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# SOCIETY OF PETROLEUM ENGINEERS, NEW DELHI SECTION



New Delhi Section

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Winner of 2006 SPE President's Award for Section Excellence

# SPENDSEC

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# NEWS

## Chairman's Corner



Dear Member,

Our New Delhi Section has been progressing in leaps and bounds. After the social get together in the Month of February, we celebrated our 2nd anniversary on March 13 in the august presence of SPE Distinguished lecturer Dr Colin J Mason of BP who talked about devising a way to measure Well Bore Quality. This was a brilliant talk and invited lots of queries from the house. I am sure such enthusiastic participation will encourage us to do better and better in future.

As oil consumption grows and access to most oil-rich regions becomes increasingly restricted, companies are venturing farther out to sea, drilling deeper than ever in their quest for energy.

Even after hitting pay dirt, it will take another decade and billions of dollars to transform oil from these ultra-deep reserves into gasoline. Some of the technology to pump the sludge from these depths, at these pressures and temperatures, has not yet been developed; only about a dozen ships can drill wells that deep, and no one knows for sure how much oil is down there. While most people regard affordable and abundant supplies as an essential element of the nation's prosperity, few realize how complex and costly the quest has become, even in the nation's own backyard. At the same time, some experts argue that the industry is nearing the limits of what it can do to maintain a growing supply of fossil fuels. However, with constant efforts of explorers technological breakthroughs have always breathed new life into the energy industry.

The next oil frontier and the next great challenge for oil explorers lies below 10,000 feet of water, through five miles of hard rock, thick salt and tightly packed sands. Now, even deepest waters have become the hottest exploration prospects thanks to the advances in offshore technology and tremendous leaps in supercomputers and three-dimensional imaging.

In this background, I am glad to inform you that Dr. K. Abou-Sayed, *SPE Distinguished Lecturer* from BP would be talking to us on the topic - *How Deep Can You Go and What Challenges Lie Ahead?* I am sure you all will benefit out this.

A.K. Hazarika

## Thinking out of Box to understand the challenges of Wellbore Quality Characterization for Drilling and Casing Running

*New Delhi Hosts Anniversary and SPE DL Meeting*

By Sunil Kumar Singh

The New Delhi Section's Second Anniversary & SPE Distinguished Lecturer meeting was held at Le Meridien on 13 March 2007. The meeting was well attended, with 65 members and guests. The year 2007 has special meaning for



Photo: (Left to Right) A.B. Chakraborty, Ian Galbreath, Rahul Bali, Tim O'Sullivan, Section Chair & Director(Offshore) A.K. Hazarika, SPE Distinguished Lecturer Colin Mason, Akhilesh Arya, H.P.S. Ahuja, J.K. Goel.

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# SPE History Contd.

Rahul Bali

Secretary New Delhi and Chair 2007-  
SPE International Membership Committee

SPE shall turn 50 on October 6, 2007. January-February 2007 Newsletter onwards, we have started sharing with our members the important facts, about the SPE International and growth in India.

## Growth of SPE in India:

The first formal section was established at Ahmedabad in 1986 aptly named "India Section". Following are the details of establishment dates, current membership strength of all the five sections in India. With 1196 members at the end of year 2006, India has nearly 20 % of SPE members in Middle East.

SPENDSEC Congratulates Chennai which has been recently established on December 28, 2006! Very soon another section in the North East India shall be formally established.

Section	Establishment Date	2006 Year End Membership
India	8 April 1986	436
North India	18 June 1989	85
Mumbai	22 September 1990	516
New Delhi	13 March 2005	159
Chennai	28 December 2006	*

\*Data not available

to be continued....

