
Pedro Zalan



Pedro Victor Zalán is a Brazilian geologist that had 34 years and 3 months of experience in the petroleum industry working for Petrobras from 1978 to 2012. At his sole employment, Zalán started as a wellsite geologist in the Amazonian jungle and worked his way up through all positions available for a geologist in a petroleum company.

After receiving his Ph.D. from the Colorado School of Mines in 1985, Zalán began his career as an explorationist at the company's headquarters in Rio de Janeiro. He explored for petroleum in all sedimentary basins in Brazil and in all basins explored by Petrobras throughout the world. During this period, Zalán was also heavily engaged in training for 25 years, by teaching several internal courses in the area of seismic interpretation, structural geology, tectonophysics, basin analysis, risk analysis and exploration in deep and ultradeep waters to several generations of geologists and geophysicists of the company. He also managed teams of explorationists in domestic and international exploration. In the last twelve years Zalán held positions of internal consultant.

As Senior Consultant of the company he helped to create, managed and took part in technical peer review teams that analyzed and judged all the exploratory prospects drilled by Petrobras, domestic and abroad. He also co-authored the development of proprietary artificial intelligence software (SIPLEX) that is nowadays fundamental in the geological and risk analysis of prospects and leads. He published dozens of technical papers and gave numerous presentations in international meetings and symposia. Zalán was awarded by AAPG with the Gabriel Dengo Memorial Award, by SBG with the Orville Derby Gold Medal and by ABGP with the Giuseppe Bacoccoli Award.