



**INTERNATIONAL WELL CONTROL FORUM**



**Zdenek Sehnal**  
Chairman of IWCF Board  
2016 - Present

# FOREWORD

*“Our vision is no risk to people, assets or the natural environment through well control incidents.”*

---

This book has been created to commemorate the 25-year jubilee of the International Well Control Forum. As the name implies, it is an international organisation for the certification and accreditation of well control training, and is the only independent body of its kind. Course certificates are accepted by all major operators globally.

The path to achieving this status has not been easy and is the result of efforts by numerous dedicated individuals working as volunteers over many years. In the past, Board discussions focused as much upon syllabi details and examination questions as they did upon strategic direction.

The Ekofisk Bravo blowout in 1977 demonstrated the need for formal well control competency certification for the North Sea and Europe. Initially, each country around the North Sea had its own

national certification systems. However, a certificate obtained in one country was not accepted in others, and re-certification of personnel when a drilling rig moved from one jurisdiction to another had significant economic consequences. From the inception of the idea to create a common body for assessment and certification across Europe, it took 10 years to reach that goal. Many compromises were made; the organisation was registered as a Stichting (non-profit) in the Netherlands, the administration was placed in the UK and SI units were to be used in training. Nevertheless, the platform that had been agreed was robust and the organisation quickly grew as there was a clear need for a common well control training standard globally. IWCF continues to grow today.

Various well control incidents, not least Macondo, led to the IOGP 476 recommendations that have shaped and

focused modern-day training programmes. The relentless pursuit of improvements in well control competency within the oil & gas industry will, however, continue. At IWCF we recognise that no system is perfect and there is no room for complacency at any level. Our vision is no risk to people, assets or the natural environment through well control incidents.

I would personally like to thank all those dedicated individuals, including the staff at the Montrose office, without whose efforts IWCF would not have been first established then subsequently developed. And a special thank you to the 25th anniversary book committee for their committed work in the preparation of this book. I hope it will be appreciated as a reminder of the events that led to the IWCF organisation we have today.





# INTRODUCTION

The International Well Control Forum – or IWCF – has produced this book to celebrate a landmark event: our 25th anniversary.

Since the IWCF was established at the end of 1992, our work has always been governed by three overriding principles: quality, safety and integrity.

These pages tell two stories. Firstly, of an organisation that has grown and adapted over the years as it has fulfilled an essential role in oil & gas operations.

And secondly, of a shared determination to keep moving forward: to ensure we are always ready to meet the challenges and priorities of the industry we serve, and to remain the voice of the international well control community.





## THE FORUM

*An evolving organisation for a safer industry*

## 1982 TO 1992: BEFORE IWCF

*Today, the International Well Control Forum is an established and highly respected organisation in the international oil & gas industry.*

---

Put simply, the work of IWCF underpins safe and efficient well control operations in energy regions around the world.

A focal point for the standards, training and accreditation programmes that protect people and assets, it is acknowledged across the industry as an independent hub of support, resources and knowledge.

Now, one quarter of a century on from its formation, the statistics tell something of its modern-day status and role: in 2017, its 25th year, it delivered over 4,500 courses from accredited centres worldwide.

It has truly come a long way since those days of the late 1980s and early 1990s, when the idea of creating a body to manage the assessment and certification of drilling personnel was first raised – then realised.

In truth, the origins of the modern-day IWCF can be traced back even further.

Those lie in discussions first held in 1982 among representatives of national energy ministries, industry trade associations and trade unions from countries across Europe.

This stakeholder committee produced a report in 1984, with one central recommendation: the establishment of a uniform, continent-wide approach to well control training and certification.

It prompted agencies involved in well control certification programmes across Europe to consider the development of a common programme for operators and contractors.

*‘The working party comprised volunteers representing industry stakeholders from seven countries. Many compromises had to be made. This would not have been possible without the dedication of these individuals.’*

*Sverre Soerskaar, member of the working party and former IWCF Board member.*

---



The background of the entire page is a photograph of an offshore oil rig at sunset. The rig is silhouetted against a bright orange and yellow sky. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a long, shimmering reflection on the dark water. Several cranes are visible on the rig, and a walkway leads from the foreground towards the structure.

---

# YEAR 25

2017 IN NUMBERS

---

25,202  
new candidates

22,529  
certificates issued to  
successful candidates

4,922  
training courses

306  
accredited centres

The industry, however, was continuing to change. Major events – such as the Piper Alpha tragedy in the UK North Sea, which claimed 167 lives in July 1988 – were redefining its safety agenda.

In 1989, a working party comprising industry nominees, with two representatives, from seven European countries was established. Its challenge: to devise an assessment and examination

programme to measure well control skills and knowledge, to help meet voluntary or statutory certification requirements. This was an ambitious task; many issues had to be resolved and compromises made.

As this process moved forward, it was clear the industry wanted to take an active role in this transformational process.