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## APRIL TECHNICAL MEETING

FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 2007

### How Deep Can You Go and What Challenges Lie Ahead? *Dr. K. Abou-Sayed, SPE Distinguished Lecturer BP*



Time : 1900 hrs

Venue :  
Magnolia,  
India Habitat Centre,  
Lodhi Road,  
New Delhi-110001

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Colin Mason delivering his talk to SPENDSEC members

the SPE International as well since they are celebrating 50th year of establishment. Section Chair Mr. A.K. Hazarika took the opportunity to show the commitment of SPE as a whole and SPENDSEC in particular towards nurturing future and declared establishment of a student scholarship fund from this year onward. To start with this fund would be Rs. 100,000/- (INR One Hundred Thousand). Considering that New Delhi Section's is still in its infancy, Mr. Hazarika didn't hesitate to add "We do not have large funds yet we do have a large heart". This Scholarship fund will go a long way to further the cause of SPE by encouraging students pursuing courses related to E&P Industry. He also announced that New Delhi section shall celebrate the SPE's 50th Anniversary during a special meeting on October 6, 2007.

Mr. A. K. Hazarika, Director (Onshore), spearheading SPE at New Delhi, brings emphasis to issues which are at the core of industry's requirement during the talk on "Wellbore Quality Characterization for Drilling and Casing Running in Challenging Wells" by the SPE Distinguished Lecturer Colin Mason at SPENDSEC's Anniversary and Distinguished Lecture meeting which proved to be eye opener.

A point driven home was that the immense variability in Well bore quality is as much in our hands as much the depositional sequence driven by natural phenomena occurring in geological times. Where the Nature and humans are at odds the speaker proposed as a new thinking to set up score-line. This can be viewed as being provocative step.

Looking at what we could have considered an attempt by Mason for benchmarking performance, we realized indeed that the attempt to standardize hole quality may not be altogether a very far fetched consideration. When industry is transgressing into an era of targeting ultimate result, this standardization frame work and a scheme to identify quantitative measures are welcome. We may pause and see the details as the consequence has immense economic value.

In this era of extra-ordinary technical advancement, the context of assessing well bore creation has changed. We can measure down-hole parameters efficiently and accurately. We can record torques, pulls, pushes, deviations and down-hole physical parameters. These were not possible earlier. On top of this, the role and advancements in mud technology in recent years give increasingly better control on well bore quality.

Well bore quality has both operational and geological parameters to consider. Drillers have experienced the despondence to the situations that arise out of the black box. Certainly, there are possibilities that operational responses are standardized against certain class of geological set up. If so, there is every possibility that we may have score-lines as deliberated in the meeting by the professionals from different quarters. This will bring much greater clarity to our endeavour when we have pushed our E&P efforts to extremes beyond 3000 m water depth.



A.K. Hazarika presenting a Memento to SPE DL Colin Mason

It, therefore, made sense to think about standardizing operational responses and put certain quantitative numbers to them. In this perspective the talk & proposed score card by Dr Colin J Mason was quite significant.



Glimpses of Second Anniversary Meeting, March 13, 2007



SPENDSEC





# Generation Next: Caring for the Future of the Industry

By Andrew MacGregor

Liaison Young Professional, SPE New Delhi Section

SPE recognizes the importance of our young members who will be the future leaders of our industry. SPENDSEC is forming a Young Professionals section to support and assist in the development of those in our industry with fewer than 10 years experience. The YP section was initiated at SPENDSEC meeting on Dec.11, 2006 where seven young SPE members initiated discussions on how they would like to run the section. A host of ideas were discussed over the course of the evening resulting in decisions to actively recruit more young members by word of mouth, to meet again before year end to further discuss the kind of activities the section would wish to become engaged with and to meet to elect a board from an enlarged community at the SPENDSEC meeting in January.

The YP section will be directed by a board of individuals, each with 10 years or less of industry experience. The make-up of the YP Board will be diverse, including professionals with various years of experience (all less than 10), from different companies (i.e. E&P and service, downstream and upstream) and with different educational backgrounds (i.e Universities). The board will initially be formed by 5-6 people but may grow depending on the size and breadth of the local YP program.

