

ASPO 10 Vienna 30 May 2012

10 years of ASPO: lessons learned

## **ASPO: Lessons learned: successes and challenges**

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### **Successes**

*Peak oil* = PO (not *Oil peak*)

Colin founded ASPO with 3 missions

Growth of ASPO started by geoscientists

Colin's newsletters Jan 2001-April 2009

Numerous ASPO Nationals

Peak oil is known worldwide = PO

Geology matters, like economy

Many ASPO publications with PO & decline

*Oil Depletion Protocol* adopted by some

Official forecasts often wrong due to politics

ASPO is also «*and gas*» since June 2003

### **Challenges**

It is not a peak, but a plateau

J. Schlesinger Cork =Victory, next goal?

Where is ASPO going? When Peak ASPO?

Towards more science or more better data or more politics?

No successor

No connection between ASPOs, no agreed collegial authority

Members of each ASPO National are few, far to be an army!

PO is again denied because unconventional

de Margerie TOTAL Adelaide 2012 “not a concern of reserves”

Poor explanation from ASPO on unconventional (Colin ch.743)

Confusion reserves (flow = size tap and not tank) and resources

Different definitions and values from ASPO members

Lack of request for consensus on oil & gas definitions

Lack of attacks on bad data= financial & political

Lack of request to report inaccuracy with data

Lack of ASPO real glossary = need of common language

No ASPO database = Colin's chapter 741 Sept 2006

Seems too theoretical to be applied in practice

No rules, no referees, no red cards in oil & gas industry

No *Peak gas* in this conference program against 6 on *Peak oil*

ASPO International Constitution draft sent by Roger Bentley on November 2007 (first draft in 2005)

4. *The mission of ASPO International is defined as follows:*

- (a) *To support evaluations of the world's endowment and definition of oil and gas.*
- (b) *To support studies of depletion, taking due account of economics, demand, technology and politic.*
- (c) *To raise awareness of the serious consequences that depletion of oil and gas has for Mankind.*
- (d) *The actions of ASPO International should be based on science.*
- (e) *ASPO International should not make political statements.*

The final version January 2008 did not include such missions (d) and (e), but replaced by

(d) *To serve as a united international voice for all national ASPO organisations in questions related to fossil resources and their depletion.*

but was announcing a Charter

Colin's newsletter from 1 to 100 mentioned only the first 3 missions.

The dedicated website [www.peakoil.net](http://www.peakoil.net) does not show any constitution, it indicates:

*ASPO is a network of scientists, affiliated with institutions and universities, having an interest in determining the date and impact of the peak and decline of the world's production of oil and gas, due to resource constraints.*

