IRO Team
Sander Vergroesen, Managing Director
Liesbeth Köhne, Executive Secretary
Tjerk Suurenbroek, Business Development Manager
Barbara van Buchem, Assistant Business Development Manager
Wasilika Pupovac-Moutzouridis, Exhibitions Manager
Marloes Kraaijeveld, PR & Communications Manager
Manuela van Dalen, Communications Officer
Preface

IRO proudly presents the 2019 annual report!

With 2020 already on its way, a sudden shift in world’s economy has taken place as a result of the COVID-19 virus and the dramatic decrease of the oil price. It has a great influence on the industry. Last year, and even in the first quarter of this year, we witnessed a slight recovery of the industry. Companies in the entire supply chain were optimistic again and willing to invest.

Proof of this are evident, such as the ongoing investments in the Arabian Gulf, oil developments in Gyana, Suriname and Mexico, offshore gas in Mozambique, the new offshore wind projects in Europe, Asia and the US, the various initiatives taken in the area of hydrogen and CCS and the upcoming decommissioning industry. Obviously, this still is a very vulnerable situation, and unexpected issues such as the corona virus, the oil price decrease and their influence on the worldwide economy will affect this optimism. IRO keeps a watchful eye on what is going on.

Over the long term, we can tell that the energy industry is fully in transition. Besides the necessary fossil fuels, new forms of sustainable energy are explored and developed. As the Dutch are true pioneers in creating new possibilities, we can claim that the Dutch offshore industry is one of the most innovative industries in the field. All the developments that you now see in the new forms of energy come from the knowledge and expertise we have gained in the offshore oil and gas industry during the last 50 years. It is clear that we are now benefiting from that.

Working in a sustainable manner is a conscious choice rather than an obligation. Investing in vessels which sail on LNG or smart shipping are a few of the many examples. Furthermore, the newest pilot is the green hydrogen production at the North Sea. With this unique trial project, the Netherlands is the first country in the world which produces green hydrogen offshore. The North Sea provides us with several energy options which can all be combined in one area. Wind farms, oil and gas platforms, tidal and wave energy, green hydrogen, floating solar, OTEC (ocean thermal energy conversion). The Sustainable Development Goals remain high on the agenda of the Dutch entrepreneurs in the offshore energy industry.

In this transitioning energy world, IRO felt the need to show the world and its members that it is highly involved in this energy transition and that it supports its members to contribute to a sustainable energy mix. IRO therefore changed its name to IRO – The Association of Dutch Suppliers in the Offshore Energy Industry. ‘Offshore energy’ covers both oil & gas, offshore wind, floating solar, tidal and other marine energy. Energy is a need which will only grow the next coming decades. However, renewable energy is not the only energy supply which can provide in this growing demand since renewables can only supply 50 percent of the total energy demand in 2050. There is no question that the ecological footprint we leave on the planet is massive and a climate agreement is necessary. However, upstream oil and gas operations will remain necessary during this transition period and the Dutch suppliers are capable of providing the most sustainable solutions in this branch all over the world.

Collaboration and innovation, and most certainly in these challenging times, are key. Investing in innovative projects together with the industry, knowledge institutes, universities and last but not least the government, are important requirements. A proactive industrial policy is also an essential precondition for a strong export position.

Through chain cooperation, innovation and good entrepreneurship, the Dutch offshore industry has been able to withstand the past difficult years and has led a strong foundation for the future. We are therefore convinced that with our knowledge, skills, equipment and mindset we as a Dutch offshore cluster can optimally contribute to today’s challenges and future possibilities that the recent vulnerable situation and the Energy Transition will bring us - both nationally and internationally.

The IRO team will do its utmost to support its members wherever possible!

The Offshore Energy supply industry in the Netherlands belongs to the Top 5 of the world. Acting as the gateway to Dutch suppliers in the energy industry, the IRO mission is ultimately aimed at maintaining and strengthening the position of the Dutch Offshore Energy industry by creating a level playing field for its members.

IRO’s 400 members consist of a wide variety of both multinationals and SMEs. They represent the entire supply chain within the Oil, Gas, Offshore Renewable and Marine Energy industry, with activities covering: Engineering & Consultancy, Construction & Fabrication, Plant & Equipment Supply, Contracting & Installation, Exploration & Production and Personnel & HSE, both for offshore upstream oil & gas and offshore renewables (wind, marine and floating solar energy).
IRO Managing Director Sander Vergroesen together with the IRO Board (from left to right): Bruno Jelgerhuis Swildens, René Peters, Peter de Bruijne, Pieter van Oord (Chairman), Charlotte Roodenburg, Koos-Jan van Brouwershaven, Edward Heerema, Arnout Damen, Jan-Piet Baars. (not in picture: Mark Heine)

