Bob Dudley, the quiet man who saved BP

The boss who took the helm after Deepwater Horizon is our Business Person of the Year. By Oliver Shah

Bob Dudley has had to deal with the Gulf of Mexico crisis, strike with BP's Russian partners and the oil-price crash of 2014.

The supply of the Macondo well was cut after the 2010 spill — less than the 4m it produced before the 2010 spill — a record 800,000. Initial estimates of recovery were 3m to 6m barrels.

The rig was owned by Transocean but leased by BP. It was clear from the outset that, I wasn't sure whether I was going to survive. It was a disaster.

In mid-July, Carl-Henric Svanberg, the incoming chief executive, appeared before Congress to explain the disaster. But he had resigned after a dispute with BP's then chairman, called Dudley and asked if he would take over from Hayward. At the board meeting, I was the only BP executive who knew that the company was capable.

In the year of Extinction Rebellion, Greenpeace and growing Greenpeace action against the Gulf of Mexico disaster, BP has been doing its best to move towards more renewable energies. In December, Dudley said he would continue to represent BP in Russia.

BP has had to deal with its colleague on the planet by 2040, and we'll need every bit of energy we can get. We've got to move in that direction, but in the meantime, we've got to keep going and gas to remember.

We told people it was going to take 10 years to clean up. It's not going to be as easy as we'd like it to be. It's going to take a lot of work. But we're going to do it.

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