Geologist: Access to energy key to ending global poverty

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OKLAHOMA CITY Access to all forms of energy, including fossil fuels, is key to ending global poverty, Scott Tinker, a geologist known forhis narration ofan acclaimed documentary about global energy production, said Monday at Oklahoma City University.

Tinker, the director of the **Bureau of Economic Geology** at the University of Texas at Austin and the state geologist of Texas, discussed the effects of “energy poverty,” or lack of access to energy, that occurs in many developing countries.

He said 1 billion people in the world do not have access to electricity, while 2.7 billion are cooking without clean solutions.

“One-third of the world living in energy poverty is not sustainable,” Tinker said. “There’s a correlative relationship. The paradox of all this is energy won’t end poverty, but you can’t end poverty without energy. So it’s the beginning, but it still has to happen in order for it to end.”

Tinker compares electricity and gas usage between countries, including Kenya, which ranks lower due to energy poverty, Tinker said.

Access to energy is necessary to grow the economy, improve birthrates and education, and reduce hunger, among other things, he said.

“These things are linked; you can’t separate energy, the economy and the environment,” Tinker said.

Tinker said discussions and nonpartisan education about energy sources and data are important to reducing energy poverty and decreasing environmental impacts of nonrenewable forms of energy.

He discussed Switch Energy Alliance, a nonprofit he formed that creates short videos, movies and more to promote education about energy and challenges associated with it.

“The transition to massively reduce energy poverty is doable in a few decades," Tinker said.

He said discussions about energy often focus on downsides, ignoring the positive aspects.

“There is one atmosphere," Tinker said. "Zero emissions is political, it’s not real, unless you don’t use power or fuel or clothing or cellphones or homes or cars."

Tinker argued that while the cost per unit of renewable energy has gone down, it is not less than other forms. Also, when panels and turbines are no longer usable, they need to be disposed of, shifting the environmental impact.

“When you have energy that is affordable and reliable, you’re going to use it," he said. "We’ve got to figure out how to clean it up.”

Tinker said the environmental impact of oil and natural gas is significant, but is getting better, addingthat they are necessary forms of energy.

“You’ll hear climate change is the most important issue of the time, and fossil fuels are the problem. It’s true," Tinker said. "You’ll hear poverty is the biggest issue and fossil fuels are the solution. It’s true.

“You can’t get out of poverty without large-scale energy. Coal, natural gas, nuclear, petroleum.”

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Subsurface Research; Findings from University of Texas at Austin Update Understanding of Subsurface Research (Investigation of Seismic Attributes, Depositional Environments, and Hydrocarbon Sweet-spot Distribution In the Serbin Field, Taylor Formation, Southeast ...)

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2019 APR 26 (NewsRx) -- By a News Reporter-Staff News Editor at Science Letter -- Investigators publish new report on Subsurface Research. According to news reporting from Austin, Texas, by NewsRx journalists, research stated, "We have conducted seismic-attribute analysis at the Serbin field - in an area straddling Lee, Fayette, and Bastrop Counties and covering approximately 56 mi(2) (approximately 90 km(2)) - using new, reprocessed, 3D seismic data to provide additional understanding of depositional environments and better predict the distribution of hydrocarbon sweet spots. We converted the 3D seismic volume into a log-lithology volume and integrated core data to examine the distribution of lithology and interpret depositional environments."

Financial support for this research came from State of Texas Advanced Oil and Gas Resource Recovery (STARR) program at the **Bureau of Economic Geology**.

The news correspondents obtained a quote from the research from the University of Texas at Austin, "By conducting multiattribute analysis, we predicted resistivity (deep-induction log) volume and generated a resistivity map to identify hydrocarbon sweet spots. Our results show that reservoir sandstones in the Serbin field are storm-dominated, shelf-sand deposits. Although individual sandstone beds are lenticular and discontinuous, they collectively constitute a sheet-like geometry, trending northeast to southwest. On the basis of resistivity maps and rock property versus seismic-amplitude crossplots, we differentiated reservoirs in the lower Taylor Formation into two zones: (1) a northwest, high-resistivity, high-acoustic impedance zone and (2) a southeast, low-resistivity, low-acoustic impedance zone. The results also indicated that hydrocarbon sweet spots in the Serbin field are characterized by high resistivity and high impedance."

According to the news reporters, the research concluded: "Furthermore, the log-lithology method, although fast and effective, is limited because it cannot take into account sandstone zones having low acoustic impedance."

For more information on this research see: Investigation of Seismic Attributes, Depositional Environments, and Hydrocarbon Sweet-spot Distribution In the Serbin Field, Taylor Formation, Southeast Texas. Interpretation, 2019;7(1):T49-T66. Interpretation can be contacted at: Soc Exploration Geophysicists, 8801 S Yale St, Tulsa, OK 74137, USA. (Sage Publications - www.sagepub.com/; Interpretation - int.sagepub.com)

Our news journalists report that additional information may be obtained by contacting O.C. Ogiesoba, University of Texas - Austin, Bur Econ Geol, Austin, TX 78712, United States. Additional authors for this research include W.A. Ambrose and R.G. Loucks.

Keywords for this news article include: Austin, Texas, United States, North and Central America, Subsurface Research, Hydrocarbons, Organic Chemicals, University of Texas at Austin.

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