*ASPO's mission is to:*

*Define and evaluate the world's endowment of oil and gas;*

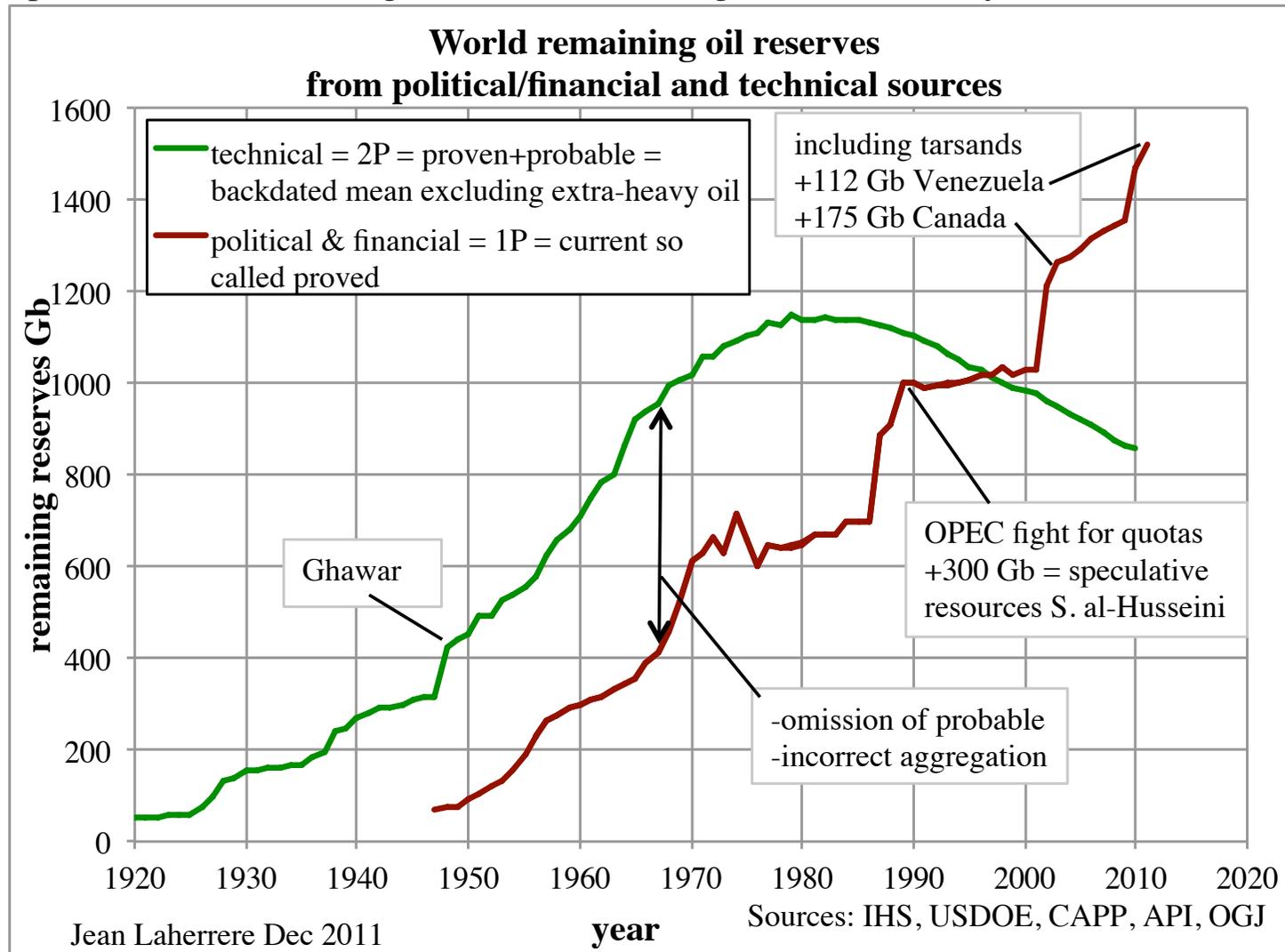
*Model depletion, taking due account of demand, economics, technology and politics;*

