



INTRODUCTION

ASPO-9

By
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A great honour

To introduce this important conference and
welcome the participants

A great pleasure

To see so many familiar faces from around
the world



Origins of ASPO

From small acorns, large oak trees grow

I helped sow the acorn but others grew the ASPO tree, which now has many healthy branches.

- I will try to outline the origins of ASPO.



An awakening in 1966

I spent my career as an oil explorer

- My first insight into resource limits came when I made a study of Colombia in 1966
 - It had many different geological provinces
 - Some **Large** : some **Small**
 - Some **Productive** : some **Non-Productive**
 - Uncertainties of detail but limits then evident.



A World Study in 1969

In 1969, I helped make a world evaluation.

- The pattern observed in Colombia applied in varying degrees to every country.
 - Discovery had in fact **already peaked** because the big oil provinces and the larger fields within them were found first.
 - Admittedly, the offshore was then little known
- It made a deep and lasting personal and professional impression.



Official Study

Last job was as Manager in Norway for the Belgian Company, Petrofina, based here in Brussels.

- I had the company sponsor research by the Norwegian Petroleum Directorate in 1989.
- Published the results in a book

The Golden Century of Oil 1950-2050

- Study used published numbers, not then realising how inaccurate they were
- But saw the general pattern.



Industry Data

The book caught the attention of Petroconsultants.

- It maintained a valid but confidential database with the help of the major oil companies.
- It invited Jean Laherrère and me to make a new study based on sound data.
 - He brought new graphic and mathematical techniques.

The Report was suppressed by an oil company but we summarised it in the *Scientific American* in 1998 in an article *The End of Cheap Oil*.



German Interest

In December 2000, I gave a talk at Clausthal University and met a delegation from the BGR, an arm of the German Government.

- Proposed forming a study group
 - Idea supported informally by the BGR Director
- In Jan. 2001 started a small newsletter for the Study Group – and called it

The Association for the Study of Peak Oil



Interest Grew

In 2002, Professor Aleklett held a workshop in Sweden to address Peak Oil.

His efforts led to the formalisation of **ASPO**

- Annual conferences : Paris, Berlin, Lisbon, Pisa, Barcelona, Cork, Denver & **Brussels.**
- Affiliates in more than 30 countries.
- Many engaged people : many websites
- A library of new books on the subject.



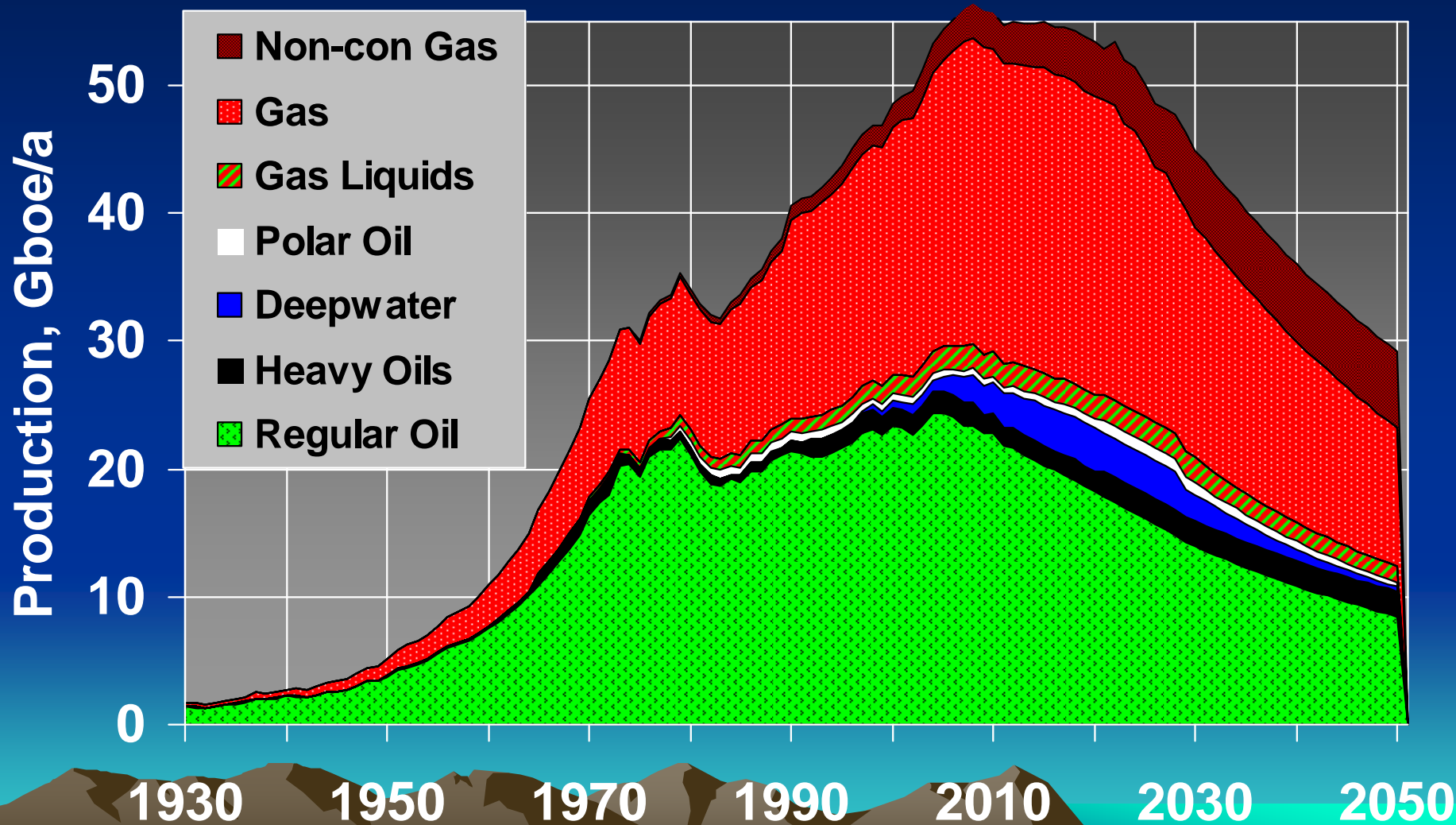
Peak Date Debate

A debate rages as the date of Peak but misses the point

- What matters is the vision of the long decline on the other side of it.

