

Good morning. My name is Curtis Evert and I am the President of the Canadian Global Exploration Forum. Away from CGEF I am Vice President of Exploration and Engineering for Sherritt International Corporation.

I am very pleased to welcome you to the 2017 Canadian Global Exploration Forum conference.

Who is CGEF? CGEF is the only registered Canadian organization that serves and promotes Canadian-based International oil and gas Exploration and Production companies. CGEF members meet every 2nd month for lunch talks/networking and once annually for this Calgary based conference. CGEF is a volunteer organization that relies on the enthusiasm of its Board & Advisors and member companies to create a community that focuses on our common interest, international E&P. CGEF facilitates cooperation amongst Canadian international petroleum exploration and production companies through the sharing of expertise, technology and opportunities; and promotes member companies through the development of affiliations with government agencies, NOCs and other organizations in Canada and internationally.

This is the sixth conference that CGEF has organized and sponsored. Each year the conference focuses on topics that are pertinent to Canadian E&P companies which explore for or develop reserves internationally. This year is no different. We have a robust speaker program covering a number of topics in several themed sessions.

I would like to thank the people who have worked tirelessly to make the conference and the CGEF organization successful.

I would first like to thank the Conference Committee members who, over the past several months, have put in many hours organizing the talks and logistics.

A successful conference relies on the speakers and this year I would like to thank the outstanding cross section of professionals speaking on topics which are germane to international E&P.

I would like to personally thank all of the sponsors for their support, without which the CGEF conference would not be successful. Please note the screens which are recognizing our sponsors.

Finally, I would like to thank our event planners, DMG, for the logistical support and advice in the planning of the conference.

The past three years have been challenging in the oil and gas industry, both domestically and internationally. The oil price appears to have stabilized in a range between \$45 and \$55/bbl. Although the price of oil is difficult to predict, indications are that the supply and demand balance will hold steady for two to three more years with a potential shortfall after that period due to undercapitalization of conventional plays.

Displacive technologies and renewable energy sources will continue to develop, however, even with the most optimistic

scenarios there will continue to be a need for hydrocarbons decades into the future. During this period, it is important for our industry to adopt and further utilize Clean Technologies in order to supply the world's energy requirements in a sustainable fashion.

Access to capital is a challenge that international E&P companies have had over the past several years. In order to advance with both exploration and development, it is necessary for the industry to access new sources of capital as well as retain access to traditional sources. The first session will be addressing topics related to this. There is no question that the current price of oil has stressed our industry, thereby creating opportunities for those who have access to capital including those opportunities developed over the past several years by Canadian companies worldwide.

Operating in different countries with different political structures and cultural differences takes understanding, patience and hard work. Canada and its companies have an excellent reputation for operating in challenging conditions, be it logistical, technical or political. Canada has highly developed anticorruption laws, which sets a basis in law for how we operate worldwide. Regulatory excellence in operations and CSR gained from almost a century of activity in Alberta is being shared with other countries through the Alberta initiative ICORE and the companies that operate internationally.

I am very optimistic with respect to the future of Canadian International E&P. We are starting to see capital return to

conventional activities as well as international ventures. Many Canadian companies continue to operate very successfully in other countries. CGEF strives to aid in these endeavours as well as enable other Canadian companies in their efforts toward international success.

I would like to thank those who flew in to join us at the conference. We have visitors from Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay United Kingdom, Mexico and the US. Also please welcome Mr. Yerlan Ramazanov from the ERBD (European Bank for Reconstruction and Development) who is here to learn about Canadian activity and promote the ERDB as a source of capital.

Please use this conference to renew old acquaintances, learn about new opportunities and navigating your way through challenges associated with working in foreign countries which have differing logistics, laws, cultures and regulations.

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