

INTERVIEWS

A Comprehensive Study on Environmental Impacts of Offshore Platforms Abandonment and Decommissioning in Malaysia

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An interview was conducted with a professional key person attached closely to Oil Rigs Operation in an international company who wants to remain unanimous to get a deeper insight into the discontinuation of Oil Rigs in Malaysia. The participant in an open-ended interview highlights the beginning of Malaysia's decommissioning regulations, which lacked many of the expected criteria because there are only a few fixed offshore platforms in the country's waters that have been decommissioned without a well-established localised regulatory framework. Based on the interview with the professional engineer who had extensive experience in the oil and gas fields, Malaysia's decommissioning laws are not as mature compared to other countries, such as the North Sea UK and New Zealand, has stringent regulations. He also recommended that Malaysia follow examples from these countries because they critically consider public perception, and their lawmakers empower other agencies to monitor, control, and enforce regulations during decommissioning. For instance, Environment Protection Authority Te Mana Rauhi Taiao provided that New Zealand's decommissioning plans must first be accepted by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) before consent can be obtained for activities required for decommissioning in their field. Also, their decommissioning plans and regulations are subjected to public consultation before being accepted, as seen in the Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects Decommissioning Plans) Regulations 2021. This approach is lacking from the Malaysian perspective of decommissioning and abandonment practice.

Interviews and Expert Opinions: Insights and Ethics in Research

Interviews and expert opinions are essential in research, offering unique insights and detailed perspectives that enrich a study. Researchers gain valuable information often unavailable through secondary sources or broad surveys by directly engaging with individuals. These methods allow an in-depth understanding of specific contexts, behaviours, and motivations.

Details of the Process

Interviews involve structured or semi-structured questions for participants selected for their expertise or relevance to the study. Expert opinions lend credibility by providing informed perspectives, often highlighting practical challenges and implications that complement theoretical research.

Ethical Considerations

Research ethics are critical when conducting interviews. Participants' privacy, confidentiality, and consent must be prioritised to protect their rights and dignity. Informed consent should be obtained, and anonymity ensured unless otherwise agreed. Avoiding biases or leading questions is essential to preserving the integrity of the data collected. Ethical practices build trust, enabling honest communication and reliable results.

In conclusion, when ethically conducted, interviews and expert opinions provide valuable insights that bridge theory and practice, significantly enhancing the quality and impact of research.

"Green energy represents our best hope for creating a fair and equitable economy that addresses historical injustices while safeguarding our planet."



**Van Jones,
Environmental
Justice Advocate**