

DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARS SEMINARS

THE PETROLEUM INSTITUTE, ABU DHABI

Prof. Amos Nur

The Wayne Loel Professor of Earth Sciences
and Professor of Geophysics,
Stanford University (USA)



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Main Lecture Hall (room 100), Zarkuh Building
The Petroleum Institute

Oil Peak and Oil Panic: Revisiting M K Hubbert

While most people think of MK Hubbert's oil production peak few realize that his key predictions were the consequences of the finiteness of future oil (and natural gas) production. Revisiting his predictions today we realize that worldwide, per-capita oil consumption is closely correlated with standard of living. In developing nations like China and India, increasing prosperity therefore requires increased per-capita oil consumption. However, oil is a finite resource whose production globally is about to begin to decline irreversibly. Consequently, the growing demand for oil is leading to a growing number of LOCAL conflicts of which the Gulf war, the 9/11 attacks, and the war in Iraq are just the first 3 skirmishes, followed by the emerging conflicts with Iran and Venezuela. However, these skirmishes pale in comparison with the looming potential GLOBAL conflicts over dwindling oil sources in the future.

Amos received his Ph.D. in Geophysics from M.I.T. in 1969 and has been a professor at Stanford University since 1970. He served twice as a chairman of the Stanford Geophysics Department and between 2000 and 2005 as director of the Stanford University wide Overseas Studies Program.

Amos is an elected member of the USA National Academy of Engineering (NAE). He is also the recipient of the American Geophysical Union's J. D. Macelwane Award in 1974, is a Fellow of the American Geophysical Union (1976); Fellow, Geological Society of America (1980); Fellow, California Academy of Science (1990); and an honorary member of the Society of Exploration Geophysics (1996), and He served as distinguished lecturer for the Society of Exploration Geophysics in 1997 and the American Association of Petroleum Geologists in 1998.

Amos' research is in the areas of (a) the physics of rocks and applications to the exploration and production of oil and gas. At Stanford's geophysics department, he has been leading for 30 years a continuous research program funded by a global consortium of 25 oil and oilfield service companies; and (b) rock mechanics, earthquake mechanics and earthquake physics. For over twenty years, he has been investigating the temporal and spatial patterns of earthquakes throughout history to find clues useful for earthquake prediction. The longest and most complete record is in the Near East and the Eastern Mediterranean. Together with colleagues in archaeology, history, geology and geophysics at Stanford and elsewhere, Amos has been investigating the relation between Earthquakes and Archaeology. Amos has published over 240 papers including a dozen related to earthquakes and archaeology and several books.

For additional information on this seminar you may contact Jovy Apolinar at x75271