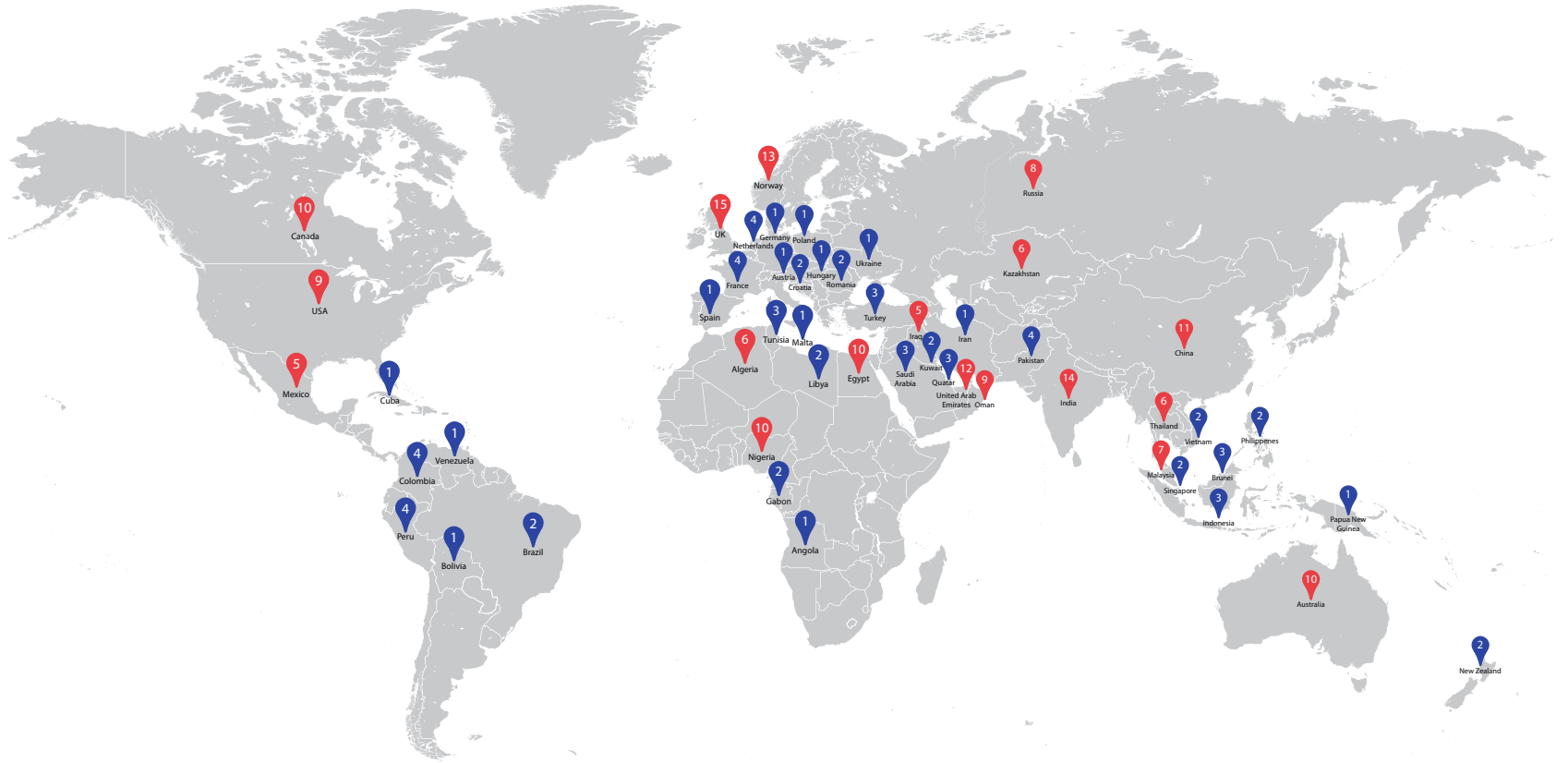


*'The industry was convinced that something had to be done after the Piper Alpha disaster and, based on the report of Lord Cullen, it had to take full responsibility to ensure that only competent persons were allowed to operate drilling rigs. We had many discussions with governments and oil companies in Europe and the response was very encouraging. Many governments realised that training alone was not sufficient but that assessments were necessary to ensure the training was effective.'*

*Gerrit van Wilpe, EWCF Chairman,  
1992-1994.*

---

# WHERE WE ARE





## 1991 TO 2001: THE EARLY YEARS

*It was equally clear that a new arrangement was needed to administer, manage and develop all training and certification activities.*

---

It was equally clear that a new arrangement was needed to administer, manage and develop all training and certification activities.

The first official meeting of a working party that would drive the formation of IWCF was held in Aberdeen in January 1991. The working party comprised three operators, one drilling contractor and four national training organisations, although other industry stakeholders were represented. It agreed to form a management/executive committee and, against this backdrop, a process began which culminated in the European Well Control Forum (EWCF) being officially registered on 1st December 1992 at the Dutch Chamber of Commerce in The Hague.

Seven European countries – Norway, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, France, Italy and the United Kingdom – constituted the founders.

Each national branch had two members on the forum board of directors, while a Secretary General, Michael Cummins, was appointed to lead the delivery of its remit.

By February 1993, EWCF had been incorporated as a not-for-profit organisation (a Stichting) in the Netherlands by then Chairman, Gerrit van Wilpe of Shell, and a formal constitution was in place.

