

## **Minutes of the SPG-NA meeting @ SEG 2011, San Antonio**

SPG North America's meeting during SEG 2011 was held on the 20<sup>th</sup> of September 2011 at Bombay Hall Indian Cuisine in San Antonio, TX

### **AGENDA:**

The following things were the agenda for the meeting:

1. Dinner, networking.
2. SPGNA awards announcement for 2010.
3. Recognizing SPG-NA partial support to an Indian student to attend SEG-2011.
4. Updates on SPGNA: i) SPGNA is affiliated with GSH, ii) working on special issue on shale gas for Geohorizons, iii) donation, iv) web update.

### **MINUTES:**

1. The meeting started with the dinner and networking event over good Indian food at Bombay Hall restaurant.
2. President of SPGNAM, Dr. Dhananjay Kumar updated the gathering about the recent developments:
  - a. SPGNA has signed memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Geophysical society of Houston (GSH). One of the benefits to SPGNA under this MOU is that SPG-NA fund will be kept under GSH (a non-profit organization registered in USA) and donors will receive tax benefits in USA.
  - b. Dr. Dhananjay Kumar also suggested members of SPG-NA to liberally contribute to SPGNA fund. He also mentioned about the donation matching programs in many corporations and requested the members to make use of it.
  - c. The Q1 meeting was held at University of Houston campus on the 26<sup>th</sup> of March 2011 and Q2 meeting was held at Rice University campus on the 16<sup>th</sup> of July 2011.
  - d. Dhananjay also mentioned about the SPG conference in India to be held in Hyderabad during 16-18 February 2012 and suggested SPGNA members to attend the conference during the same time.
3. Upcoming meetings:
  - a. Discussions about the picnic in Austin on 22<sup>nd</sup> of October, 2011. The members are please requested to see their emails for details about the upcoming picnic.
  - b. A meeting during AGU will be held in San Francisco on the 7<sup>th</sup> of December 2011 and a request was made out for all the SPGNA members attending AGU to attend the same.

4. Awards ceremony: In order to recognize achievements among SPGNA members, two awards were given during the meeting starting this year.
  - a. Technical achievement award: The technical achievement award for 2010 went to Dr. Samik Sil of ConocoPhillips. Dr. Samik Sil graduated from UT Austin with a PhD under the guidance of Dr. Mrinal Sen. He has been working for ConocoPhillips as a research geophysicist. Dr. Mrinal Sen gave the award.
  - b. Best member award: The best member award for 2010 for active involvement in the activities of SPG North America went to Dr. Dhananjay Kumar. Dhananjay graduated from UT Austin with a PhD under the guidance of Dr. Mrinal Sen and Dr. Paul Stoffa. He has been working for Chevron Corporation since 2005. Dr. Abhijit Gangopadhyay who is the chairman for the award informed the group that the choice to award Dr. Dhananjay Kumar was a unanimous decision owing to Dhananjay's hardwork in making the organization quite successful.
  
5. Student travel grant award: The student travel grant award for 2011 went to Mr. Puneet Saraswat of Indian School of Mines Dhanbad. Puneet is a senior year undergraduate student and has been working with Dr. Sen of UT Austin for the last two years.



Picture 1: Mr. Puneet Saraswat receiving the student grant award from Dr. Abhijit Gangopadhyay.



Picture 2: Dr. Samik Sil receiving the best technical achievement award from Prof. Mrinal Sen



Picture 3: Dr. Dhananjay Kumar receiving the best member award from Prof. Subhashis Mallick

Minutes were recorded and prepared by Sribharath Kainkaryam.