lan Phillips has over 30 years' experience in the upstream oil and gas industry, including 18 years with oil operating companies (Shell, BP, Marathon and Ramco) and 6 years with a major service company (Halliburton). He worked up from being a reservoir engineer involved in exploration and field development projects to being a Project Director responsible for full field development programmes.

In 2007 he became a founding Director of CO2DeepStore Limited, one of the first companies specifically seeking to provide the service of CO₂ capture, transportation and deep geological storage to alleviate the worst effects of climate change.

In September 2014 he became Chief Executive of OGIC – the Oil and Gas Innovation Centre – a Scottish government backed research funding agency that is entirely demand-led. OGIC provides grants to support company-led research and development in Scottish Universities.

Ian is a Director of the Aberdeen Section of the Society of Petroleum Engineers and of Young Enterprise in Grampian.

He obtained an M.Eng. in Petroleum Engineering from Heriot Watt University in 1983, and an MBA through the Open University in 1994. He is also a Fellow of the UK Energy Institute and is a Chartered Petroleum Engineer.