

Some of us in GAC think that this innovation did not go far enough since Global Members do not receive printed journals, and there is no provision for an "Active Global Member" category which would let qualified professionals from these countries participate more fully in SEG functions. But we all recognize that creation of Global Membership was a step in the direction of being able to accommodate a great number of professionals that would benefit from SEG membership and whose participation would benefit SEG.

GAC has also been a major force behind the creation of new SEG sections and, particularly, student sections. In this issue, Lawrence Gochioco describes the gestation of the first SEG student section in the Philippines. In 2002 I helped the first SEG student section in Ukraine to get started at Kyiv University and last year this group was able to dramatically improve its training in data processing equipment obtained via another GAC initiative, the "PCs for Students" program which is funded by the SEG Foundation.

It is one of the responsibilities of the country representative and regional coordinator to help promote and set up SEG sections and affiliated societies in the countries they represent. Presently we have 25 sections/associated societies outside of the United States and 16 U.S. sections. There are 76 student sections outside of the United States, and 43 U.S. student sections.

These major successes, however, are just highlights among

many other ongoing GAC endeavors. We also play a key, if not the major, role in such SEG activities as the International Showcase; the Global Forum and regionally oriented luncheons and receptions at the Annual Meeting; facilitating presentations of the DISC instructor, the SEG Distinguished Lecture, and Continuing Education courses around the world; and updating the Global Affairs Committee Web site. Major new initiatives, now being planned and developed, include projects for K-12 students worldwide.

TLE and GAC have realized that our activities need more exposure. Consequently, TLE has offered us the opportunity to publish news items and feature articles on a semiregular basis. How often this will happen will depend, to some extent, on our readers and fellow GAC members. I urge and encourage all of you to send me items, articles, and ideas for publication. E-mail makes this pretty easy and the relevant addresses are printed at the bottom of this article. Anything globally related to geophysics, the exploration and resource industries, cross-cultural and cross-national (mis)understandings, student sections and activities, and so on are welcomed.

This month we have the luck and pleasure to share the issue with a Special Section on Russia and the Former Soviet Union. Read, enjoy, and participate! **TJE**

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Hyderabad: Leveraging technologies

Mrinal Sen, University of Texas-Austin

The fifth biannual conference and exhibition of the Society of Petroleum Geophysicists (SPG) India was held 15-17 January 2004 at the southern Indian city of Hyderabad. The conference, cosponsored by India's Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), SEG, EAGE, and several other organizations, had the theme "Geophysics: Leveraging technologies for E&P business." The 800-plus delegates from 19 countries included prominent geophysicists from India, China, Europe, and North America. SEG was represented by president Peter Duncan, past-president Brian Russell, and Mrinal Sen (Technical Program Committee representative).

The opening session included speeches by Duncan, Subir Raha (C & MD of ONGC), and M. S. Srinivasan (additional secretary of India's Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas). Duncan highlighted the challenges facing the geophysical community and stressed the role of global cooperation in meeting them. Raha announced the formation of an energy research institute in Delhi and a museum of oil exploration and production in Dehradun. In an eloquent speech, Srinivasan (who holds an MBA from Harvard) drew a parallel with the Olympic slogan "citius, altius, and fortius" with a new mantra for exploration: "deeper, wider, and farther."

The 219 technical papers covered a broad range of applied geophysics—reservoir characterization, rock physics, seismic imaging, AVO, inversion, and potential fields. The technical



(Left) GAC meeting in progress. (Right) Michael Denkyl, vice president, WesternGeco Asia Pacific delivered his theme address at the inaugural meeting. Also pictured are Robert Brunck, chairman, CGG France; Y. B. Sinha, director (exploration) ONGC; and Peter Duncan, SEG president.



Peter Duncan with the new student section from the National Geophysical Research Institute - Hyderabad, India. The student section was approved at the February meeting of the SEG Executive Committee.

papers were presented in 4-5 parallel sessions. Each began with a keynote talk (24 in all, from world-renowned experts) that reviewed the theme of the session. I found the technical papers to be of very high standard and the organization of the sessions truly outstanding because each paper was a natural successor of the previous presentation.

The morning sessions on 16 and 17 January opened with, respectively, the talks "Stress, science, and spirituality" by Sri Sri Ravishankar and "Stress management" by a group of doctors from the local Apollo Hospital. Although not directly related to geophysical technology, these talks were very well attended and, in fact, the enthusiasm of the audience was so pronounced that the technical sessions were delayed almost an hour—to no detriment of their attendance.