*Raise awareness of the serious consequences for Mankind.*

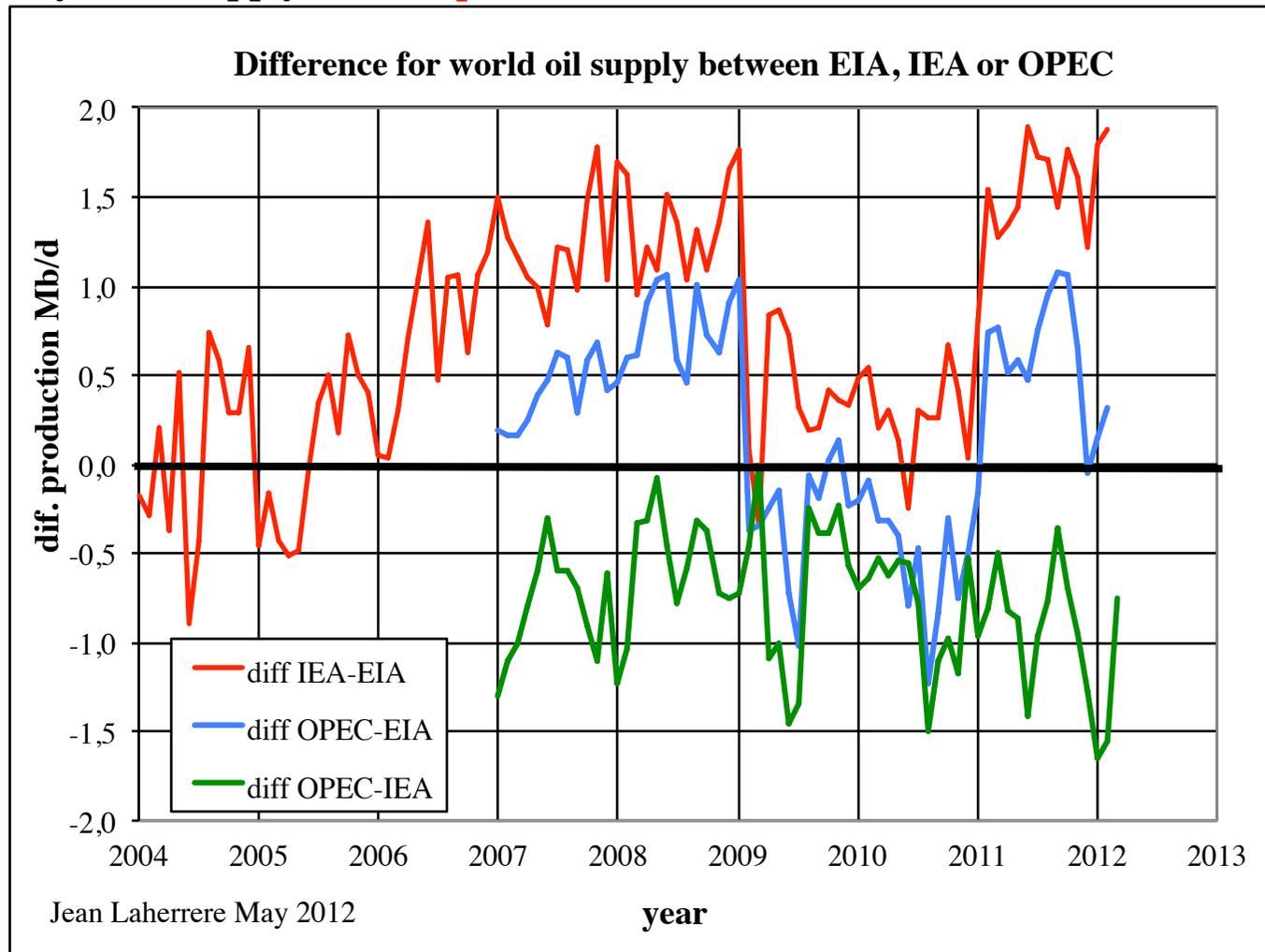
Under those definitions I have just discovered I does not belong to ASPO, being not affiliated with institutions or universities! However in the release 11 April of ASPO 2012 I was quoted as Co-Founder of ASPO!

I have drawn many graphs in the past, which are the best?

The best one is about the world remaining reserves from public political/financial sources and from confidential technical sources (already in the 1998 paper “The end of cheap oil”), explaining why the economists, using the only available political/financial wrong data, cannot think right and could deny the PO

