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U.S. Based Harding Shelton Group Co-Hosts China's First Shale Gas Conference; Signs Shale Gas Documents With PetroChina and Yangtze University

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JINGZHOU, China, May 20 /PRNewswire/ -- Harding Shelton Group (HSG), a team of U.S. experts in shale gas development based in Dallas, TX and Oklahoma City, OK, co-hosted with Yangtze University an unprecedented sharing of technology in a two-day symposium organized by PetroChina and the Chinese Petroleum Society. Culminating the conference was the signing of documents that set up the structure through which PetroChina, HSG and the university will evaluate the shale gas potential in China.

(Photo: <http://www.newscom.com/cgi-bin/prnh/20090520/LA18925>)

Held on the university's campus in Jingzhou, Hubei province from May 11-May 12 2009, the conference hosted over 70 Chinese petroleum scientists and managers. Most of the technical and geological papers that were presented are published in the June 2009 edition of *China Petroleum Exploration*.

"The opportunity to produce shale gas in China is similar to what has taken place in the United States in highly productive areas like the Barnett Shale. Collaborative efforts with China can address the challenge of demand for new energy sources through this technology exchange," said John Shelton, HSG Chairman.

HSG, through Harding Shelton Energy Consulting (Beijing) Limited, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with PetroChina's Research Institute for Petroleum Exploration and Development in Langfang (RIPED-Langfang) for evaluating shale gas as a new energy resource for the coal-dependent country. The collaborative effort will also include studying drilling technologies that would be unique to the various basins of China. HSG and PetroChina will be working with the energy laboratories at Yangtze.

HSG also signed a Collaboration Agreement with Yangtze University to establish the "Yangtze University Harding Shelton Shale Gas Research Center". "Working with RIPED-Langfang and Yangtze University, HSG sees great potential to further define shale gas development opportunities for China," said Michael D. Burnaman, HSG President.

HSG joins two highly experienced oil and gas exploration and production companies offering technical expertise, business experience and strategic relationships. "HSG has international oil and gas operating experience, including shale gas development in the new fields of North America. Its Beijing office opened in May," said Wenwu Xia, HSG Chief Executive Officer.

HSG is comprised of Harding Energy Partners, LLC in Dallas and Harding & Shelton, Inc. in Oklahoma City. HEP initiated and led a successful Barnett Shale development joint venture with ExxonMobil from 2005 to 2008. H&S produces wells and owns pipeline and workover rig entities in Western Oklahoma. More information about HSG can be found at www.hsg-asia.com

In the attached photo:

Seated Left to Right: Wenwu Xia, CEO, Executive Vice President, Harding Shelton Group (HSG); Dr. Ning Ning, Vice President-Research Institute of Petroleum Exploration and Development (RIPED).

Standing Left to Right: Nick Wu, Financial Advisor, HSG; Jason Dunnington, Communications Director, HSG; Nathaniel Harding, Manager-Engineering Research, HSG;

Stephen D. Smith, Vice President-Operations, HSG; John Petropoulos, Vice President-Land and Development, HSG; Michael D. Burnaman, President, HSG; John Shelton, Chairman, HSG; Dr. Xinhua Ma, Vice President, E&D Company, PetroChina; Mr. Lei Huaiyu, Director of New Source Energy Department, E&D Company, PetroChina; Dr. Honglin Liu, Deputy Director of New Source Energy Department, RIPED; Mr. Delai Liu, Director of Science and Technology Department, PetroChina; Dr. Hongyan Wang, Director of New Source Energy Department, RIPED; Mr. Lianzhu Cong, Deputy Director of New Source Energy Department, E&D Company, PetroChina.

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