

COLLABORATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAQ AND THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA IN ENERGY AND WATER

Presented by:

Ambassador (Ret)
Edwin G. Corr



Introduction

- Hydrocarbon Energy Collaboration
 - USAID funded Al Sharaka Program
 - IRMO-Oil
 - Ministry of Higher Education & Scientific Research
 - Ministry of Oil
- Middle East Water Working Groups Project
 - Euphrates-Tigris Initiative for Cooperation (ETIC)

Hydrocarbons Energy Collaboration in the Al Sharaka Project (cont)

- Iraqis requested hydrocarbons energy projects. both for educational institutions and the oil and gas industry
- Deputy Minister of Higher Education, Dr. Beriwan Khailany met with College of Earth and Energy and Sarkey's Energy Center administrators and professors to reiterate Iraq's desire for hydrocarbons energy projects

Hydrocarbons Energy Collaboration in the Al Sharaka Project (cont)

- OU's recognized excellence in this hydrocarbons energy education and research areas
- Two hydrocarbons energy workshops were held in Jordan in July and October of 2004
 - participation of 8 university faculties, the Ministry of Oil, Ministry of Higher Education, private sector energy representatives, and oil and gas experts from OU.

Hydrocarbons Energy Collaboration in the Al Sharaka Project (cont)

- An informal American Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) accreditation exercise was conducted by an OU team with Iraqi universities offering oil and gas education
- The Ministries, eight universities and the ABET Team from OU produced a diagnostic report and recommendations for action to meet current and future needs.

Hydrocarbons Energy Collaboration in the Al Sharaka Project (cont)

- Reports assessed universities' capacities, in hydrocarbons research and education, estimated human resources and research needs of the Iraqi Oil and Gas industry and the Ministry of Oil G.
- A twelve member delegation from MO and MHE, led by Dr. Ahmed M. Barifcany, Advisor for Downstream of MO, visited OU September 4-11, 2005 to continue dialogue and preparation of project proposals.

Hydrocarbons Energy Collaboration in the Al Sharaka Project (cont)

- Four additional Iraqi professors who participated in the September 4-11 meetings, stayed on for 2 more weeks at OU for updating in their areas of specialization; and to help develop project proposals.

Activities in Oil and Gas after Termination of Al-Sharaka Project

- The Associate Dean of Engineering College of Baghdad and former chair of the Department of Petroleum Engineering of Baghdad University, Mohammed Al-Jawad, came to teach at OU in the OU School of Petroleum Engineering and to work on the development of collaborative Iraq-OU projects in oil and gas. He stayed 6 months.
- Dr. Barifcany, along with four MO Director Generals and IRMO-Oil officials, returned to the U.S. in February 2006 and met on February 10 with OU officials and Dr. Jawad at which time he was given three draft projects proposals for his review and comment.

Activities in Oil and Gas after Termination of Al-Sharaka Project

- The three project proposals developed by the GOI, OU and IRMO-Oil were:
 - Feasibility Study and Preliminary Design for the Establishment of a NATIONAL PETROLEUM RECORDS AND INFORMATION SERVICE (NPRIS) for the MO.
 - Feasibility Study, Preliminary Design and Implementation Plan for the IRAQ-PETROLEUM COLLEGE (IAPC) in Basra for the MHE and MO.
 - The PROFESSIONAL AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT (PDC) Project for the MO.

Collaboration on Water Issues

- OU had just begun implementation of the Department of State-funded Middle East Water Working Groups (MEWWG) project when the CPA in Iraq was established, and OU was able to incorporate Iraqi participants into the northern tier group MEWWG (Turkey, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan) meetings.
- Out of these eight meetings the, Euphrates-Tigris Initiative for Cooperation (ETIC) was created—constituted by university professors of Iraq, Turkey, and Syria, Kent State University and OU.

Collaboration on Water Issues (cont)

- In ETIC, meetings, training and project proposal development aimed at trans-national cooperation in developing and equitably sharing the Euphrates-Tigris Basin waters are under way with the backing of international and national development agencies.
- One project developed was a small project to train professionals to increase the institutional capacity of the Iraq Ministry of Water

The Impasse in Approval and Financing of Projects

- The MO, MHE and IRMO-Oil all collaborated with and had the major voice in designing and preparing the NPRIS, IAPC and PCD project proposals, which totaled about \$3.5 million.
- The Ministry of Water working with ETIC and ETIC Director Olcay Unver prepared the small \$250 thousand training project to improve in-house capacity of the Ministry.
- The MO and MHE have repeatedly stated they want the projects and that there is available funding for them, as has IRMO-Oil for the Oil and Gas Project proposals, since proposal development began in 2003 under the Al-Sharaka program.
- The MW has also made clear its strong desire to fund this small project with ETIC.

The Impasse in Approval and Financing of Projects (cont)

- No one has been able to figure out bureaucratically and legally how to transfer funds that are available to OU and ETIC for the desired projects.
- IRMO-Oil had funds and wanted the OU Energy Projects with its three sub-projects, but could not get the U.S. Joint Contract Command Iraq (JCCI) to approve a means to transfer funds--neither grants, single source contracts nor open-bid contracts.
- The MO says funds are available, but the approval signatures of 12 persons from three ministries for the relatively small amounts of money involved make it bureaucratically too difficult.
- The MW is in same position—unable to get GOI approval for such a small project.

Lessons Learned From Al-Sharaka

- Must have assured funding
- Must have leadership and direction that knows culture and language, knows USG, and has access to GOI high level officials
- Must have an in-country presence and frequent, open dialogue between foreign, i.e. US project partners and GOI partners
- GOI officials must lead in over-all project proposal goals and design of projects
- The experience is worthwhile and rewarding

Lessons Learned From Developed and Needed Projects

- Consensus regarding need and technical competence are necessary but certainly not sufficient to get the GOI and USG to distribute required resources
- It is a costly, time-consuming, frustrating and disappointing experience for universities trying earnestly to help the Iraqi people