As its activities quickly grew in terms of geographical reach, and with the number of languages in which its materials could

be accessed increasing, the organisation took the logical decision in 1994 to adopt a new name: the International Well Control Forum.

In the same year, IWCF's permanent office was established in Montrose, Scotland.

The subsequent years held key milestones in its development:

In 1998, the introduction of the Well Intervention Pressure Control (WIPC) programme represented a strategic step forward for the organisation.

In 2000, the IWCF secured the quality management accreditation ISO: 9001, a major advance for the organisation in terms of demonstrating its operational credentials.

## 2001 TO 2009: A TRULY GLOBAL ORGANISATION

*With IWCF membership now worldwide, the board decided a restructure was necessary.*

---

In September 2001, its composition was changed to include representation from beyond Europe.

Put simply, the new-look IWCF International Board now featured one voting member from each of the seven founder countries, and one from seven new regional branches as they were formed.

By early 2003, with a decade of work behind it, IWCF had developed and maintained a certification programme in use in over 54 countries worldwide, despite the varying economic fortunes of the industry as a whole.

Fast forward five years, and IWCF was reporting remarkable growth in its operating envelope: from a few hundred candidates annually in its formative years, to more than 13,000 in 2008 – and growing.

IWCF went on in 2008 to announce the impending retirement of the Secretary General: 'All this has been co-developed, implemented and very well managed by our appointed Secretary General, Mr Michael Cummins. Without any doubt IWCF would not be the organisation and entity it is nowadays, without the everlasting input and efforts from Mike. He and his office staff have delivered an outstanding performance over all these years.'

IWCF used this time of change to introduce a new-look management structure. Specifically, it took the opportunity to change the position of Secretary General into a Chief Executive role to reflect the evolving roles and responsibilities associated with the position.

*'I was with the company when there were only six members of staff in the office and candidate numbers were significantly lower than they are now. All of the admin was manual and paper based. Nevertheless, there was still representation across the globe and a growing interest in the importance of our work.'*  
*Joanna Taylor, IWCF.*

---



---

## **CHAIRMEN OVER THE YEARS**

---

*From 1992*  
**Gerrit van Wilpe**

*From 1994*  
**Noel Avocado**

*From 1995*  
**Gerard de Blok**

*From 1998*  
**Richard Malkowski**

*From 1999*  
**Didier Brigant**

*From 2007*  
**Adrianus Bakx**

*From 2013*  
**Carlo Lanzetta**

*From 2016*  
**Zdenek Sehnal**

## 2009 TO 2018: A PROGRESSIVE OUTLOOK

*In 2009, the IWCF duly appointed its first Chief Executive.*

---

Experienced industry professional David Price, who had already been closely involved with the forum at UK branch and board level from as far back as 1995, succeeded Michael Cummins at the head of the administrative and operational structure.

David had worked in the drilling sector for over 25 years in a variety of roles, starting his career on the well site as an engineer and progressing through supervisory and managerial functions in operations into the training and development sector.

His career had taken him as far afield as Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Asia, and featured organisations such as national and multinational operating companies, drilling contractors, training providers, universities and academic institutions.

A formal appointment announcement in January 2009 stated:

*'David... has a broad experience and knowledge of the various certification programmes in the oil industry. With this profile he has been a valuable asset to the IWCF organisation, which is proven by his numerous contributions to our well control certification programmes as they are today.'*

David's appointment marked the start of a process to revamp the IWCF administration processes to meet industry demands and, more broadly, to lead a cultural change across the organisation.

Antony Quin assumed the Chief Executive role in July 2017 and focused on the organisation's strategic moves to

modernise, not least via the introduction of technology-led processes and practices.

Antony had joined the IWCF in 2013 as General Manager and became Acting Chief Executive in July 2016. In the information notice announcing his permanent appointment to the post, Chairman Zdenek Sehnal stated:

*'During his time in these positions he has helped introduce significant changes to the organisation, including the introduction of a new online administration and assessment system, FORUM.'*



For IWCF, it has been a 25-year journey characterised by growth, change and a readiness to adapt. The organisation has constantly evolved to reflect the ever-changing imperatives of the industry.

It has always understood the importance of having a robust and well-resourced organisational framework in place. Not least, of course, to support its network of centres and its programme of audits...



David Price





## THE TRAINING CENTRES

*From modest beginnings to a global network*

## THE TRAINING CENTRES

*25 years on some of our first members from 1992 are still accredited with IWCF today.*

---

The modern-day network of approximately 300 accredited training centres means the resources, knowledge and experience of IWCF reach energy regions around the world, and 25 years on some of our first members from 1992 are still accredited with IWCF today.

As the network continued to grow, steps were routinely taken to instil extra rigour and confidence in the training and certification process. IWCF introduced a system whereby accredited centres would have to submit a case in support of the renewal of their accreditation every three years.

In 2011, the organisation broadened its accreditation requirements and extended its oversight of delivery. In effect, IWCF would begin to put its formal seal of approval not only on the examination and

assessment processes at individual centres, but also the training element.

