

THE PETROBRAS-UNICAMP PARTNERSHIP: A SUCCESSFUL CASE OF COOPERATION- BETWEEN PRODUCTIVE SECTOR AND UNIVERSITY

PEREIRA, N. M., SUSLICK, S., GOMES, E. Institute of Geosciences, State University of Campinas, Campinas, São Paulo, Brazil.

At the end of 80s Petrobras and Universidade Estadual de Campinas celebrated a cooperation programme in order to internalize in Brazil part of the capacitation efforts that were expended by the company abroad. The cooperation strategy was settled through the financial support of Petrobras allowing the establishment of a MSc course at UNICAMP on Petroleum Reservoir Geoengineering. In its beginning, the main goal of the programme was to qualify geologists and petroleum engineers of Petrobras exclusively and, later, students of different institutions were also accepted. For a small number of these students, Petrobras offered financial assistance in the form of scholarships. The role of the University included allocation of their petroleum faculties to conduct the programme, establishment of a Department of Petroleum Engineering, and an area on petroleum studies at the Institute of Geosciences and a Petroleum Studies Centre to manage the cooperation research and funds. After 10 years of this cooperation, 202 students had received their MSc degree. During this period Petrobras invested approximately US\$ 9 million. Notwithstanding the cooperation success, the changes in the Brazilian petroleum policy in 1997 launched a change in the cooperation strategy. Nowadays there is no specific budget for the course and the allocated funds depend upon the number of Petrobras students enrolled. However, the end of the original financial arrangement did not mean a barrier as one could expect. The experience and status acquired by Unicamp in petroleum industry has made possible to seek for other sources of financial support successfully.