



# ARAB-BRITISH TRADE DIRECTORY 2015-16

الدليل التجاري العربي البريطاني

*"40 years in business for business"*



# Amina BENKHADRA

## ONHYM's General Director

### Interview



**Q ONHYM is the Morocco's mineral and hydrocarbons company. What is your organization's history?**

The National Office of Hydrocarbons and Mines (ONHYM) was established on 17 August 2005 by the merger of the Bureau of Research and Mining Participations (BRPM) and the National Office for Research and Petroleum Explorations (ONAREP).

Since their inception in 1928 for the BRPM and in 1981 for the ONAREP, these two organizations have been pioneers and leaders in Morocco in their respective fields and have benefited from a high reputation among international operators: expertise in research, production and processing of mineral substances and hydrocarbons, relationships and partnerships with operators and investors.

**Q We note in recent years a growing interest of oil companies for Morocco. What is the current situation of oil exploration in Morocco?**

For nearly a decade, oil companies have a growing interest for our sedimentary basins due to its underexplored potential. This enthusiasm for exploration in our country has also been boosted by the attractive new hydrocarbons Code enacted in 2000.

ONHYM continues to make efforts to encourage and intensify oil exploration of sedimentary basins Moroccans.

International experts from companies operating in the Moroccan onshore and offshore agree to describe it as potential favorable region to the accumulation of Hydrocarbon.

ONHYM's Partners, based on the encouraging results of geological and geophysical evaluations undertaken on their licenses, both onshore and offshore, continue their programs. Today, the most advanced in terms of exploration areas will be wells.

**ONHYM has signed several agreements with foreign companies. Today 34 international oil companies, including majors, independent and Super Independents, currently operating in different regions of Morocco both offshore and onshore.**

Thus, many studies of geophysical acquisition, analysis and geology studies were performed on several onshore as offshore basins of the Kingdom. The interpretation of these data has been evaluated the oil potential of these regions allowing further research investigations.

The year 2014 will be marked by the realization of more than 15 drills and by a significant investment: 5 billion dirhams (In 2013, the partners have invested \$ 2.3 billion dirhams).

**Q What is the current situation of the non- conventional hydrocarbons exploration?**

**Regarding non-conventional hydrocarbons,** Morocco has a huge potential for oil shale. The two main deposits are located in Timahdit and Tarfaya. Other deposits are located in areas of the Rif, Middle Atlas, Souss, Tadla, Essaouira and Errachidia.

With this potential, Morocco is ranked sixth after United States, Russia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Brazil and Italy.

ONHYM has signed agreements with oil companies to test processes: Timahdit and Tarfaya with San Leon Energy and Taqa.

**For shale gas,** our regional geology is extremely favorable for the exploration and development. ( Tadla/Hauts Plateaux/ Doukkala/Boudnib/Assa) – Negotiations on way with Anadarko and REPSOL)

Morocco has a prominent place in Africa regarding its potential with the Paleozoic sedimentary basins. The topic of shale gas opens up new prospects for hydrocarbon exploration in Morocco, in areas where research was traditionally oriented on conventional hydrocarbons.

**Q What are the highlights of your Mining Policy?**

ONHYM conducts strategic exploration in the whole kingdom by itself or through partnership. It has been involved in the discovery of almost all mines in Morocco

With a mining history during which several important discoveries have been made and experience gained, ONHYM is open to all association or partnership with domestic and international operators to explore and/or develop economically exploitable mining businesses.

ONHYM regularly relinquishes to the private sector, in the form of international invitation to tender, prospects that it highlights with a view to their development and their exploitation.

**Q Could you give us some examples of ongoing partnerships ?**

Actually, about thirty national and international partners are operating in different projects MANAGEM (Morocco), TOLSA (Spain) on industrial minerals, and METALEX MAYA GOLD SILVER (Canada), respectively on the base metals and precious metals, the Australian Kasbah RESOURCES on gold and tin, Archean Group (gold), Newmont (copper, silver), Garrot Chaillac (manganese, fluorine) SANC (zircon).



ONHYM

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