At the same time, centres were reclassified into three categories:


- Primary centres: dedicated, permanent, fully staffed facilities – the main centre for any organisation.
- Secondary centres: alternative locations – subsidiaries of primary sites, but also permanently established.
- Temporary centres: locations such as hotels or rented offices used for one-off sessions and granted accreditation for a limited period of time.

Later in 2011, another step change in pursuit of the highest levels of performance: it was no longer possible for candidates to

register for an IWCF examination without attending an IWCF accredited training course. These measures collectively formed part of IWCF's wider response to the Montara oil spill of 2009 and the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig explosion the following year. These events were also the catalyst for a project to broaden and strengthen IWCF's training programme, reflecting the findings of IOGP Report 476 as detailed in the following chapter. The 2011 changes set the foundations for the modern-day accreditation procedures applied by IWCF.

Today, prospective training centres undergo an application process that requires them to submit detailed information on their resources, staffing, management systems and training materials. They are also assessed by IWCF auditors.



A man with a beard and glasses, wearing a blue IWCF uniform, is seated in a simulator. He is holding a red pen and writing on a clipboard. A calculator is placed on the clipboard. The simulator has a joystick and a control panel with various buttons. The background shows a blue simulator unit and a black chair.

*"The new arrangements meant IWCF was now accrediting the course content and instructors of training centres in addition to simply providing assessments. This was a huge turning point for IWCF and its administration."*

*Joanna Taylor, IWCF.*

---





*“IWCF was already proactively making changes before and through the publication of 476 — namely the change in accreditation requirements, from simply having a simulator and desks one metre apart to the full-blown accreditation we know today — and the introduction of thorough centre audits.”*

*David Cormack, Auriga Training.*

---

## AUDITING: INSPIRING NEW ASSURANCE

*When IWCF successfully attained the quality management standard ISO: 9001 in the year 2000, it brought with it a new obligation – audits.*

---

A formal mechanism for checking that its programmes were being conducted in line with documented processes and procedures, the audit became part of the IWCF landscape.

Initially, each primary centre and its assessors were audited approximately every three or four years by specially trained industry professionals.

In 2011, the regime was developed to embrace internal audits every two years and external audits every four years.

*'We reached a principal milestone with the development of the training schools auditing programme, with its primary function to ensure compliance with standards such as quality course content and delivery, simulator type and room set-up; all combined with*

*qualified assessors and accurate grading of the practical assessment.'*

Mike Miller, former IWCF Board Member and former UK Branch Chairman.

It remains a positive feature of IWCF activity, helping centres to identify any areas for further improvement and, more broadly, helping to achieve a key objective: ensuring training standards are consistently maintained – across all programmes...









## THE TRAINING

*Serving the industry, adapting to change*



## THE TRAINING

*At the outset, IWCF programmes had a straightforward objective: the provision of practical, fit-for-purpose training for well control personnel.*

---

Tests and assessments were designed to ensure that responsible persons working on drilling rigs are aware of the reasons for kicks, understand prevention techniques and demonstrate, in a simulated environment, their knowledge and application of the procedures for dealing with kicks.

In 1998, however, a new dimension was added to the IWCF offering: a specific syllabus for personnel involved in well servicing operations.

The Well Intervention Pressure Control (WIPC) certification programme was introduced across accredited centres, and today remains a cornerstone of IWCF's course portfolio.

Developed in conjunction with well service professionals and trainers from member companies – as well as organisations such as the International Coiled Tubing Association – the programme was established to address the pressure control aspects of working on live wells with wireline, coiled tubing and snubbing equipment.

The embedding of the WIPC programme within its suite of courses markedly broadened IWCF's role in the industry. It also created the twin-pronged training focus of the organisation today: drilling well control and well intervention pressure control.

However, further change – transformational change – was looming.

As the training range continued to grow – with, for example, the launch of the Introduction to Rotary Drilling Well Control programme in early 2010 – wider events were serving once again to place safety and integrity at the forefront of industry thinking.

*‘The development of a question bank and the random selection of questions for the written papers was a major success. It has eliminated cases where candidates would recognise papers or specific questions.’*  
*Mike Miller, former IWCF Board Member and former UK Branch Chairman.*

---

# MONTARA AND MACONDO: CATALYSTS FOR CHANGE

---

In August 2009, a well blowout in the Montara oilfield off the coast of Western Australia led to one of the country's worst oil disasters. Oil was released into the sea for a total of 74 days before the blowout was capped.

Less than a year later, in April 2010, a blowout on the Macondo well in the Gulf of Mexico resulted, tragically, in 11 people losing their lives on the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig and caused an oil spill which

had major environmental consequences in the region.

There were, of course, implications for international oil & gas operations. In the case of IWCF, a special review and report exercise had a fundamental impact on its work.

The comprehensive review of well control training was conducted by the International Association of Oil and Gas Producers (IOGP). IWCF actively contributed to the

process – the review was led by IOGP's human factors task force, which featured IWCF representation.