IRO Board

Pieter van Oord (Chairman), Van Oord
Mark Heine (Vice-Chairman), Fugro
Peter de Bruijne (Secretary), Paragon Offshore
Bruno Jelgerhuis Swildens (Treasurer), EY
Jan-Piet Baars, Vroon Offshore
Koos-Jan van Brouwershaven, Heerema Group
Arnout Damen, Damen Shipyards Group
Edward Heerema, Allseas Engineering
René Peters, TNO
Charlotte Roodenburg, Huisman Equipment

Honorary member
Gert-Jan Kramer

Young IRO Board

Sophie van Zanten, (Chairman), Fugro
Timon Ligterink (Vice-Chairman), Huisman Equipment
Paul Schoenmakers (Communication Officer), TWD
Amber Nossen (Relations Manager), Navingo
Sander Morshuis (Innovation Officer), Mocen Offshore
Ruben de Nie, Damen Shipyards Group
Thijs Kamphuis, DOT & DOB-Academy
Committees

**Innovation & Technology**
Chairman: **Mark Heine**, Fugro

**International Relations & Communications**
Chairman: **Charlotte Roodenburg**, Huisman Equipment

**Oil & Gas**
Chairman: **René Peters** (TNO)

**Renewables**
Chairman: **Koos-Jan van Brouwershaven**, Heerema Group

**Sustainability & Safety**
Chairman: **Jan-Piet Baars**, Vroon Offshore

Association’s Affairs

**New name**
IRO changed its name at the beginning of this year to IRO – The Association of Dutch Suppliers in the Offshore Energy Industry (IRO – Branchevereniging voor de Nederlandse Toeleveranciers in de Offshore Energie Industrie). ‘Offshore energy’ includes oil & gas, offshore wind, marine and (floating) solar energy. With the new name, IRO shows that it is strongly involved in the energy transition through its activities in this area. IRO also encourages its members to contribute to a sustainable energy mix and welcomes members from these different disciplines.

**Appointment first female Board member**
During the Annual General Meeting in November 2019, IRO’s first female Board member, Charlotte Roodenburg (Huisman Equipment) was appointed. A novelty in IRO’s history and a boost for the new offshore generation!

**Move IRO office**
With the move of IRO’s office to the 14th floor of the Willemswerf building in July 2019, we now share the same floor with Netherlands Maritime Technology, KVNR (Royal Association of Netherlands Shipowners and NML (Maritime by Holland). One maritime floor, that will contribute to a fruitful cooperation.
Trade & Export Promotion

Export promotion is one of the key areas of interest of IRO. Working closely together with different stakeholders becomes even more vital, especially with the expansion into offshore renewables in mind. In 2019 again a large number of activities were organised, many of them in close cooperation with organisations such as NMT, FME, NWEA, HHWE, NABC, IADC and Dutch embassies. Participation in oil and gas exhibitions, outgoing and incoming trade missions and other export promotional activities can be found in below overview divided by country.

Africa
Whereas Nigeria and Angola have been among the established oil producers for a long time, a further shift towards Africa is seen in more recent discoveries. Significant gas fields have recently been discovered in Senegal, Mozambique and Tanzania and upcoming oil and gas industries can be witnessed in Kenya and Uganda. Africa cannot be left out of the focus of the energy transition in the future.

Brazil
Brazil is a very fast developing country with lots of energy opportunities for Dutch industry. The Dutch Consulate in Brazil came over to do a roadshow for IRO members. On 27 March a general overview was given on the energy sector and the opportunities this offers for the Dutch offshore sector.

Kuwait
On 22 January a large trade delegation from Kuwait visited our country, as part of the PIB of Dutch Energy Solutions. The ultimate goal was to get informed about all kinds of new technologies, closely related to energy and new forms of energy. Dutch Energy Solutions (DES) is an FME and IRO initiative to assist companies in doing business in the oil and gas industry in the Gulf States.

Mexico
The opening of the Mexican oil and gas industry has placed the country in the international spotlight. The Energy Reform in Mexico has been very successful, professional, fast and above all transparent until now. Together with the Embassy of the Netherlands in Mexico and IRO, a trade mission was organised to Mexico City from 16-22 June, which included a programme in Mexico City and a visit to the Mexican Petroleum Congress (CMP) in León, Guanajuato, where the Dutch Energy Association was hosting a Dutch Pavilion.

Saudi Arabia
“Saudi Arabia’s state oil giant Saudi Aramco plans to invest more than US$300 billion in the next 10 years in oil and gas as it looks to counter the effects of investment decline and a potential energy shortage”, its chief executive said. IRO together with Aramco Overseas Company and the Dutch Embassy have used 2019 intensively to establish and maintain a good relationship with Saudi Arabia.
Global market opportunities in oil & gas sector – by EIC and Rabobank

Very relevant in-depth insights from Neil Golding (EIC) and Richard Brakenhoff (Rabobank) on future oil & gas developments worldwide at the DOB-Academy on 17 October. Oil & gas is here to stay for a while, but decarbonisation of the industry has top priority.

