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Upstream Oil and Gas: Africa Oil Week 2015

The 22nd Africa Oil Week Africa Upstream took place in Capetown from 26 through – 30 October 2015. We name the highlights.

The Africa Oil Week is the most prominent event for upstream oil and gas in Africa. Africa stands out with enormous un- or underdeveloped conventional oil and gas reserves. Indeed, it is an attractive continent for foreign investment with big Exclusive Economic Zones and numerous countries organizing various exploration license rounds.

Representatives from Governments and Companies at Africa Oil Week 2015

Although attendance probably due to exploration budget cutbacks throughout the industry did not quite match the 1500 delegates in 2014 it still was impressive to meet delegates from all over the world at 22. Africa Oil Week. They represented governments, major oil and gas companies, banking institutions, investors, supply and service companies as well as other relevant market players.

Over 100 speakers in numerous plenary sessions covered a huge scope of topics relevant to the oil and gas business in Africa. The exhibition hall presented a wide range of exhibitors from all over the world representing the entire value chain in upstream oil and gas. Numerous social events facilitated networking amongst the delegates in the beautiful Capetown setting.

Africa Upstream 2015 with many updates and insights

The program contained many interesting sessions and so we hardly can mention all the highlights, such as

- the session on Upstream Strategies of Leading Companies in Africa with an update on recent developments by ExxonMobil, Total and Tullow Oil,

the Inaugural Africa Oil and Energy Finance Forum on Africa's oil and gas development financing requirements and trends in transaction markets,

- the 3rd Africa Exploration Technologies Forum giving valuable insight into new technological solutions especially with respect to the development of pre-salt reservoirs prevailing on the African continental shelf,
- the African Governments Roadshow on Licensing with reports from Morocco, Madagascar, Ethiopia, Senegal and Namibia,
- the 3rd Africa Local Content Forum dealing with challenges and solutions around host country expectations and investor requirements,

- as well as the session on Independents Shaping Africa's Upstream Future highlighting exploration developments in countries such as Somalia, Burundi, Zimbabwe, Namibia and Madagascar.

As a mayor international law firm network CMS has a long standing presence and reputation in advising clients in Africa. The firm was present at the Africa Oil Week with a booth in the exhibition hall. CMS lawyers from France, Portugal, the UK as well as Germany represented the firm and its track record in Africa and met with numerous delegates and representatives.