



International Pipeline Conference

Memorializing the legacy of the International Pipeline Conference (IPC) is key to its continued success and to ensuring that the foundational elements of this conference are maintained. This brochure provides a short history of the International Pipeline Conference, which started in 1996 and has grown year-on-year to become the world's premier pipeline conference. This event attracts professionals from across the globe and is a hub for networking, knowledge sharing and advancing the industry. Under the guidance of the International Pipeline Conference Foundation (IPCF), it looks set to thrive and evolve into the foreseeable future.



THE BIRTH OF THE INTERNATIONAL PIPELINE CONFERENCE

The progenitor of the International Pipeline Conference (IPC) emerged in 1990, when the Calgary Chapter of the Ocean Mechanics and Arctic Engineering (OMAE) Division of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), led by Dr Mo Mohitpour, approached the National Petroleum Show with a request to hold its annual conference alongside the show.

The National Petroleum Show agreed and the OMAE's annual conference was first held in conjunction with the event in 1992. This was a great success, and led the OMAE to subsequently support the Calgary Chapter in developing a conference focused exclusively on pipelines.

This thought resulted in the first ever IPC in 1996. The conference was again held at the same time as the National Petroleum Show, and was supported by the newly-formed Canadian Energy Pipelines Association (CEPA), among other organisations.

The long-term focus of IPC – quality over quantity – was front of mind even from its inception, with Mike Yoon and Alan Murray discussing this as a high priority in one of their very first meetings about the conference.

"We both agreed that the quality of the technical papers was paramount to the future success of the event and that we should aim for a biennial event since we felt it highly unlikely that there was sufficient original work

going on to sustain an annual conference," reflects Alan Murray.

The future of IPC was set – from 1996 onwards, it would become a biennial event, focused on the international pipeline industry.

However, in the late 1990s, IPC was by no means the event that it is today, and it required the dedication and focus of some very talented people, including countless volunteers, to enable its growth.

Alan Murray acknowledges Linda's contributions to the conference, saying "Bob Hill, Ian Scott and Tom Pesta were stalwarts; however, our collective efforts really needed the steady and practised hand of Linda Abercrombie who was the conference coordinator from 1996 to 2014."



FROM CALGARY TO THE WORLD

In the following years, IPC saw steady growth and began to establish its place in the calendar of significant industry events. The conference had a strong international focus from its inception, so it was important to the IPC committee that this intention was carried through.

In 2000 Calgary won the bid to host the World Petroleum Congress (WPC). To ensure the success of WPC, IPC relinquished its venue booking and rescheduled from June to September. The event has been held biennially in September ever since.

One of the biggest milestones came in 2001, when IBP of Brazil agreed to participate in IPC the following year. This was arranged by Marcelino Gomes of Petrobras, who was subsequently instrumental in starting up the Rio Pipeline Conference.

By the early 2000s IPC was attracting over 700 attendees and had a 4:1 ratio of attendees to papers, making it unique among the ASME conferences. In 2002, responding to the continued growth, conference organisers elected to move the event from its home at the Palliser Hotel, to the Hyatt Regency in downtown Calgary. This proved to be the right decision as IPC grew to over 1,000 attendees in that year.

The conference was also seeing an increase in international attendees, which Jake Abes attributes largely to a partnership with a well-known industry stalwart.

"In my view, one of the key factors that brought IPC to the attention of the international community was the efforts of John Tiratsoo to promote the conference outside of North America," Jake says.

John was connected to IPC for some years before officially joining the organizing committee in 2006 with the objective of spreading the IPC message to the widest audience possible. He did this through his own industry publications, and the distribution of flyers at events he was already involved in.

"I always took the view that IPC provided an unmatched opportunity for discussion of the latest ideas and research. However, what went on in the corridors was sometimes of more importance than what went on in the meeting rooms!" John reflects.

And so, with John being one among many passionate advocates promoting IPC on the international stage, the event continued its growth, attracting more and more international attendees each year.



TIMELINE

1990

The Calgary Chapter of ASME's OMAE Division approaches the National Petroleum Show, seeking to hold OMAE's annual conference in conjunction with the show.