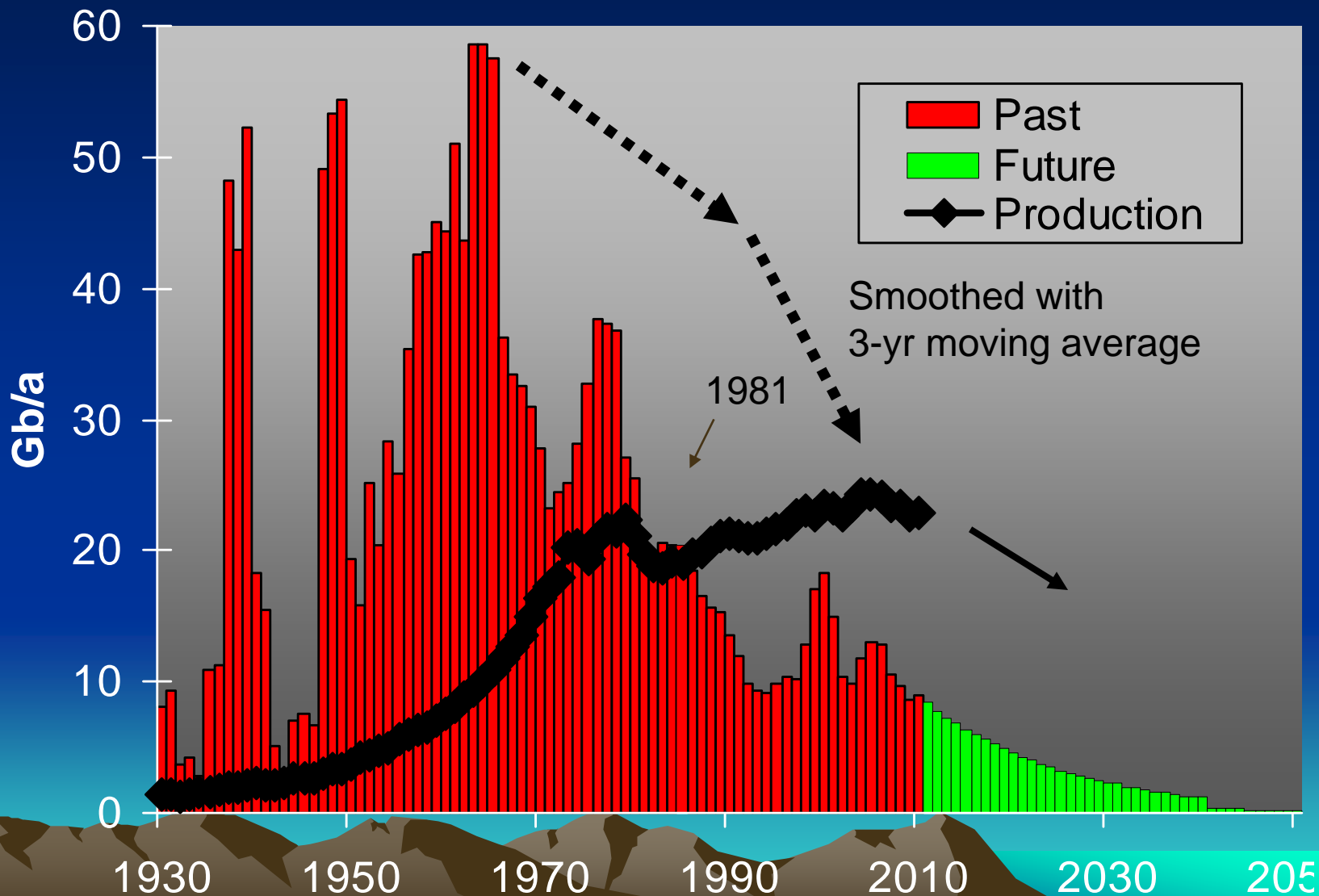


World Oil and Gas Production



World Discovery peaked in 1964

delivering Peak Production 40 years later



The Oil Age

First Half saw rapid expansion driven by easy oil-based energy

– Population rose six-fold

Second Half may mean a corresponding contraction

Transition : a time of great tension

Already : riots in London; revolutions in Libya and elsewhere.



Evolution over Time

- Solar System – 4.6 billion years ago
- Life ~ 550 million years ago
 - Many species became extinct
- Man ~ 200 000 years ago
 - *Agricultural Man* ~ 12 000 years ago
 - *Petroleum Man* ~ 150 years ago but becomes extinct this Century

A radical change = falling population ?



Great Credit

Great credit goes to the organisers of these conferences to raise awareness of this ***Turning Point for Mankind*** and help people prepare.

- They would not rise in revolt if they understood the real reasons for their plight.
- Governments begin to listen :
 - Portuguese Parliament recently passed a resolution for an **Oil Depletion Protocol**
 - No doubt influenced by ASPO Portugal





Thank you



ASPO Belgium & ASPO Netherlands for
your great contribution in providing an
impressive forum for many interesting
and valuable presentations.