The outcome was the publication in October 2012 of IOGP Report 476: *Recommendations for enhancements to well control training, examination and certification.*



## IOGP 476: HERALDING A NEW ERA

---

The report set out the principles that should be adopted to improve well control preparedness and performance for all types of operations on all wells, onshore and offshore. In summary, its recommendations revolved around prevention, intervention and response – not least via further development of well control competency.

IWCF welcomed the findings and committed to their implementation.

An initial review confirmed that IWCF activities complied with the recommendations in many key areas. The report did, however, highlight the value of change in several practical respects. It cited the benefits of:

- a more substantial, five-level training and assessment system

- a rigorous review and revision process of syllabi and associated assessments
- a progressive, level-by-level training pathway
- a level-specific and role-specific assessment system
- a means of ensuring instructor competency.

In response, IWCF began the roll-out of a new-look programme of training, with new syllabi, across both drilling and well intervention programmes.

Critically, the five-level training split was formulated to meet a prime objective: equipping all employees – from office-based staff to front-line supervisors, from operations team personnel and equipment

operators to engineers and supervisors – with the necessary skills for their roles. In short, the right training, for the right people, delivered at the right time – and in the right way.

The process of bringing these changes into effect began quickly – new drilling syllabi were introduced by IWCF in January 2014 as the first step in this strategic exercise – and continued over the coming months and years.

*‘At IOGP, we are absolutely delighted that IWCF continues to adopt the recommendations in IOGP Report 476 and other IOGP reports. We are pleased to have reciprocal membership of IWCF and look forward to a further 25 years enhancing competence and well control safety.’*  
*Chris Hawkes, Safety Director, IOGP.*

---


*'My 15 years of involvement with IWCF was a very rewarding, and sometimes challenging, experience. Having supported the organisation during the transition of CEOs and advising David Price on the expansion of the administrative organisation, the most rewarding experience for me was the successful implementation of IOGP recommendation 476 and the full support of the IOGP.'*

*Adrianus Bakx, former Board member and Chairman.*

---





A man in a blue uniform with a logo on the back is seated in a simulator. He is looking at three computer monitors displaying data. A fourth monitor is mounted on the wall, showing a 3D rig model. A camera on a tripod is positioned behind him. The simulator has a large window showing a virtual outdoor environment with a blue sky and yellow structures. The man is holding a control device. The overall scene is dimly lit, with light coming from the window.

*'The improved IWCF standards, procedures and education, coupled with major advancements in simulators, have ensured that the practical assessment is a valued element of the well control certificate.'*

*Mike Miller, former Board member and former UK branch Chairman*

---

DRILLING  
SYSTEMS



## AFTER MACONDO: A TRAINING TRANSFORMATION

---

The IWCF response to IOGP 476 set in motion a modernisation process which also encompassed:

- the opening in 2014 of a new training centre at head office to host:
  - ▷ ***Train the Trainer courses*** – a highly interactive three-day course which assesses the teaching ability of instructors and certifies them to IWCF standards.
  - ▷ ***Assessor courses*** – a five-day course aimed at equipping assessors with the knowledge and understanding required to conduct practical assessments to IWCF standards.
- the 2016 launch of the free Level-1 Well Control Awareness Course, an overview programme designed to

create a wider understanding of the causes and consequences of well control incidents, and how they can be prevented. The course is targeted at industry professionals with a secondary involvement in well operations as well as students/graduates and, indeed, anyone with an interest in the subject. IWCF worked with a strategic elearning training provider to create the Level-1 suite. The scale on which the modules have been used, and the large number of organisations accessing them daily, are testament to their quality and the collaboration involved in their creation.

The IOGP 476 response also featured the introduction of:

- online assessments, hosted at accredited centres, for both drilling and well intervention programmes.

- the Well Control Level 5 programme, for experienced professionals who play a central role in well design and approval.
- Enhanced Well Control training courses, featuring scenario-based sessions founded upon real industry incidents, for experienced personnel.
- new stipulations on class sizes and course durations, to further enhance the quality and consistency of instruction and assessment.

It would not have been possible to take these progressive measures, of course, without infusing the IWCF organisation itself with new resources, systems and expertise...





## THE EVOLUTION

*Embracing technology, leading change*

## NEW STRUCTURE: NEW SUPPORT

*From 2014, a series of practical measures was taken to strengthen the support and delivery structure within IWCF.*

---

These included the formation of:

A **Taskforce** department to support IWCF's technical programmes. The Drilling and the Well Intervention Pressure Control (WIPC) Taskforces help to ensure the organisation is:

- up to date and consistent with industry standards and recommendations
- fairly assessing candidate knowledge and ability, reflecting the well control situations and actions a candidate might experience in drilling well control.

The taskforces meet several times a year to discuss syllabus updates and candidate comments, and to review new questions.

The work of the Taskforces, for example, led to the introduction of an improved WIPC syllabi in 2015, an updated drilling syllabi in 2017 and the subsea syllabus in 2018.

A **PR** function to enhance IWCF's marketing, events and membership activities, and strengthen communications with members, stakeholders, candidates and training centres.