1992

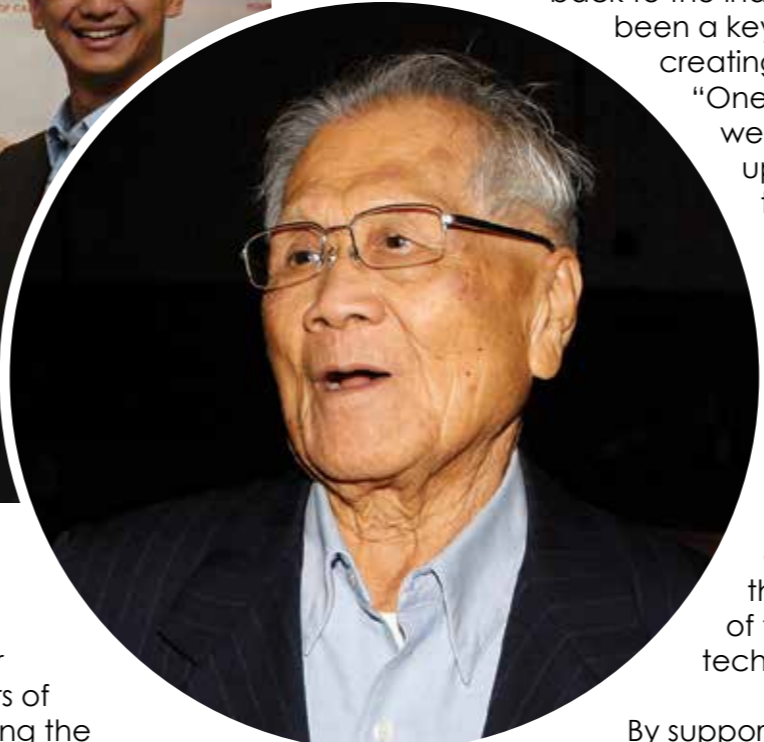
OMAE's annual conference is held alongside the National Petroleum Show for the first time. This is one of OMAE's most successful conferences.

1993

The Canadian Energy Pipelines Association (CEPA) is founded.

1995

Identifying the need for a pipeline industry conference, OMAE's Calgary chapter connected with CEPA, CAPP, NEB, EUB, CANMET and the Alberta Department of Energy to create the new International Pipeline Conference (IPC).



Kim McCaig, who has played a vital role in IPC since the early days, explains how giving back to the industry had always been a key motivation in creating the conference; "One of the main things we did when set it all up was to ensure that if there were any surpluses made by such a conference, they were in turn put back into bettering the industry, whether it was through traditional skill development within the pipeline industry of furthering more technical research."

By supporting these programs, the IPCF is not only connecting people and ensuring the future success of the conference, it is moving the industry forward and continuously lifting the standards for the pipeline sector.

SAFEGUARDS FOR THE FUTURE

With the conference now well established, the organisers began to look forward and consider how IPC might thrive in the years to come. It was critical to preserve the integrity of this event for the long term; succession and continuity planning was a focus since much of the history and operational experience of IPC was held in the minds and computers of just a handful of people.

A step towards safeguarding the future happened in 2006, when Christi Marcine joined the IPC team and worked with the conference committee to develop processes and knowledge transfer to ensure that systems were in place to support the incredible volunteer network that drives this conference.

Also in 2006 – in a move that was vital to the further professionalisation of the IPC – the International Pipeline Conference Foundation (IPCF) was formed. It was established as a wholly-owned subsidiary of Canadian Energy Pipeline Association (CEPA), and the not-for-profit corporation that owned and directed IPC. It was decided that the board of IPCF should be made up equally of members from CEPA and ASME's Pipeline Systems Division. This is still the structure today.

Since its inception, IPCF has played an important role as the steward IPC, ensuring long-term success and viability of the

conference as a premiere event for pipeline engineers. In the early years of its incorporation, this involved defining the strategic goals of the conference through a series of planning meetings.

It was at one of these meetings that a vital decision was made, as explained by Christi Marcine.

"We didn't want growth. We strategically decided we weren't doing that. What we were going to do was make sure the quality of the conference was impeccable; that's what drove everybody there. It wasn't the volume, it was the quality."

This decision made it apparent that IPC has not strayed from the original vision articulated by Alan Murray, Mike Yoon and Dr Mo Mohitpour in the 1990s.

In addition to supporting and directing the conference, another key objective of IPCF was advancing the industry by investing any surpluses from IPC back into deserving initiatives. With the goal of giving back, the foundation provides proceeds from the conference to CEPA and the ASME Pipeline Systems Division. In turn, these groups reinvest into deserving initiatives, such as the International Pipeline Geotechnical Conference in Bogota, Colombia, in 2013.

1996
The first IPC is held alongside the National Petroleum Show in June in Calgary, Canada. CEPA, CAPP, CANMET, NACE and the Alberta Government provide seed money for this event. The organising committee comprises representatives from CEPA, CAPP, CANMET, NEB, EUB and the Alberta Government.

