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Hydrocarbons in Crystalline Rocks

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Preface

This book is the result of a two-day meeting held at Burlington House, London in February 2001 under the auspices of the Geological Society, on the theme *Hydrocarbons in Crystalline Rocks*. It attracted over 20 contributions from industry and academia and broke new ground by bringing together for the first time three specialist groups of the Society, the Volcanic and Magmatic Studies Group, the Tectonic Studies Group and the Petroleum Geology group, to address oil and gas exploration and production from basement rocks. The idea for the meeting arose from a grant awarded to Kingston University by the Japanese Vietnamese Petroleum Company (JVPC) to help with the petrological, geochemical and structural characterization of the Rang Dong oil field, offshore Vietnam. The reservoir rocks were not sediments, but granites (monzogranites, to be precise). Although it proved to be a challenging project, exploitation of these reservoirs continues to be commercially successful.

It is of course no secret that hydrocarbons can reside in crystalline rocks. But what if these play

types are much more extensive than previously recognized? Despite direct evidence that hydrocarbons are present, petroleum geologists generally ignore basement rocks in their exploration plans. Similar attitudes prevail amongst our academic colleagues, many of whom teach courses on petroleum geology and exploration, yet dismiss hydrocarbons in basement rocks as insignificant curios. A good reason for this may be the lack of a coherent source of reference material for teaching purposes. If so, then this book serves to provide a remedy in part. The editors would like to express thanks to the authors, Midland Valley and Titus Murray (now an independent consultant), JVPC, in particular Takeo Aoyama, the VMSG, TSG and Petroleum Geology groups for financial support, all of the contributors at the London meeting and to the reviewers of the papers. Special thanks also go to Claire Ivison for her skill in redrafting figures.

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