

General Theme 6

6.10

Oil resources in tight rock and shale are likely to be the next major liquid petroleum source to sustain

global economic development. The recent successful exploration and development of oil from tight fine-grained clastics and shale oils in the United States has drawn major interest in the characterization of the resource and global assessment of this new resource play. The tight clastic and shale oil pay in China is quite different from that in North America as it is primarily present and developed from various continental basin settings. In 2015, the global tight oil production reached 1.6 billion barrels. Over the last decade, there was significant discoveries of unconventional oil plays in a number of basins in China with a proven geological reserve of 88.2 billion barrels and a recoverable resource of 8.4 billion barrels. Currently, the annual production of tight oil in China amounts to 10 million barrels, becoming the fastest-growing national liquid petroleum play.

This special session will consist of but not limited to research papers on various aspects of unconventional tight oil plays in China. The papers are expected to be published in a special issue of the Journal Asian Earth Science on tight and shale oils in Chinese continental basins