1998
The second IPC is held in June, to coincide with the National Petroleum Show. This event is a great success.

1999
The Olympic Pipeline incident in Bellingham, Washington, results in three fatalities. This event reinforced a renewed focus on pipeline safety.

2000
IPC moved from June to September to accommodate Calgary's hosting of the the World Petroleum Congress (WPC), thus IPC would no longer be held in conjunction with the WPC. The International Pipeline Exposition provided the trade show that continues to complement IPC today.





SURVIVING THROUGH BOOM AND BUST

The 2000s was a tumultuous decade for the pipeline industry, with a range of factors causing the oil price to soar to unprecedented heights, before crashing in 2008 alongside the global financial crisis (GFC).

Tension in the Middle East, increased demand from China, reports showing declining global oil reserves, and the falling value of the US dollar, all came together to boost the oil price to its record high of over US\$140/bbl in mid-2008. This boom had a positive impact on the pipeline industry, with new projects being approved and constructed at record pace.

However, as with all bubbles, the burst came quickly and without warning. The economic crash in the US had a domino effect, with demand and energy use rapidly falling to drive oil prices below US\$35/bbl by February 2009.

This extreme fluctuation hit the pipeline industry incredibly hard, with many companies going into receivership, and thousands of people losing their jobs.

The threat this downturn represented to the future of the conference was not lost on organisers of the event. In fact, this was a key concern of the IPC organising committee when they turned their attention to planning the 2014 conference.

Christi Marcine, who at that time had only lead the organisation of the conference once, reflects on the high and lows of putting together the 2014 conference:

“We were quite concerned about what was going to happen. Every meeting with IPCF, the first thing we would talk about was the health of the conference, and the health of the industry.

“I was really proud of the volunteer executives at that time; they just kept marching forward and they were incredibly proud of the conference they were putting together, and they were proud of the industry.

“We ended up selling out for the first time ever that year. So we had to close registrations at a time when we were actually worried we weren't going to be able to get people to come. I thought that was pretty brilliant.”

The strong performance of the conference in these challenging years is significant, as it highlights how IPC had become the must-attend event in the international pipeline calendar, and how people all over the world saw it as an opportunity to come together, network, and look for new opportunities in the changed economy.

BRINGING SAFETY TO THE FORE

As any individual within this industry would recognise, pipelines are one of the safest and most reliable methods of transporting hydrocarbons. However, that does not mean that it is without risk.

While the pipeline industry is collectively focused on protecting public safety, there have been unfortunate incidents that have affected the general public. The Olympic Pipeline incident that occurred in Bellingham in 1999 was a defining moment for the pipeline industry. The sector was rocked by this incident and IPC saw a renewed focus on safety and risk management.

In 2004, Frank and Mary King, whose 10-year-old son Wade died as a result of the pipeline incident, attended IPC, with Frank giving a keynote address. This was a significant moment for the conference, and has stuck in many people's minds to this day. Alan Murray describes it as one of the most compelling addresses given in the history of the conference.

“You could hear a pin drop and, if ever there was a reason for holding IPC and sharing best practice, this was it,” he says.

From that moment on, pipeline safety became a core focus of the conference. The importance of this theme cannot be understated, as eloquently outlined by Don Wishart.



“As an industry we need to increase our efforts to ensure pipelines continue to be the safest, most environmentally sound and economic means of transporting hydrocarbons. Sharing our best practices and research efforts collaboratively as an industry is critical to this objective and IPC plays a key role in making this a reality,” he says.

2002

IPC and IPE continue to grow and a venue change is required. The conference and the exposition moved from the Palliser to the Hyatt Regency in downtown Calgary.

2004

IPC continues to grow. IPC expands into the TELUS Convention Centre, near the Hyatt Regency, and IPC fills up additional space in the Hyatt Regency.

Frank and Mary King, who lost their son Wade in the Olympic Pipeline failure, give a keynote presentation at IPC. Their presentation focuses the delegates and the industry on the importance of safety, and the real impact of pipeline incidents.

2005

The International Pipeline Conference Foundation is founded to run IPC and safeguard its future. IPCF is a not-for-profit corporation directed by representatives of CEPA and ASME's Pipeline Systems Division

In the same year, Catherine Ayles steps down and Christi Marcine joins the team as a conference organiser.



“THE EXECUTIVE PANEL SESSION WAS ESTABLISHED IN 2014 AND HAS PROVIDED A UNIQUE FORUM WHERE EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP FROM THE PIPELINE INDUSTRY HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE THEIR PERSPECTIVES.”

- PATRICK VIETH

MORE THAN JUST A CONFERENCE

Over the years, IPC has grown to become something more than a standard industry event. It is a community, a time and a place where friends from all of the world come together to share stories, and to make new connections.