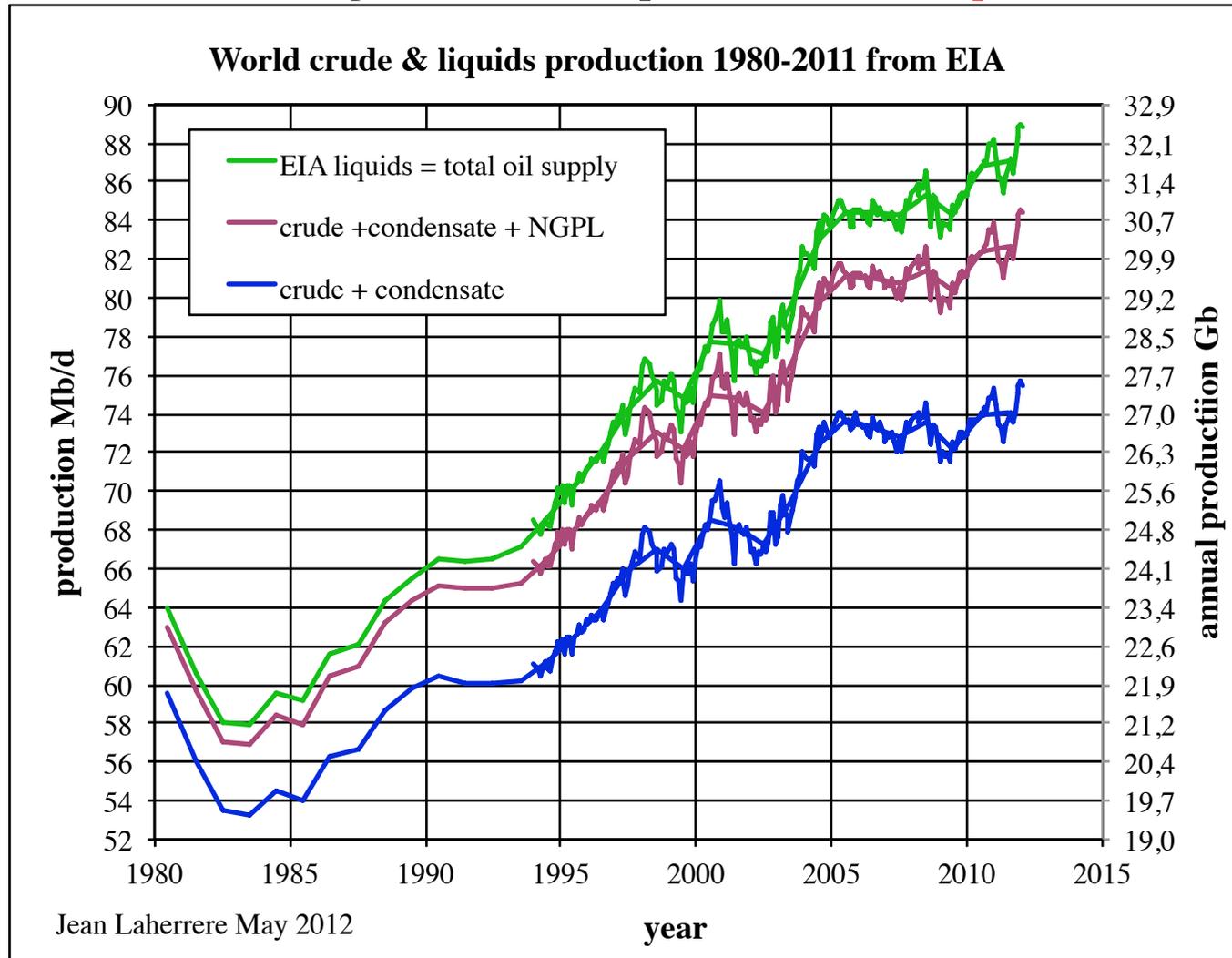


The second most important graph is the difference on **oil supply** from EIA, IEA and OPEC  
The discrepancy on oil supply is about **plus or minus 2 Mb/d**



The third one is the oil production from EIA source showing that **since 2005**:

- the oil supply is on a **plateau of 86 Mb/d plus or minus 2 Mb/d** which is the uncertainty of the measure
- the crude oil and condensate production is on a **plateau of 74 Mb/d plus or minus 2 Mb/d**



It is difficult to speak about a peak when it is a plateau

## Conclusions

Since 2001, the study of the peak oil and gas, with many conferences, debates and articles, has been accomplished by few individuals. *Peak Oil* is now well known, but still denied by many.

The lack of reliable data and the uncertainty of any reserves estimate prevent a clear conclusion of any study.

The past forecasts on oil & gas production and prices from official agencies were poor.

In comparison ASPO studies look much better, but far to be perfect because often heterogeneous.

In the last 10 years of ASPO work, there have been many successes, but also many failures, the main one being the lack of finding a consensus on definitions and establishing rules with an agreed ASPO glossary.

The birth of many ASPO Nationals was a sign of a need to study the energy future in each country. It was good to start independently (spontaneous generation!) free of any rules, but the gathering is now lacking.

Working together needs rules, referees and red cards like in any sport.

ASPO Nationals work separately, without any straight communication. In the past the link was Colin's newsletter, but it is gone since April 2009, more than two years.

The list of National ASPO Groups is incomplete, missing ASPO Austria!

ASPO has to evolve, in particular after the retirement of Colin, needing better and more defined links.

The three missions of ASPO are been well covered, but like the half glass of beer shown by Colin, the goal can be seen as half full or half empty.

I do not know where ASPO is going and I am worry.

The world is in deep financial crisis hoping on growth to solve it.

But the end of cheap energy needs a new way of life.

The present situation in Europe shows that the message is not yet fully understood.

Many believe in miracles, in particular plenty of cheap energy, allowing growing consumption for ever.