

## **Coalbed methane technology transfer**

Wardell Armstrong, a company from the United Kingdom, recently concluded a 12-month project to promote the development of commercial coalbed methane (CBM) in China. The focus of this project was to develop methods for identifying favourable virgin CBM sites and enhance the productivity of surface wells in mining areas. The novel CBM technology involves capturing methane gas from coal deposits and bringing it to the surface for use as an energy source.

China's coal reserves are estimated to have the potential for 30 billion m<sup>3</sup> of methane. More than 200 surface wells were drilled and tested, yielding methane flows up to 16,000 m<sup>3</sup>/d. The gas output from successful wells was typically in the range of 2,000-5,000 m<sup>3</sup>/d. Advanced computer modelling techniques have been demonstrated that could be utilized to improve the design and consequently methane capture performance of surface wells. *Contact: Wardell Armstrong, Lancaster Building, High Street, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffs, ST5 1PQ, the United Kingdom. Tel: +44 (1782) 612 626; Fax: +44 (1782) 662 882; E-mail: cwbrown@wardell-armstrong.com; Website: <http://www.wardell-armstrong.com>.*