Info session on Russia

Sanctions are still valid, but what is allowed and what not? What opportunities are still attractive for the Dutch sector? These questions were all answered at this session on 10 September, in close cooperation with the Lighthouse Group.

Overview international exhibitions 2019

IRO members were overall interested in participating in several international exhibitions worldwide. In 2019 IRO organised Holland pavilions at the following exhibitions:

Offshore Technology Conference (OTC), Houston, USA

OTC is traditionally considered as the prime annual event where the entire global Offshore industry is meeting up. It is the place to be when it comes to meet professionals and exchange ideas and opinions to advance scientific and technical knowledge for offshore resources and environmental matters. From 6-9 May more than 60,000 attendees from over 100 countries visited the more than 2,300 exhibitors from over 40 countries across the globe.

This year has been unparalleled in terms of showcasing the new technology that is driving the offshore energy industry, both in efficiency and innovative solutions. Some fourteen sessions were dedicated to offshore renewable. With nearly 1,000 m², IRO traditionally has one of the largest pavilions at the exhibition, representing an impressive range of Dutch pride companies. Although the number of visitors was slightly less than in 2018, the quality level of visitors in the pavilion was very good. Lots of good conversations took place at the Dutch stands, even one of the participating companies sold two of its products on the spot. The nearly 45 exhibitors at the Holland Pavilion represented a wide range of offshore products and services, varying from shipbuilding to offshore engineering.

With the Holland Network Reception in the Museum of Fine Arts Houston accommodating more than 325 guests, and support from TSW&M/Kernteam Export & Promotie via NML Trade Council and our Dutch embassy in Washington, OTC 2019 can be considered as a great success.

OGA, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Oil and Gas Asia is the region’s number one Oil, Gas and Petrochemical Engineering exhibition, with a focus on exploration, production and transportation within this industry. The 17th edition took place from 18-20 June at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Center where the latest technologies, equipment and machines were shown in the field of oil, gas and petrochemical technology.

For three days, the 120 m² Holland Pavilion was the home base of 13 impressive Dutch companies that presented their products and services at their stands. The Holland Pavilion was well visited. With 27,837 visitors from 70 countries and 1,992 companies from 55 countries this year’s edition attracted more visitors and exhibitors than 2017.

Networking at the Residence

On the evening before the opening of the exhibition, the Holland Networking Reception took place. The reception was organised together with the Dutch Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, where all guests were welcomed by the Deputy Head of Mission, Christoph Prommersberger. They enjoyed networking and the delicious snacks, including real Dutch ‘bitterballen’. In addition, a very interesting breakfast meeting was organised on Wednesday morning in close co-operation with MDBC (Malaysian Dutch Business Council) on the subject of developments in the Malaysian oil and gas sector.

All participants look back on a successful OGA 2019!

WindEurope Offshore, Copenhagen, Denmark

Together with NWEA and HHWE, IRO attended the WindEurope Offshore exhibition with a 342 m² Dutch Village and 41 companies, representing the Dutch offshore wind supply chain. The exhibition attracted around 8,052 unique participants and 433 exhibitors spread over 7,192 m² floor space. Also, there were 44 conference sessions and 265 presenters.

A networking reception was hosted with by the Dutch Embassy from Copenhagen with over 150 guests enjoying an evening with great networking opportunities. The guests consisted of Dutch Village exhibitors and their guests as well as guests from Germany, Denmark, United Kingdom and Indonesia invited by the Embassy.

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<tr>
<th>Overview Dutch Pavilions 2019</th>
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<tr>
<td>OTC Houston, USA May 2019 920 m²</td>
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<td>OGA Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia June 2019 120 m²</td>
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<tr>
<td>WindEurope Offshore Copenhagen, Denmark November 2019 342 m²</td>
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<tr>
<td>ADIPEC Abu Dhabi, UAE November 2019 423 m²</td>
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ADIPEC, Abu Dhabi, UAE

From 11-14 November Abu Dhabi was the center of attention for the global oil and gas industry. In that week the 22nd edition of the world’s premium and most influential event, ADIPEC, took place at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Center.

Exhibition

The 24 impressive Dutch companies exhibiting in the Holland Pavilion, located in Hall 11, all made a great effort in promoting themselves. The pavilion was filled with an interesting mix of companies, from engineering to shipbuilding and from valves systems to flexible pipe solutions. This year’s edition attracted even more attendees compared to last year: some 150,000 visitors and 2,200 exhibitors found their way to the exhibition. Due to this increased number of attendees, the Holland Pavilion was well visited. Our exhibitors had a good flow of visitors to their stands during all four days, which in many cases led to interesting project leads and new business prospects.

