

BACKGROUND FOR WRITING THE BOOK

I have been holding a leading position in many Offshore Oil & Gas projects internationally and in Norway, Statfjord C (1983) onward. Due to project assignments, I had to be out-posted in many countries; US, Europe (UK included), Middle East (including representing Statoil in Iran for South Pars 6/7/8 at Bandar Abbas).

Nearly all of these projects have included two distinctive types of gatherings; Technical and Social. On every occasion, the information material distributed among the team members were stiff technical stuff, things such as how expensive (or cheap) the project was, and how many barrels of oil (or tonnes of gas) were going to be extracted. Distribution of technical stuff was repeated even for purely social occasions, such as; Team-buildings, Milestone Meetings, Project Completion, Start-up, etc. Following traditions of Oil companies such as Exxon Mobil and others, there has always been necessary to hold a talk on behalf of the project leadership during these gatherings. As Norwegians are not the world champion orators in English, I had to step in and save the day in many occasions; in Oslo, London, Paris, to name a few. My talks were often based on what was "interesting and funny" during execution of that particular project. To my utter surprise, these little stories became popular among various project members, so much that most of those who were part of the principal engineering Company (where I was employed) requested to hear me talking on such social occasions.

In 2010 when I spoke on one of such events, I was advised to assemble these in a book. The argument was that; although one should be a "professional writer" to turn an everyday event into an interesting story, nevertheless the strength and sheer creativity of events during execution of some Offshore oil/gas projects are so "interesting and funny" which can transform an engineer to "become" a writer.

Soon, I found myself looking at my CV and recalling these occasions. In the end, I selected 54 events and categorised them in twelve chapters, benefiting the geographical locations where each and every one of these have occurred.

Since publication of the book last year, I have been bombarded by colleagues from Oil companies as well as Contractors who enthusiastically bought the book and read it from cover to cover, partly to see if I have written anything about their shared stories with me. I am afraid that very many were disappointed as the size of the book did not allow mentioning anything but a certain number of events. Satirically, I have half-promised them that I may embark upon Vol. II which will be titled "What I left out"!

The book is written in English. However a few pages consisting of; Preface, Introduction, Epilogue, and Back- cover, are in Norwegian (for International/English readers, an English translation of these pages accompany the book.

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Oslo, 2013