



John Conolly, PhD

AFFILIATE SCIENTIST

EGI Affiliate Scientist Dr. John Conolly was the key scientist who developed the seminal proposal to evaluate rift systems of North Africa that was funded by the National Science Foundation in 1972. He was instrumental in helping to establish EGI in its founding in 1972 as the Earth Science and Resources Institute (ESRI) at the University of South Carolina. Currently Managing Director of Petrofocus Consulting, John has 50 years experience in exploration of frontier basins worldwide.

John participated in the now famous Baltimore Canyon Trough Lease Sales and was a successful bidder for offshore acreage with Shell U.S.A., the major participant and operator. As a Principal of the frontier basin ventures, primarily as the 'innovator' and 'instigator' of these ventures, his work included all of the new joint ventures put together by the Sydney Oil Company during the period 1977 to 1988. These resulted in the participation in the discovery of fourteen new oil fields including the South Pepper, North Herald trend on the Northwest Shelf, and the Fairymount, Bodalla South, and Nockatunga trends in Queensland. Since 1988, he has worked as an independent consultant, creating new frontier plays and putting together new acreage blocks in the Northwest Shelf and other basins in Australia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the S.W. Pacific Islands, and New Zealand.

John's work has spanned the globe and includes affiliations with such entities as the U.S. Naval Oceanographic Office, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, Lamont Doherty Geological Observatory at Columbia University, and numerous major partners in the energy industry and government agencies throughout Australia, New Zealand, South Pacific Islands, and the United States. He also founded Rawson Resources Ltd., an active oil explorer listed on the Australian Stock Exchange in 2005.

John has over 50 years of experience as a geologist and researcher in the energy and geosciences industry. He received a B.Sc. from the University of Sydney (1958) and his M.Sc. and Ph.D. from the University of New South Wales (1960, 1963). Between 1965 and 1971, he served as Professor of Geology at Louisiana State University, Columbia University, N.Y., and the University of South Carolina. John has been the recipient of numerous awards and honors spanning his distinguished career and is credited with over 100 articles in journals, conferences, and short courses. He was Keynote speaker to APG Conference India, in 2004 and 2006 and is an active member of the Petroleum Exploration Society of Australia and the American Association of Petroleum Geologists.

Dr. Conolly represents EGI in Austral-Asia and is actively involved with key research in sheared margins of Western Australia and in developing EGI's role in shale systems research across the Australian continent. He also conducts short course trainings and field courses for EGI Corporate Associate members.

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Research Interests

- Global exploration in frontier basins
- Peer assists in basin analysis
- Risk analysis of petroleum systems
- Australian, P.N.G. & New Zealand geology

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