and reviewers – Philip Allen, Ian Bartholemew, Thilo Bechstädt, Anthony Cohen, Alan Collins, Andrea Cozzi, Kath Gray, Omar S. Hammuda, Andrew Knoll, Ed Landing, Daniel Le Heron, Graham Logan, Arne Thorshøj Nielsen, Ganti Rao, Greg Ravizza, Graham Shields, Alan Smith, Guy Spence and Charlie Underwood – for adhering to the deadlines imposed and making this volume what it is. We hope that their efforts will encourage and inspire further innovative research into the exciting potential of Neoproterozoic rocks.

Variant placename spellings

<i>Placename</i>	<i>Variants</i>	
Cyrenaica	Cyrenica	
Al Kufrah	Al Kufra	Kufra
Jabal Arkenu	Jebel Arkenu	Jbel Arkenu
Sirte	Sirt	
Mourizidie	Mourizide	
Hassaouna	Hasswina	Hasswanah