Student participation (mostly from India and a few from U.S. universities) was specifically encouraged by the organizers via the inclusion of two special student sessions. In the first, students freely exchanged views and concerns. Nimisha Vedant from National Geophysical Research Institute presented "Denoising signals using wavelet transforms" which was chosen as the best student paper and earned a gold medal. The second student session included a quiz in which teams from all Indian universities participated. Robert Ferguson

(University of Texas-Austin) served as the judge. The team from Kurukshetra University won the gold medal.

A Global Affairs Committee (GAC) meeting on 16 January was attended by, among others, SPG president Kharak Singh, past-president A. Pramanik, Duncan, and Sen Pramanik reported success in recruiting a large number of members from India. SEG student sections have also been started in several Indian universities. Duncan, asked about increasing the participation of Indian geophysicists in SEG activities, suggested that SPG nominate members to serve on appropriate SEG committees. He also suggested that SEG-sponsored research symposiums and short courses in India and South Asia are being studied. All agreed that large-scale cooperation between SEG and SPG was important.

SPG India is a young organization and should be commended for organizing a truly world class symposium. Because of the high standard of the technical papers, the warm hospitality, the world-class facilities provided by the Hotel Taj Krishna, and the outstanding cultural programs, I rate this as one of the best conferences in my experience. I send kudos to the organizers and, because of the overall excellence of this meeting, I expect larger global participation in future SPG conferences. TLE

Kyiv University Geophysical Society reports on SEG Foundation gift

With the encouragement of Michael Burianyk, GAC country representative for Ukraine, in February 2002 we founded the first Ukrainian SEG student section. Our student section—Kyiv University Geophysical Society—operates out of the Department of Geophysics of the Geological Faculty of the Kyiv Taras Shevchenko National University in the capital of Ukraine—historical Kyiv (1523 years old!)

Ten students, chosen on the basis of their academic work, received SEG student memberships which included subscriptions to *GEOPHYSICS* and *TLE*. The membership enables the students to become familiar with new research in geophysical science and its practical application across the world.

Recently, our student section received \$2000 from GAC's PCs for the students program (which is funded by the SEG Foundation). With that money we acquired a computer with CD-RW, a color laser printer, scanner, and digital camera. This equipment gives the students in our section many new possibilities for work and study.

In particular, the computer gives the students easier access to the internet. In addition, software can be installed on the PC for geophysical data processing and analysis. This will, undoubtedly, advance the knowledge and skills of the students in geophysical analysis and interpretation in ways that were not earlier possible. The ability to record on CD-RW allows us to create presentations for course work and diploma theses as well as for simple geophysical discussions. The scanner allows quick entry of raster materials and text for subsequent translation of papers into different languages. The digital camera will be used for acquiring images of geologic objects and for recording the work of our student section, meetings with visiting geophysicists and scientific conferences. The color laser printer allows us to design graphics of high quality for journal submissions, for posters at conferences, and for creating material outlining the work of the section.

Thanks to the new equipment furnished by SEG, the possibilities available to the section and information about it will be multiplied. It will intrigue other students and will increase the visibility of geophysics and SEG.

Currently, earth sciences are not experiencing the best of times in Ukraine. The research journals grow thin, the geo-



The original members of the University of Kyiv's SEG student section are (left to right) Nina Safronova, Yurii Lisovyi, Maxim Yushytsyn, Trohym Prodayvoda, Victoria Skoryk (treasurer), Pavlo Gryshchuk (faculty advisor), Maria Reshetnyk (secretary), Andrey Tyschenko (president), Katya Dovzhenko, and Pavlo Kuzmenko.

physical industry is slow in catching up to world standards, geophysical departments of exploration and development companies are shrinking, and young people are reluctant to study earth sciences. The necessity to reform our geoscientific industries is clear and it depends on increased financing and also on improved training of personnel for these industries. Therefore, thanks to SEG's support, students now have greater possibility to study the development of geophysics in the whole world and to find information, contacts, people, grants, internships and, even, employment. It is especially important in a time of rapid globalization.

In 2004 we will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Department of Geophysics and the 170th anniversary of Kyiv University; therefore the gift to the student section is very appropriate.

We thank the members, employees, and committee volunteers of SEG, GAC, and Michael Burianyk in particular for this very real help, economically and scientifically, to the University of Kyiv SEG student section.

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