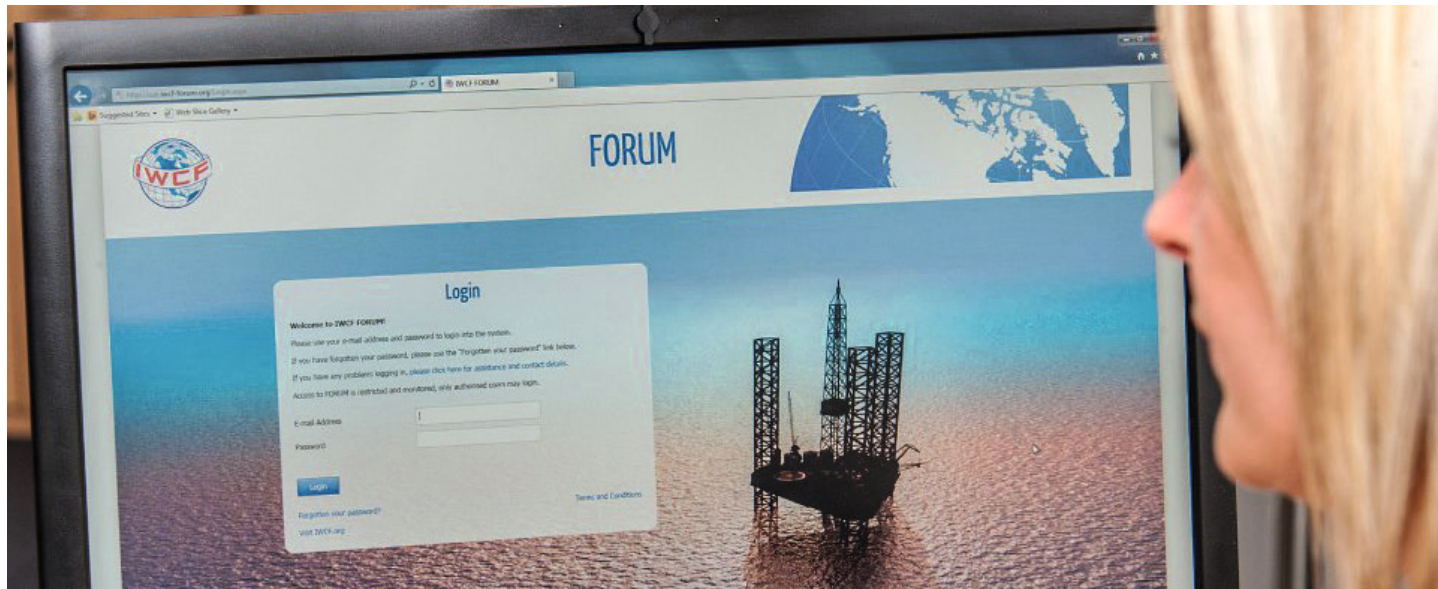
A **Compliance** capability to develop and maintain policies and procedures for preventing illegal, unethical or improper conduct.

An **Assessment Development** department in 2018 to maintain questions, images,

translations and assessments, both online and paper. The team also implements new programmes and develops enhancements to eNetAssess and the translation systems to ensure the assessments are clear and user friendly.

An **Account Coordinator** role in the Examinations team was created to maximise efficiency and enhance customer service by providing one point of contact for all IWCF training centres. The Coordinators manage the business accounts for all Primary, Secondary and Temporary centres.





In the latter period of this 25-year journey, IWCF increasingly understood that the industry it served was changing – and the organisation needed to change with it.

The refreshed training portfolio was becoming firmly embedded across the IWCF network, but the question arose: were

internal systems and processes keeping step with this modernisation?

It was clear that this drive to maintain a relevant, fit-for-purpose training and accreditation framework also needed to focus, in part, on the organisation itself.



## FORUM: A NEW, ALL-ENCOMPASSING HUB

*The introduction of an electronic online administration system represented one of the key steps forward.*

---

In effect a central hub for all things IWCF, the system – called FORUM – was launched in October 2015 and has transformed everyday practices across the organisation.

It is a centralised, online system for managing virtually all aspects of training, exams and certification – a tool that makes access simpler, more secure, more efficient and more user friendly.

Replacing conventional, paper-based arrangements, FORUM is used by:

- IWCF staff as a key tool in the everyday execution of their work
- Training centres to schedule courses and exams
- Candidates to view their training and results history

- Assessors to upload assessment results
- Invigilators to initiate and mark test sessions.

With the support of a strategic partner, IWCF subsequently introduced an integrated electronic certification system, called eCerts, into FORUM. It also launched an app which allows candidates to view and present their certification directly on their mobile device. Both were widely adopted following their introduction.

Meanwhile, a new regional office opened in Australia in October 2015 to support the network of accredited centres in Australasia. IWCF appointed Sarah Lauenstein as regional manager, to head up activities at the office in Brisbane.

Since the School of Petroleum Engineering at the University of New South Wales became the first centre in Australia to become IWCF accredited in 1998, the organisation has grown to have 20 centres across Australia and New Zealand.

*‘The introduction of an assessment management platform was a notable milestone. Not only was it new to the organisation, but it provided secure software to host all our questions and images. That in turn opens up new possibilities for producing assessments – which can only benefit candidates.’*  
*Jenny Lindsay, IWCF.*

---



---

## OVERCOMING THE LANGUAGE BARRIER

---

Today, IWCF uses a pool of nearly 60 industry technical professionals to translate and maintain its materials in 17 languages.