Side events

Alongside the exhibition several side events took place, like the official signing of Van Oord as the first national corporate partner for the Dutch Pavilion at Expo2020; a breakfast meeting on opportunities in the oil and gas sector; and GustoMSC’s official naming ceremony for their designed jack-up drilling rig IMI-2030 for IMI and Aramco. The Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the UAE, Lady Embrechts, also visited the Pavilion on Wednesday 13 November and showed his support to the Dutch presence at ADIPEC.

The Ambassador was accompanied by Hanneke Schuiling, Director General for Foreign Economic Relations, as well as Geoffrey van Leeuwen, Director Middle East & North Africa Division; Jules Gerzon, Manager International Finance and Enterprise Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands; Douwe Buzeman, Deputy Head of Mission and Head of Economic Department at the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Abu Dhabi; Annemarie van der Heijden, Policy Officer - Middle East & North Africa Division; and Mark Hengstman, Policy Officer.

The valuable support of the Dutch connection in the Gulf project also offered opportunities for additional exposure and networking for the Dutch participants. The Holland Networking Reception organised together with our embassy in Abu Dhabi at the Aloft hotel on Tuesday evening was with close to 300 guests again a great success and considered to be one of the highlights of the week.
Conferences & Exhibitions endorsed by IRO

IRO endorsed, promoted and sponsored a number of conferences and exhibitions organised by third parties in the Netherlands.

**Offshore Pipeline Technology 2019**
From 26-28 February this conference took place in Amsterdam. IRO supported the event by providing event information in the IRO newsletter and by distributing the Netherlands Suppliers Catalogue among event participants. IRO members received a 20% discount on registration fee.

**IADC Drilling HSE&T Europe Conference & Exhibition 2019**
The IADC Drilling HSE&T Europe 2019 Conference & Exhibition took place 16 and 17 September at the Beurs van Berlage in Amsterdam. The conference featured dynamic and interactive sessions, as well as professionally moderated panel discussions, that provided attendees with insights into industry-leading HSE&T trends. IRO supported the event by circulating event information among IRO members and distributing the Netherlands Suppliers Catalogue among event participants.

**Offshore Energy Exhibition & Conference (OEEC)**
Offshore Energy Exhibition & Conference (OEEC) 2019 was held at Amsterdam RAI from 7-9 October, attracting more than 10,000 unique attendees representing 90 nationalities. OEEC 2019 featured over 600 exhibitors. IRO and NOGEPA shared a large booth. IRO is a member of the Offshore Energy Committee of Recommendation and supports the Offshore Energy Opening Gala Dinner and Awards Show, the official start of the event.

**Offshore Day 2019**
Offshore Day took place in Rotterdam on 19 November. Around 100 senior executives and directors joined this full day conference. IRO members received a discount on the entrance fee.

(International) cooperation with other organisations

Over the year much attention was paid to cooperation with other organisations and associations for the purpose of exchanging information and exploring common areas of interest.

In the field of export promotion, a number of activities and events were organised jointly or with the support of the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO), Dutch embassies and consulates abroad, Maritime by Holland (NML) and FME-CWM. Exchange of professional information took place with the Royal Netherlands Society of Engineers (KIVI), the Central Dredging Association (CEDA), FME-CWM and various Maritime by Holland (NML) partners. Several joint activities, such as technical seminars and presentations, were organised during the year. IRO would like to thank these organisations for the pleasant cooperation.

At national level, IRO maintained its close ties with NOGEPA by a frequent exchange of views on a number of subjects of mutual interest.

IRO also participated in the regular consultation meetings with the State Supervision of Mines (SodM), NOGEPA and IADC. These meetings have proved to be a very successful medium for exchanging information and reaching agreement on common viewpoints regarding topics such as legislation, HSE issues and labour conditions.

**Maritime by Holland (NML)**
This platform wants to improve the image and the reputation of the complete Dutch maritime cluster, consisting of 12 sectors. Since offshore plays an important role in this cluster, IRO participates in board meetings and councils dealing with innovation, export, human capital and public relations. Active participation in Maritime by Holland (NML) activities in 2019 resulted in enhanced exposure for the offshore oil and gas industry in the 2019 Maritime Monitor and the nomination of the OTC exhibition in Houston as a strategic exhibition in 2019. Sander Vergroesen, Managing Director IRO, is chairing the Maritime by Holland (NML) Trade Council.

