

Tako Koning is Holland-born and Canada-raised, with a B.Sc. in Geology (1971) from the University of Alberta and a B.A in Economics (1981) from the University of Calgary. He has been a CEGA member for 48 years since joining in 1975. He began his working life as a mud-logger for two years offshore Newfoundland before continuing with oil and gas exploration and development for Texaco in western Canada.

Most of his 45 working years were spent overseas in Indonesia, Nigeria, and Angola. During his time working in West Africa, Tako collected geology textbooks and other educational publications while visiting Canada. He would then transport and donate these items to universities in Nigeria and Angola. This was part of his major “Books for West Africa” project.

Tako became extremely interested in basement reservoirs since working on an oil pool in fractured and weathered basement in Sumatra, Indonesia. He has published extensively about basement reservoirs, and presented at conventions, conferences and symposiums worldwide. In addition, he is the author or co-author of over 200 technical papers, abstracts or articles focused on geology, oil and gas subjects, and more recently on paleontology and the global energy transition. He has given presentations at over 20 locations in North and South America, Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and Europe.

Now partially retired and back in Canada, Tako has continued his professional life, with membership in many technical societies: APEGA, CSPG, CSEG, APS, AAPG, SPE and AWA. He still attends and presents papers at many conventions, most recently three papers at GeoConvention 2023 and URTeC 2023 in Argentina. He continues to lead his annual “Tyndall Stone tour” for the CEGA and his annual field trip to the K/Pg mass extinction boundary near Huxley, Alberta. Another annual field trip is for the Alberta Wilderness Association and is focused on orphan oil and gas wells, environmental geology, and glacial geomorphology. Extra-curricular activities as a volunteer include contributions to the Rosedale Community Association and serving as a board member for the Calgary Justice Film Festival. Since 2001 he has been a member on the International Advisory Board, Africa Oil + Gas Report, Lagos, Nigeria.

Tako volunteered with the CSPG International Division from 1988 – 1992 and the CSPG’s Visiting Petroleum Geologist program from 1989 - 1992.

For his volunteering and community involvement Tako was awarded the 1991 CSPG Tracks Award; 1994 Honorary Life Membership in the Nigerian Association of Petroleum Explorationists; 1999 Nigerian-Canadian Associations’ Humanitarian Award, 2007 Regional Service Award for Africa from the Society of Petroleum Engineers; 2008 Alumni Honor Award from the University of Alberta; 2010 Public Service Award from the American Association of Petroleum Geologists; and in 2022 the Great Gray Owl Award from the Alberta Wilderness Association.

Tako continues to demonstrate his life-long dedication to CEGA and the national and international geoscience community. He has represented his country and the geoscience profession both at home and around the world making significant technical and humanitarian contributions.