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Dundee course goes annual

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The University of Dundee's five-day course on oil and gas arbitration is to be an annual fixture, in the wake of the latest sold-out seminar.

The university's Centre for Energy Petroleum and Mineral Law and Policy this year ran the course for the second time - from 8 to 12 September in the Dundee Hilton. Organisers say they may use different venues in the future, including London and the United Arab Emirates.

The course covers all aspects of oil and gas arbitration under contracts and investment treaties, with an emphasis on advocacy, strategy and tactics.

This year all 30 places were filled, mainly by participants from private and state-run international energy companies such as Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, Sinopec, Sakhalin Energy, Petrobras, Caspi Operating, PT Medco Energi and Sudan's Greater Nile Oil Operating Company. Private practitioners, representatives of OPEC in Vienna, and students from the Centre for Energy Petroleum and Mineral Law's graduate course on international dispute resolution also took part.

Arif Hyder Ali, a partner at Crowell & Moring LLP and honorary professor at the centre, directed this year's course.

Ali says the course was a "hands on training seminar" that focused on the "complexities and economics" of oil and gas arbitration. Morning sessions addressed issues such as dispute avoidance, the drafting of arbitration clauses and all stages of the arbitral process from inception to enforcement. The afternoons, meanwhile, were devoted to interactive training.

Trainers included **Thomas Wälde**, Canadian arbitrator **Tim Martin**, [John P Bowman](#), **William Knoll**, **Barton Legum** and **Michael McIlwrath**.

Two quantum experts who testify in international energy arbitrations, **Wayne Wilson** and **Casey Ballard** of Gordius Consulting in Texas, presented sessions on damage quantification. Wilson says that the seminar focused on the "economic realities" of the energy industry, including "the give and take that exists between countries and companies as they fight to maintain control over a larger percentage of oil and gas revenues."

One delegate, the former Nigerian attorney general and Minister of Justice **Baya Ojo** says the course was "invaluable."

"I was particularly impressed with the practical perspectives of the seminar leaders, most of whom are successful industry practitioners," Ojo says.

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