**EURONET**
At international level, the useful and amicable cooperation with our fellow European organisations was maintained through the informal EURONET network. EURONET now consists of the national associations of the United Kingdom (The EIC, ITF, Decom North Sea), Norway (Norsk Industri), Denmark (DMOG), Belgium (Energy Technology Club - Agoria), France (Evolen) and the Netherlands (IRO).
Network Events

Several times a year IRO organises meetings with and for its members. The main goal of these meetings is to give members the opportunity to meet and exchange ideas and to do business successfully by using the association’s vast network.

In general the host company gives a presentation about its activities, which is followed by an excursion and drinks with an opportunity for networking. For the host company this is a great opportunity to provide greater insight into its business activities. As there is a limited amount of members meet members meetings possible per year, IRO gives new IRO members the opportunity to give a 2-minute pitch during a member meeting. To create a larger network, IRO also organises meetings to which non-members are invited.

IRO New Year’s Reception
On 10 January the Wereldmuseum in Rotterdam was the beautiful setting for a very crowded IRO New Year’s reception with over 300 IRO members present. As always, IRO Chairman Pieter van Oord and IRO Managing Director Sander Vergroesen welcomed the many IRO members, along with several IRO Board members.

During his annual speech Pieter van Oord highlighted that in spite of the challenging times, the Dutch offshore sector has proven to be able to cope with the difficult conditions through chain cooperation, innovation and strong entrepreneurship. In addition, the sector has also laid the foundation for a stronger international competitive position, from which we can benefit in the further strengthening of the market. Young IRO’s Board member Siwart Mackintosh took the opportunity to thank IRO and its members for their support and stressed that Young IRO will continue to future proof the industry with many great events.

CEDA-IRO meeting on the impact of offshore wind farm installation on the environment
The annual CEDA-IRO meeting took place on 12 March, with almost 100 participants attending. The large-scale construction of wind farms has far-reaching consequences for both nature and spatial planning in the North Sea. Vulnerable animal species are under further pressure. At the same time, offshore wind farms offer opportunities to make a positive contribution to underwater nature in addition to sustainable energy.

Speakers from Rijkswaterstaat and the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate, Van Oord, Marin and Wageningen University & Research gave their views on the challenges and opportunities of nature friendly building at sea; a multi-use concept development for floating solar and seaweed around wind turbines; and biodiversity on offshore installations.

EY-IRO Industry Forecast 2019
On 19 March 200 IRO members joined the annual EY-IRO Industry Forecast meeting in Rotterdam, where they were updated on the developments in the oil, gas and offshore renewable industry and the energy transition by speakers from Wood Mackenzie, EY and Shell.
Wood Mackenzie’s Obo Idornigie gave his view on the current and future investments in the North Sea as well as from a global perspective. EY’s Bram Kuijpers presented the most recent results of the Dutch Oilfield Services Analysis. Furthermore, Shell’s Wim Thomas, elaborated on Shell’s Sky Scenario. The Sky scenario illustrates a technically possible, but challenging pathway for society to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Member meeting at DCN Diving
On 27 June we dived into the deep at DCN Diving. The afternoon started with pitches of new IRO members and presentations of MME Group and DCN Diving. This was followed by a fascinating tour where we visited DCN’s unique Hyperbaric Testing Facility, which is designed for welding tests to be performed under simulated conditions. DCN showed us the underwater world in which they work by giving two demonstrations. After the tour DCN treated everyone to a festive walking dinner to complete the wonderful afternoon.

Member meeting at AncoferWaldram
On 29 October the IRO member meeting was hosted by AncoferWaldram Steelplates/Dillinger. After pitches of new IRO members we were introduced to the world of heavy steel plates. AncoferWaldram Steelplates produces them in any conceivable grade, size and thickness and ready to be used in the offshore oil, gas and wind industry. After the presentations, all members were invited for a guided tour at the production hall, where we could see the many plates in several thicknesses and the various ways of cutting and customised processing. After the tour all members were invited to join the network drinks & bites.

Annual General Meeting at Heerema Marine Contractors
On 28 November the IRO Annual General Meeting took place at the beautiful headquarters of Heerema Marine Contractors in Leiden, attended by more than 100 members.

The main items on the agenda were: the presentation of financial matters (result 2018 - forecast 2019 - budget 2020); stepping down of Board members Michael Kahn (Jumbo), Arjan Klijnsoon (Royal IHC) and Paul Koop (Quercus); the appointment of Board members Charlotte Roodenburg (Huisman Equipment - first female Board member in IRO’s history!), Arnout Damen (Damen Shipyards Group) and Jan-Piet Baars (Vroon Offshore); and the reappointment of Peter de Bruijne (Borr Drilling).

During the public part of the meeting, IRO Chairman Pieter van Oord updated us with his view on the developments in the oil and gas sector and the offshore renewable industry for now and in the near future. A challenging time with a slow recovery for part of the sector.