As a truly global organisation, translations remain critical for the organisation as it keeps existing course content and new questions up to date as they are applied to its syllabi.

## RECENT EVENTS

---

As the 25th anniversary year came around, there was no let-up in the pace of change...

In 2016 the IWCF Board decided to change the legal status of the organisation from a Stichting to a Scottish-registered charitable entity (SCIO). The formal transition took place on 1 September 2017.

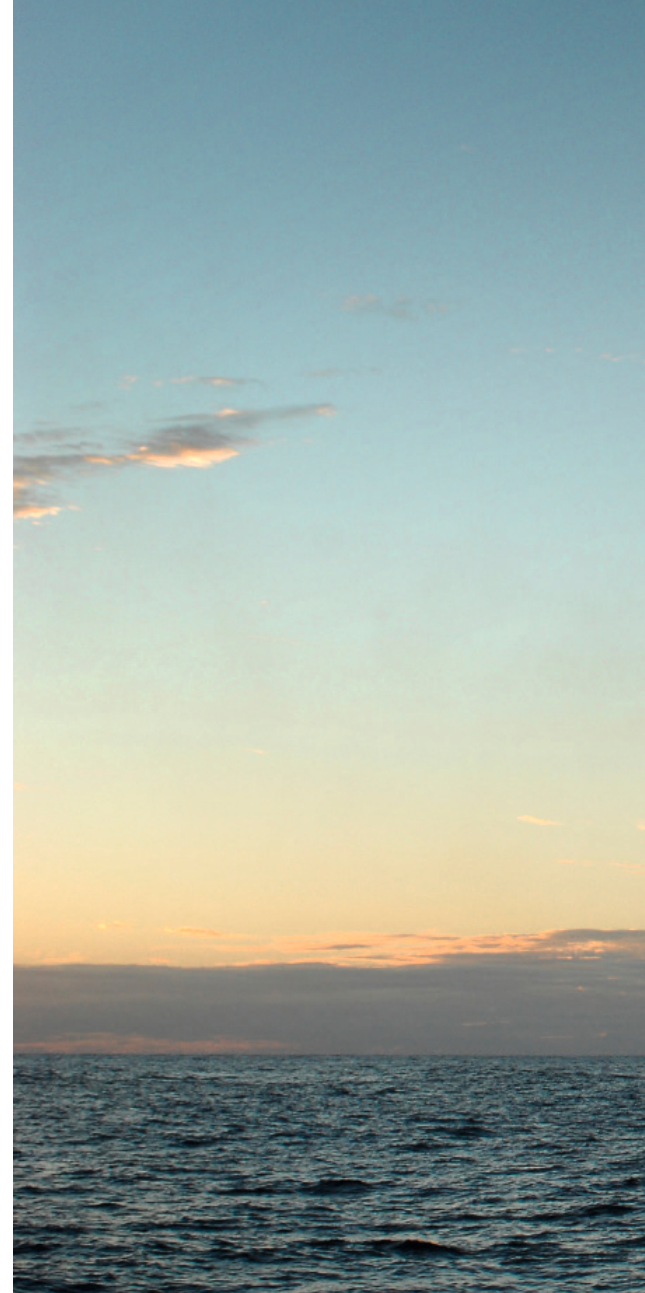
In the same year IWCF transitioned its invigilation service to an independent training and education development company. It reflected a need to harmonise the invigilation service required to ensure all candidates receive the same service, irrespective of location, whilst maintaining and promoting the high levels of integrity that members expect from IWCF.

And, **in 2018**, IWCF moved to integrate well operations crew resource management (WOCRM) into its training portfolio... another big move towards ensuring effective communication and decision-making in a high-risk environment.

So, what now for the organisation...?

*'Outsourcing to one supplier worldwide allowed IWCF to improve the consistency, quality and integrity of the service to IWCF's members and offer a standardised model.'*  
*Laura Briggs, IWCF.*

---





*IWCF is one of only two worldwide associations taking care of well control certification. It has a high-level reputation in terms of well control, something that is recognised by oil & gas industry stakeholders.*

*Corrado Leali, ENI and IWCF Board Member.*

---

*IWCF is globally respected as a completely independent well control champion. Significant progress has been made, and I know there is further development in the pipeline to make well intervention well control even more relevant and challenging.*

*George Redpath, Well Engineering Consultant (WCI) Trainer & Coach with Redwell Training.*

---





**Antony Quin**

Chief Executive Officer



## WELL CONTROL TRAINING: YESTERDAY, TODAY... AND TOMORROW...

*“I believe that 25 years of continuous dedication and commitment to any individual or cause is an important milestone that should always be recognised and celebrated.”*

---

This book embraces the sentiment behind this belief, setting out our purpose and recognising how the response of a small group of dedicated, passionate and committed individuals to significant industry events has made such a positive impact on our industry over a quarter of a century.

