



**8th Biennial International Conference
& Exposition on Petroleum Geophysics**



P-429

Industry -Academia cooperation: Societies play a hinge role

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Summary

The tremendous growth of oil industry has thrown upon many new challenges. The growing energy demand has pushed the frontiers forward. The new technologies have not been able to cope up with the emerging challenges. Therefore alignment of forces, organizations, new technologies are order of the day. A major alignment is increasing cooperation between the Industry and academia which has been greatly facilitated by the professional scientific societies/associations. These societies have emerged to play the hinge role in bringing the Industry and Academia together.

The industrial organizations have a mandate and therefore their organizational objectives are directed towards commercial sustainability and profit motives. This directs their action more towards applied aspects of science than the pure science itself. Whereas the academic institutions find themselves comfortable with getting students educated with standard curriculum, predominantly unrelated to the needs of industry and more focussed on academic needs. It may be pertinent to note that industry need help of basic science and Academia needs the industrial training, data and experience to be at par.

There is no structured system existing or prevailing for such cooperation. Realizing the need and significance of this cooperation Societies have come to fore to play a hinge role with an ultimate objective to bring a congruence between Academic and Industrial investigations. Issue arises as to how to develop a model which could be considered as best fit for both as well as timeworthy. The paper analyses various models of cooperation and examples in Indian context to bring out the relevance of the subject.