Koos-Jan van Brouwershaven, Chief Executive Officer of Heerema Fabrication Group & Heerema Marine Contractors gave us an insight into the company and the beautiful projects with, among others, its latest showpiece crane vessel Sleipnir.

Young IRO’s Chairman Bernard Alblas invited all members to organise interesting meetings for young and old together. The cozy in-house bar at Heerema was an excellent place for networking. There was also an opportunity to take a look at the impressive Simulation Center.
**Young IRO**

Energising. That would be the best word to describe 2019 for Young IRO. Young IRO has been in place now for two years and it has become an established network for the younger generation.

We are excited that the topics of the Young IRO events are resonating with our community; the available places for the site visit at Jack-Up Barge were filled within a day; the Machine Learning workshop at the Sparta Stadium was a great success; the Offshore pub-quiz at the Offshore Energy Conference and drinks at Ampelmann were perfect opportunities to network; and last but not least, the Offshore start-up event at the Buccaneer was an inspiring event and sparked the entrepreneurs within us.

**Looking ahead at 2020**

Our mission is to facilitate continuous learning, development & knowledge exchange through business friendships between young industry professionals. To build on that, 2020 already has some interesting events lined up. We will continue to focus on the industry trends and opportunities for professional development for our Young IRO community.

Additionally, 2020 will be a year of transition for the Young IRO board as the founding fathers of Young IRO have decided to pass the baton to a new group of champions. For 2020, we have Timon Ligterink (Huisman Equipment), Paul Schoenmakers (TWD), Ruben de Nie (Damen) and Thijs Kamphuis (DOT/DOB Academy) joining the Young IRO Board. With their new ideas and energy 2020 will definitely be a year of success.

**Young IRO for a future-proof offshore industry**

These past years we have met highly talented professionals in the Young IRO network and we are convinced that the industry is well positioned to meet the challenges of the future. 2019 wouldn’t have been such a successful year without the support of the IRO member companies, for which we would like to thank you.

We are excited to continue and follow our vision to work towards a future proof industry and to empower the Young Generation.
Human capital & Education

**Collective employer branding campaign Maritime by...**

Maritime companies are struggling with a shortage of technically trained employees. Proper positioning of the maritime cluster in the busy, international labour market is a challenge that we have taken on together. The labour market campaign Maritime by..., developed under the flag of Maritime by Holland (NML), will give the maritime sector a clear face so that we are placed on the ‘mental shortlist’ of young and slightly less (technical) talents.

A recognisable style and a slogan (Maritime by ...) have been devised and all kinds of materials have been developed for online and offline use. Via the online editor (also available on IRO’s website) these are easy to personalise and can therefore be used by both large organisations and SMEs.

**Exhibitions**

IRO and NOGEPA cover the oil and gas industry as a whole; NOGEPA from an operator perspective, whilst IRO represents the supply chain. IRO and NOGEPA continued its efforts to attract more qualified young staff to our industry and shared a stand at the Navingo Career Event (formerly known as Maritime & Offshore Career Event) in Rotterdam in May and at the Offshore Energy Conference in Amsterdam in October 2019.

**Dutch Maritime Cluster Monitor 2019**

Maritime by Holland (NML) has published the Dutch Maritime Cluster Monitor 2019 in October. This report is initiated by command of the Minister of I&W in cooperation with NML and was executed by ECORYS. IRO members have provided statistical data for the offshore sector for this report.

**Jet-Net**

IRO is a member of Jet-Net and promotes this initiative among the IRO members.

**Training courses**

**Course offshore energy: from fossil to renewables**

Despite the incentives to switch to green energy, we are still highly dependent on oil and gas. In this course given at the Maritiem Museum in Rotterdam you learn more about this interesting world of oil and gas and renewable energy.

The course gives insight into how oil and gas fields are formed, explored and put into production and provides an overview of how the industry works. It also discusses the ins & outs of the energy transition. Part of the course is an active participation in the Offshore Experience. In the Offshore Experience you will go on a challenging search for energy from oil, gas and wind. This course has been developed especially for non-technical employees or starters in the energy world, more particular the offshore industry. It is also possible to organise an in-house course for employees at their own premises.

In 2019 we organised three courses at the Maritiem Museum and one in-house course for employees at their own premises.

**Course Offshore wind basics**

IRO offers an offshore wind basics course, in close collaboration with DOB-Academy in Delft. This course has been developed for newcomers in the offshore wind industry and others interested in the sector. Background knowledge or a technical education is not required.

In this course participants will learn the basics of the offshore wind energy industry in inspiring lectures, which will contribute to understanding this rapid growth and identifying possible opportunities for the company. The lectures are accompanied by two practical cases in which the gained knowledge will immediately be put into practice. In 2019 five courses were given at DOB-Academy in Delft.
Trending topics

Offshore Renewables - wind
The offshore wind energy industry is booming. In almost all European offshore wind projects Dutch companies are involved. IRO members with their offshore know-how and equipment from the offshore oil and gas industry play an important role in especially the installation part of offshore wind energy projects. Reason why IRO organised or supported a large number of offshore wind related activities in 2019, as part of the Dutch consortium Wind & Water Works.

