

OPITO signs agreement with Indonesian Government



David Doig

A landmark agreement has been reached as Scottish skills and training body OPITO strikes a major deal with the Indonesian government.

OPITO chief executive David Doig has signed a document to establish a competence standards framework for the country's offshore workforce. Menurut Moedjiman, chairman of the Indonesian Professional Certification Authority, signed the agreement on behalf of the government during a visit to the UK on September 25.

From January 2008, the agreement will see thousands of Indonesian workers trained to the globally-recognised OPITO technical and emergency response standards for the first time. The Indonesian industry in turn will benefit from the robust quality assured training and competence environment provided by the OPITO standard.

It is the latest in a string of overseas deals for the Aberdeen-based organisation and evidence of the widening respect with which it is

held. Most recently, OPITO entered into a partnership agreement to establish a similar agreement in Thailand. Talks are also underway with the Mexican government to develop a standards and qualifications framework for their oil and gas workers.

"This is another significant achievement for OPITO as the Indonesian government holds the mandate for training throughout all Indonesian waters," said Mr Doig.

"Our hope is that it will influence the wider region and see the same high level of OPITO safety training for offshore workers which already operates in more than 20 countries around the globe introduced in other key oil and gas provinces across south-east Asia.

The standards will require the offshore workforce in Indonesia to complete a training course based on the OPITO Basic Offshore Safety Induction & Emergency Training (BOSIET) standard before travelling offshore and other more specialist standards as the development programs are fully implemented. The agreement will also establish a high quality technical training supply chain in Indonesia which will enable the indigenous workforce to be trained and qualified to the highest technical standards for offshore workers. ■