

Revisiting the SPG Conference “Hyderabad 2012”...

The Society of Petroleum Geophysicists, India (SPG) organised its 9th International Conference and Exposition on Petroleum Geophysics during February 16-18, 2012 at Hyderabad International Convention Centre (HICC), Hyderabad. The biennial event of SPG, 'Hyderabad 2012' was supported by SEG USA and EAGE Netherlands.

Presently, Global E&P companies are facing great challenges and striving hard to meet the rising demand with declining production from existing matured/ageing fields and further big commercial discoveries are eluding them. In this current scenario, the theme of the conference, 'Reservoir Grade 3D API-Exploration to Exploitation' is aptly justified.

The conference turned out to be the major geophysical event in India with more than 2300 delegates across the globe. In addition to a very well attended exposition and technical program, there were many exclusive programs for students' viz. Students' Quiz, Students' Forum & Quest and for the first time National level Quiz and Debate for school going students was organized.

The conference was inaugurated on February 16, 2012 by Mr Sudhir Vasudeva, C & MD, ONGC group of companies & Patron-in-Chief SPG, alongwith other dignitaries like Dr. Ganesh Thakur, President, SPE, 2012,

Dr. Craig J Beasley, Former President SEG, Mr. S V Rao, Director (Exploration), ONGC & Patron SPG, and Mr. Apurba Saha, President SPG, Mr. A.K. Arya, Vice President SPG were present during the inauguration.

Welcoming the distinguished guests and delegates, Mr. Saha, gave a brief overview of the conference and emphasized the initiatives taken by the society in promoting geosciences amongst the students of Indian Universities and also bring awareness of 'Earth Sciences' amongst school children so as to pursue them as their professional career. He said that the theme of the conference dwells on in-depth understanding of petroleum systems so that the E&P industry can design exploration & exploitation strategies. Looking at the future, he said that today's geoscience students are the future India's Special Protection Group (SPG), hence SPG makes all out efforts to impart professional edge to the Geoscience students.

The Society conferred 'B S Negi Convention Gold Medal' to Mr. Ananda Gopal Pramanik for his commendable lifetime contribution in the field of Petroleum Geophysics in India and to the society, in particular. The society also conferred Lifetime Honorary Membership Awards to five eminent geoscientists including Prof Mrinal Sen of University of Texas, Austin.



Dignitaries on the Dais inaugurating the Conference and Exposition by lighting of lamp.

The conference was the largest so far in terms of the technical content too. The technical programme spanned through 32 technical sessions and 5 poster sessions spread over three days.

A wide range of topics like Seismic API, Non-Seismic Methods, Advanced Methods for reservoir characterization, Advances in imaging, Velocity modeling & depth imaging, Alternate energy resources, Energy Security, Project Management in E & P companies and many more were covered by distinguished speakers from India and abroad.

A total of 285 technical papers (including 56 technical papers from abroad) were presented in the conference. Out of 285, 129 were oral and 156 poster presentations. The poster session was inaugurated by Dr Ganesh Thakur, President, SPE, 2012.

Another highlight of the rich technical content of the conference was the pre & post conference courses under continuing education programs. A total of 27 courses conducted at different locations. Besides, the SEG/EAGE Distinguished Lecture Program (DLP) and Honorary Lecture Program (HLP) for 2012 were also arranged at Hyderabad during the Conference.

Yet another special event under the technical programme was a joint session of Indian Associated Societies, viz., SPG, APG, SPE and SPWLA on February 18, 2012. Four speakers representing different societies put forth their ideas on “Role of Society to E&P Industry & Academic Institute for mitigating Exploration/Exploitation Challenges”.



Prof. Mrinal Sen addressing during joint session

The session was seen as an indicator of greater co-operation amongst the Societies.

The Exposition an integral part of conference, had grown bigger over the years. It was a spectacular display by E&P companies, Service Providers and professional societies. Along with the displays by professional societies like SEG, EAGE, ASEG, APG, SPWLA and Petrotech, more than 50 E&P companies showcased their products, new technologies and solutions to various E&P challenges.

The other events “Global Affairs Committee” (GAC) meet was attended by Dr. Ganesh Thakur, President SPE, Dr Nadar Dutta SEG representative from USA, Mr. Marcel van Loon from EAGE and Yogaani Bhatiya from SEG, USA, Mr



Mr Vasudeva inaugurating the exposition



Global Affairs Committee (GAC) in progress

Apurba Saha president SPG and Mr K M Shukla, Secretary from SPG_India on February 17, 2012. The discussion was focused on technology.

Mr. Saha put forward a proposal to all the representatives of other leading professional society to conduct a joint workshop on technology specific issue of wide interest to geoscientists and technocrats in India and other neighboring countries. It was agreed upon by all and it was decided to prepare basic frame work of the workshop for mutual discussion and suggestion. The workshop is slotted to end of February/March 2013 where SPG India will be organizer and other societies will be the main participant. It was also decided that SPG would forward the framework by February end, 2012 and each society will intimate their decisions by June, 2012 to make the workshop happen.

The Students' Quiz, which is incidentally the inspiration behind SEG Challenge Bowl, was as exciting as ever. Total 12 team participated from different universities/institutes this year. National level quiz and debate was organized first for school students and more than 300 school students participated in the conference.

Sharing views on the conference, President SPE and Former President SEG, were impressed by good quality exhibition, high quality technical sessions and total structure & organization of the event including adherence to the time schedule. They described the conference as a world class and terrific successful.

“Hyderabad 2012” has been indeed a land mark event and a forerunner of the growth of Petroleum Geophysics in India”.