- Offshore Wind trade mission to Bremen in Germany on 5 and 6 March, as part of a large economic mission with attendance of the Dutch King and Queen.
- Trade mission to Vietnam from 7-12 April - offshore wind part of a large economic mission with Dutch PM.
- The yearly CEDA-IRO meeting in March was centred around the theme of ‘the impact of building offshore windfarms on the environment’.
- Seanergy 2019 took place in Dunkerque, France from 5-7 June. A small Dutch pavilion was hosted by Wind & Water Works and the Dutch Embassy. Seanergy focuses on marine renewable and offshore wind.
- FOWT Marseille, France, 24-26 April. FOWT is the largest global event dedicated to floating wind turbines.
- IPF Boston, USA - a trade mission to the International Partnering Forum (IPF) in New York City from 8-11 April.
- Offshore Wind Mission to the UK from 24-26 June 2019 in cooperation with the Netherlands British Chamber of Commerce. The mission was organised in combination with a visit to the Global Offshore Wind Exhibition in Manchester. The mission was a follow-up to previous successful annual trade missions to the United Kingdom.
- Wind & Water Works organised a Dutch Village at the WindEurope Offshore exhibition in Copenhagen, Denmark from 26-28 November with over 40 Dutch companies exhibiting.

Offshore Renewables – marine energy
Dutch Marine Energy Centre (DMEC) and IRO have signed an LoI in which they commit to a strategic collaboration to advance the marine energy sector. The potential worldwide for marine energy is enormous and both parties aim to support and stimulate the development of this renewable energy source.

Info session on commercial opportunities for marine renewable energy solutions
Together with Dutch Marine Energy Centre (DMEC) IRO organised an info-session on marine energy in the Maritime Museum in Rotterdam on 2 July. The different sources of marine energy were discussed, like tidal, wave, OTEC and sweet/salt energy. Opportunities for Dutch companies were highlighted, with focus on global developments.
Theme related events

Geothermal energy: what is it, what can it do, pros and cons
The warm groundwater at greater depths in the subsurface is a sustainable source of energy in the Netherlands. The water, which is at a temperature of 45-120 °C, can be exploited by pumping it out of the aquifers at depths of 1.5 to 4 kilometres. Currently, this source of heat, known as geothermal energy, is used for heating (greenhouses and homes, for example), but in the future it could also be used for industrial processes and to generate electricity. On 28 March IRO members were informed about the pros and cons of geothermal energy.

Meeting on Cyber risk management
During this session the attendees were informed about cybercrime and cyber risks. What is the potential impact of a cyber attack and how to weapon yourself? Risk mitigation, financial aspects and reputation damage control: all part of this informative session on 14 February.

Decommissioning
Decommissioning of Dutch oil and gas assets will be an important topic over the coming two decades as a large portion of these assets will reach the end of their economic life in this period. As the economy is moving towards a renewable future, this presents an opportunity to re-use existing infrastructure to support renewable investments before safe and sustainable decommissioning.

Presentation of Nexstep’s second Re-use and Decommissioning Report
The second Re-use and Decommissioning report presented on 4 July, outlines the status of the decommissioning of the oil and gas infrastructure and the expectations for the next decade. Nexstep expected ten platforms to be removed from the North Sea in 2019. The first platform was removed in January 2019 and another has been relocated to be re-used for the second time. Furthermore three subsea installations are foreseen to be removed from the seabed over the coming time. In 2020 Neptune Energy, TAQA, EBN, NAM and TNO are cooperating in order to place an electrolyser on the Q13a platform in order to produce hydrogen.

Corporate social responsibility and sustainability
All sorts of industries are looking for sustainable alternatives for products and processes that are detrimental to the environment. Also in the offshore sector. There is attention for innovations that do not leave ‘footprint’. It will not take long before major changes take place and give the sector a new look. Companies are creative about the search for product and business sustainability.

The IRO working group supports the sector and specifically the IRO members in their CR activities by providing insight into their sustainability performance. For this, IRO made a special agreement with the National Sustainability Institute (Nationaal Duurzaamheid Instituut) for all IRO members to receive 50% discount on participation in the Global Sustainable Enterprise System (GSES) for one year. The Global Sustainable Enterprise System (GSES) is a global sustainability standard that can measure, assure and certify the sustainability performance and goals of any organisation.
Public Relations & Media exposure

International Relations & Communications Committee
In 2019 three IRCC meetings were organised, on 21 May, 12 September and 3 December. Main subjects on the agenda were the future of the Netherlands Suppliers Catalogue (online/print); IRO member questionnaire on means of communications; animation film IRO membership; interviews for social media; preparations for IRO’s anniversary book; preparations IRO-NMT MarCom event on Digital value creation; exhibition related matters and update activities of Young IRO.

