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Shale Gas and Fracking: the Science behind the Controversy

Presented by Prof. Michael Stephenson

Director of Science and Technology, British Geological Survey

- Date: 4 May, 2017 (Thursday)
Time: 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm
Venue: Conference Room, 3/F, Mariner's Club, Tsim Sha Tsui
Fee: Free of charge
Registration: Prior registration is not required.
For enquiry, please contact Miss Trudy Kwong at tkwong@bmintelligence.com

Synopsis:

Britain has no shale gas industry to speak of, but what little it has become famous because fracking caused a couple of very small earthquakes. (Many geologists would prefer to call them 'tremors'). On Friday April 1 2011 an earthquake of magnitude 2.3 occurred with an epicentre just two miles from the site of Britain's first fracking operation. On the following Saturday morning people interviewed by the local press described wardrobe doors being flung open, a police station building shaking, motorbikes falling over and traffic lights suddenly not working. Pedestrians reported that the Lytham Road Bridge in Blackpool had cracked, even though other local residents maintained that the cracks had been in existence since the 1970s and had moss growing inside them.



These incidents highlight one of the problems of shale gas. It's difficult to cut through to the facts. In this talk Mike Stephenson will introduce his new book 'Shale gas and fracking: the science behind the controversy' in which he analyses the pros and cons of shale gas from the European and American perspective, debunking the 'bad science' being used on both sides of the argument and making clear the science that does matter, so that people can make an informed choice.

CPD Certificate will be available at the end of the seminar.

About the Speaker:



Mike Stephenson is Director of Science and Technology at the British Geological Survey. He has done research in the Middle East and Asia, including highlights in Oman, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Pakistan, Iran and Iraq. Mike also runs the Science Programme at BGS, the UK's national geoscience and data centre, in charge of 520 scientists and technologists. He has professorships at Nottingham and Leicester universities. He has published two books and over 80 peer-reviewed papers. His recently published book 'Shale gas and fracking: the science behind the controversy' won an 'honourable mention' at the Association of American Publishers PROSE awards in Washington DC. The PROSE Awards '...annually recognize the very best in professional and scholarly publishing...'

Mike Stephenson regularly represents UK science interests in energy, as well as providing extensive advice to the UK Government. For example in October 2013 he was shale gas and carbon capture and storage (CCS) advisor to Sir Mark Walport, Chief UK Government Scientific Advisor, on a fact-finding mission to Texas and Alberta. He gave verbal evidence to the UK House of Lords Select Committee on Economic Affairs inquiry into shale gas in Oct 2013.