There have been countless friendships formed at IPC; some of those connections run deep and can be truly life changing. Never was that fact more apparent than after the sad passing of Dr Mo Mohitpour, who played a vital role in the creation of IPC, and had become an industry legend in his own right.

“After Mo passed away, there was a memorial for him at the conference and people were just standing out in the hallways of the Hyatt, just wanting to be a part of that, and to be connected to him. It was very powerful,” Christi recalls.

Patrick Vieth, current Chairman of the Board for IPCF and past IPC Conference Chair, shared a few changes that have been well received by the delegates.

“Establishing the Distinguished Lecture Series in 2012 provided a forum to recognize significant technical contributions of industry leaders, and to date has recognized Willard (Bill) Maxey (2012), Dr Mo Mohitpour (2014), and David Horsley (2016). In addition, the Executive Panel Session was established in 2014 and has provided a unique forum where executive leadership from the pipeline industry have an opportunity to share their perspectives.”

“Additionally, a Lifetime Achievement Award has been established to celebrate achievements of colleagues. The inaugural award was presented in 2016 and recognised Henry Yamauchi.”

At the time, Henry was 90 years old, and he had touched so many people in the industry that was overjoyed to see him recognised, with a stream of visitors taking time out of their day to stop by and congratulate him. This demonstrates IPC’s ability to bring people together.

2012

Following the 2012 conference, Linda Abercrombie retires from her position and Christi Marcine steps up to manage the organisation of IPC.

2014

The impact of the oil price crash and the industry downturn are being felt in Calgary and around the world. Opposition to pipelines is impacting the industry and identifies the need to engage all stakeholders.

The industry rallies and for the first time IPC sells out and registrations have to be closed one month ahead of the event. The bars and restaurants in downtown Calgary are full for the duration of IPC, as pipeline professionals come together to network and seek new opportunities in the challenging economic climate.

2016

IPC and IPE continue to grow. With ongoing support from several energy and pipeline associations and regulatory associations, IPC is now renowned as one of the world’s premier pipeline conferences.

2018 and beyond

With the industry beginning to stabilise, and strong vision and leadership from the IPCF, the future for IPC looks bright. IPCF has made a strategic decision to focus on quality over growth, and all papers undergo the rigorous ASME review and approval process before being accepted into the conference program, ensuring that the high quality program will continue to attract attendees and advance the industry for years to come.

THE ARMY OF VOLUNTEERS

IPC started with the passion and energy of a few dedicated volunteers, and it continues to thrive for the same reason. It is important to acknowledge that without these people, this event would not exist.

A conference requires countless hours to produce, and for all the work that the volunteers put in reviewing abstracts and papers, providing authors with feedback, and compiling a world-class conference program, they do not get freebies – they attend IPC as paying delegates, just like everyone else.

They are driven by passion and commitment to the industry, and commitment to the conference. Their support is absolutely vital to ensure IPC's continued success and integrity. There are too many individuals to be named here. To those who have given their time to this conference over the years, be it in small part or big: thank you.

In the words of Don Wishart, "The various committee members who review submitted papers, then choose the best for presentation, deserve credit for ensuring the conference is a premier event."

THE FACES OF IPC

There are countless individuals that have given their time and energy to IPC since its founding. Here, we highlight just a few individuals that have played a vital role in the creation and growth of this unique event.



Alan Murray



Carl Jaske



Christy Marcine



Jake Abes



Kim McCaig



Linda Abercrombie



Mike Yoon



Mo Mohitpour



Patrick Smyth



Patrick Vieth



Tim Graves

In addition to the individuals pictured above, the International Pipeline Conference Foundation would like to acknowledge the outstanding contributions of Bob Hill, Ian Scott, Messrs. Steve Wuori, Lou Harden, Art Meyer, Al Edgeworth, Al Conquerwood, Art Smith, Gerry Maier, and Winston Revie.

IPC IN NUMBERS



5 DAYS
OF TECHNICAL SESSIONS



8 CONFERENCE TRACKS

300+ TECHNICAL PAPERS PRESENTED



45+
COUNTRIES REPRESENTED



1,000+ CONFERENCE ATTENDEES

IPC THROUGH 2016

11



INTERNATIONAL PIPELINE
CONFERENCES

TECHNICAL PAPERS PUBLISHED

3,129



10,413 AUTHORS THAT CONTRIBUTED
TO TECHNICAL PAPERS



We recognize that this is the first version of this summary and we would envision future updates to include historical perspectives provide by others involved with IPC. Please provide your input to info@ipcyc.com

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