Special thanks go to Arjan Klijnsoons who resigned as Chairman of the Committee after more than six years. The committee would like to thank him for his efforts and involvement during all those years. Arjan remains a member of the editorial committee of the anniversary book. From January 2020 IRO’s first female Board member Charlotte Roodenburg (Huisman Equipment) will succeed him as Chair of the committee.

IRO Newsletter
In October 2019 IRO launched its new monthly Newsletter, also better in line with IRO’s corporate identity. The messages are short and concise with a click to the website for the complete message, which again creates more traffic to the website in favour of the members. A calendar is directly linked to the event item which facilitates swift registration. New members are also included with a click-through to their members profile on the website. Every month an item on sustainability is included.

New IRO website
In February 2019 IRO launched its new website with a fresh new look & feel in line with IRO’s corporate identity. While illustrating the innovative industry with photos from IRO members, the website offers many opportunities to better profile the IRO members and industry as a whole. Press releases from IRO members are centrally published on the homepage and directly linked to their online Member profile which can be shared via social media (Linkedin, Twitter, E-mail and Facebook).

Member interviews
A new item in IRO’s newsfeed is the member interview. To fully make use of IRO’s platform, interviews of the members are being held to profile their business within the industry.

Netherlands Suppliers Catalogue
The Netherlands Suppliers Catalogue provides a good overview of the activities, products and services of Dutch suppliers to the offshore energy industry and is an important tool for companies to present themselves. Every year around 4,000 copies of this catalogue are sent to embassies and international parties all over the world. The catalogue is also handed out at exhibitions, trade missions members meetings, training courses, career events, etc. The Netherlands Suppliers Catalogue can be found online at www.iro-catalogue.nl and member profiles can be found at www.iro.nl/members.

Ocean Energy Resources
Ocean Energy Resources is a publication for the oil, gas and offshore wind energy industry published by the publishing company
Uitgeverij Tridens in IJmuiden, the Netherlands. IRO contributes editorial pages to this bi-monthly magazine. Every IRO member receives a free copy. The online version of the magazine can be found at www.ocean-energyresources.com.

**Offshore Holland**
The purpose of this magazine is to inform the international offshore energy industry of the services provided by Dutch companies that are related to the offshore energy industry. In addition, technological developments are announced and the magazine contributes to a positive image and positioning of the Netherlands as an innovative and resourceful partner country. Offshore Holland is published and distributed at major offshore energy events such as the Offshore Technology Conference in Houston, Offshore Europe in Aberdeen, Offshore Northern Seas in Stavanger, ADIPEC in Abu Dhabi, OSEA in Singapore and Oil & Gas Asia in Kuala Lumpur.

**Press**
Several interviews or input for articles were provided in national and international media over the year. Topics ranged from overviews of the Dutch offshore oil, gas, offshore renewable and marine energy industry to the innovative mentality of the Dutch suppliers’ industry and the strength of networking in the industry.

**Social Media**
Next to LinkedIN, IRO has expended its social media channels with Instagram. An important platform to reach the younger target group such as students and young professionals. Via Instagram employer branding and sustainability topics are shared by IRO. In 2019, the IRO LinkedIn company page has grown with another 700 followers to almost 2000 followers! News, events, member interviews and sustainable innovations are shared on a daily basis to keep members informed.

**Maritime by Holland (NML) Communications panel**
IRO is a member of the Maritime by Holland editorial advisory board and the Maritime by Holland Communications panel. Several brainstorm meetings were held on the development of a collective maritime employer branding tool. This resulted in a campaign called ‘Maritime by...’ where members and companies can design online and offline materials via the online editor.

**Maritime by Holland (NML) Communications panel**
IRO is a member of the Maritime by Holland editorial advisory board and the Maritime by Holland Communications panel.
The Offshore Energy supply industry in the Netherlands belongs to the Top 5 of the world. Acting as the gateway to Dutch suppliers in the energy industry, the IRO mission is ultimately aimed at maintaining and strengthening the position of the Dutch Offshore Energy industry by creating a level playing field for its members. IRO’s 400 members consist of a wide variety of both multinationals and SMEs. They represent the entire supply chain within the Oil, Gas, Offshore Renewable and Marine Energy industry, with activities covering: Engineering & Consultancy, Construction & Fabrication, Plant & Equipment Supply, Contracting & Installation, Exploration & Production and Personnel & HSE, both for offshore upstream oil & gas and offshore renewables (wind, marine and floating solar energy).