SPE-Young Professionals will actively engage in a host of activities, some of the potential areas of focus being:-

- ? School/University initiative- young professionals section would proactively engage in activities to nurture a better understanding about petroleum industry among schools & universities encompassing the petroleum industry overview, the career opportunities available with petroleum industry, mentoring of interested institutions and individuals.
- ? Developmental activities/programs the focus would be on activities for young members, such as effective

presentations, public speaking skills, negotiation skills, project planning, and similar skill enhancement programs & to raise awareness among young professionals about Petroleum Industry and to promote them to join world renowned organisations like SPE and contribute to the Industry.

- ? Leadership YP section will be a self-governed body. Leadership roles will be assigned in planning and coordinating the activities among young members, giving them valuable experience in those roles and exposing them to section operations and volunteering within a professional organization.
- ? Social activities members will participate in activities for social causes such as spreading health, educational awareness among the underprivileged sections of the society.
- ? Technical activities/programs young members will receive exposure to the latest technology and its applications through discussions, seminars, workshops, through industry academia internship.
- ? Newsletter or publication newsletters will be published periodically with participation from both the industry and the academia

Please contact Mr. Chetan Chavan for further information. He has kindly agreed to coordinate activities and meetings during the nascent phase of our YP section. If you are reading this, and you are not YP then please pass on the information to any YPs in your organisation who stand to benefit from an active association with SPE.

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## FORTHCOMING REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

Dates	Meeting	Location
30 Apr-3 May 2007	Offshore Technology Conference	Houston, Texas USA
6 - 11 May 2007	Stranded Gas: The Next Challenge - Forum	Phuket, Thailand
7 - 8 May 2007	Saudi Arabia Section Technical Symposium	Dhahran, Saudi Arabia
30 May-1 Jun 2007	European Formation Damage Conference	The Netherlands
3 - 8 Jun 2007	The Future of Project Profit Prediction - Forum	Colorado USA

## APRIL MEETING PREVIEW

### How Deep Can You Go and What Challenges Lie Ahead?

Dr. K. Abou-Sayed, SPE Distinguished Lecturer  
BP America

#### Abstract:

The deepwater basins around the world contain vast hydrocarbon resources which await discovery and development. Our challenge today is to recover these resources profitably while investing in developing the technology needed and assuring that risk and uncertainties are managed and mitigated. The challenge is even increasing with discoveries in areas in deeper waters, no export infrastructure, long distances for tie-backs to existing ones, deeper wells and high pressure/high temperature environment. The experience of matching the field development scheme to the reservoir uncertainties and site characteristics is a key to ensuring success. Industry has developed both the dry and wet tree concepts for water depths up to 5000ft and 7000ft respectively and breakthrough technologies are thought out to enable production in ultra deep waters (up to 10000ft). Execution capability is another area critical for deepwater projects success. The author has been involved in Deepwater projects from front end engineering and economics to project execution. Successful strategy for front end scenario planning, concept ranking, project execution will be presented

along with insights of the key drivers of development economics and Capital Productivity.



*Dr. K. Abou-Sayed received her Ph. D. degree in 1978 and her M. Sc. degree in 1974 from Brown University. She started her career with BP in 1985 in Deepwater Technology and is currently the Early Production Project Leader for BP Sakhalin Development. She has made major contributions to the efforts in appraisal excellence, standardization, project integration and assurance and has been*

*instrumental in the sanctioning of several deepwater projects for BP and its respective partners, such as Pompano, Mars, Ursa, Crosby and Atlantis. She brings a wealth of experience having spent the last 20 years advancing concepts and project development in the deepwater frontier, with experience spanning from when deepwater was just greater than 1,500 feet to its current defined depth of greater than 10,000 feet. She is uniquely positioned within the deepwater community as she has both deep technical and commercial strengths.*

*Her ability to integrate her experience in floating systems with subsurface, economics and planning will uniquely position her for delivering SPE sectional audiences insightful recap of strategic and technical aspects of this challenging but promising area.*

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