When I joined IWCF in March 2013, I was attracted by the opportunity of working for a charitable organisation whose focus was not weighted towards sales figures, financial gain or shareholder satisfaction, but to make a difference for the greater good. I was immediately impressed by the desire and passion of our organisation to do precisely that.

Our mission and purpose as a global membership organisation is to define, deliver

and maintain the highest possible standards in well control training, accreditation and certification whilst assuring competency and continuous development of well control personnel globally.

This mission statement imposes a great responsibility upon us: our standards are set to guard against well control incidents that, in some cases, have tragically led to loss of life or adversely impacted our increasingly fragile planet through environmental disaster.

This blend of opportunity and challenge inspires me, and continues to motivate me to successfully lead this dynamic and passionate IWCF team to drive and achieve the necessary change. I am incredibly proud and honoured to lead this organisation and, while it's very important

to recognise and celebrate our history, I believe it's equally important to recognise that significant challenges still lie ahead.

With truly global representation, we have a great opportunity to collaborate and continuously improve as, together, we write the next exciting chapter of the organisation and the industry to which we dedicate our working lives.

# WHAT MIGHT TOMORROW HOLD, AND WHERE SHOULD THE PRIORITIES LIE?

---

‘More to come from technology’

‘IWCF has truly embraced technology and developed training and assessments to fit with the modern world. However, this digital transition is still in its infancy and I know there is a lot more to come. I believe technology will further enhance the IWCF training programmes and their delivery with an enhanced focus on teaching methods and behaviours.’

*Joanna Taylor, IWCF.*

‘Guided by our key principles’

‘Continuous learning, quality of learning, online resources and practical assessments – those need to be the principles and practices that guide the work of IWCF in the years ahead. It also needs to embrace new technological developments, and new areas of operation, as they emerge.’

*Adrianus Bakx, former Board member and Chairman.*



‘Opening new opportunities... benefiting more people’

“We need to ensure rigorous adherence to standards – whether it relates to Train the Trainer requirements, practical assessments or auditing. Equally, the ongoing development of enhanced well control training will be important. If it can be opened up to the wider market, instead of being primarily company-specific, then I believe many more people in the field will benefit. As we lose more experienced personnel, giving new people the experience of well situations and allowing them to react in a safe classroom environment will help prevent well control incidents from developing into something serious.’

*David Cormack, Auriga Training.*

‘Easier access... centres of excellence...’

‘Like others, IWCF will have to adapt to the needs of the end user. Training and assessment will have to be within easier reach of delegates and take the form of blended learning, combining online coursework with more thorough assessments at centres. The formation of centres of excellence, providing enhanced well control simulation and more suited to client operations – covering HPHT, for example – may also form part of the future.’

*George Galloway, The Well Academy.*



‘Factoring in the human dimension’

‘Human factors are key to preventing, or recovering from, a well control event. I don’t underestimate the challenge of introducing it into the well intervention programmes, but feel it’s worth exploring. Drilling programmes and, more broadly, OIM management of major emergencies programmes, are both more mature in this respect.’

*George Redpath, Well Engineering Consultant (WCI) Trainer & Coach with Redwell Training.*


‘Huge role for technical advances’

‘I believe that technical advances will play a huge role in the future of well control training, alongside the continual development of human factors.’

*Laura Boyd, IWCF.*

‘IWCF has hugely influenced the level of knowledge and operational competence of persons involved in well drilling and production operations around the world.’

*Michael Cummins, EWCF Secretary and IWCF Secretary General, 1990 – 2009.*

A full-page background image showing the silhouette of an offshore oil rig against a dramatic sunset sky. The sun is a large, bright yellow circle on the left, partially obscured by clouds. The rig's complex lattice structure and tall derrick are visible on the right side of the frame.

*'I am — and always have been — a believer in the necessity of an independent certifying organisation that assures skills and knowledge. We have seen what happens if operational staff are not aware of the risk and potential hazards that may develop, and we have learned from it.'*

*Adrianus Bakx, former Board member and Chairman.*

---



THANK YOU

GRAZIE TUSEN TAK СПАСИБО

DANKE DANK JE TUSEN TAK

MERCI СПАСИБО

THANK YOU GRACIAS

GRAZIE DANK JE TUSEN TAK

## WITH THANKS

*We would like to take this opportunity to thank the individuals and organisations that contributed to this book.*

---

The creation of this commemorative book would not have been possible without:

Everybody who kindly contributed material, memorable photos and messages to support each chapter and the evolution of IWCF.

All current and past Board Members for supporting the Jubilee Committee in putting the content of the book together.

Past and present IWCF staff for their commitment and passion in promoting the mission and vision of the organisation.

The 25th Jubilee Committee, namely; Laura Boyd, Laura Briggs, Rachael Christie, Kelly Hall, Kirsten Howkins, Faye Tait and Joanna Taylor. The team worked hard together to plan, create and deliver the content of this book and worked collaboratively with all the contributors of the book, the copy writer and the design company. The committee would also like to thank everybody in IWCF for supporting them to be able to attend meetings, help collate information and content, and everything else in between.



*A heartfelt thank you to Jane Price for kindly  
contributing material on the late David Price which  
was used in this book.*