



## **Replenishment of hydrocarbon resources in Tatarstan: doomed areas promise brighter prospects**

**R. Kh. Muslimov**

Kazan State University (nkhristo@ksu.ru/+7(8432)924454)

Regarding petroleum development, Tatarstan is believed to have been thoroughly explored. In 2004, the Republic will produce more than 30M tons of oil. This production level has been possible to achieve through the use of innovation technique of drilling, production and development as well as the up-to-date methods of enhancing oil recovery (EOR). The Republic of Tatarstan is the richest in oil among the regions of the Russian Volga-Urals oil province. Its oil reserves are characterized by 26 proven and 6 promising oil and gas bearing stratigraphic horizons, 96 oil fields consisting of more than 2,800 accumulations, and around 150 bitumen deposits. In the depletion stage of petroleum development, with the hard-to-access hydrocarbons making about 80 percent of total reserves, major growth of oil production is supposed to result from the most recent exploration. Close attention paid in Tatarstan to retaining the amount of recoverable natural resources has been rewarded by a growth in oil production. Potential reserves of oil have also grew by 21 percent during the last decade. In contrast to the above data, deficiency in the production of liquid hydrocarbons in Russia during the period of market reforms has reached 1.3B tones of oil and 2.8 trillion m<sup>3</sup> of gas. In Tatarstan an oil production rate is 1.7 times higher than that in Russia as a whole, an increase in total reserves exceeding production. An increase in production rate at major fields of the region in late stages of their development was possible to reach by both conventional approaches, such as more detailed exploration that nowadays plays a major role in oil production, and unconventional methods. The available reserves should be replenished both through the EOR and conventional exploration methods.