

IADC CONNECTION

IADC recognizes industry leader

GURBACHAN S VIRK, long active in IADC affairs and a major contributor to a wide range of Association and industry efforts, was honored recently at the Houston Chapter meeting.

IADC President Dr **Lee Hunt** recognized the work of Mr Virk, Manager of Engineering, **Global Marine Inc**, with a plaque that reads as follows:

“Presented to Mr Gurbachan S Virk By the Officers, Directors and Members of the International Association of Drilling Contractors in recognition of a career of dedicated service to the drilling industry, evidenced by leadership in the IADC Offshore Division and your many contributions to the naval architecture of mobile offshore drilling units.

“Your leadership and technical innovations during the course of your career have greatly



Gurbachan S Virk, Manager of Engineering, Global Marine Inc, and long active in a wide range of Association and industry efforts, receives plaque of recognition from IADC President Dr Lee Hunt at a recent Houston Chapter meeting.

CraneSafety 2001 well attended

MORE THAN 300 DRILLING and producing professionals attended CraneSafety 2001, a 2-day conference on best practices and regulatory trends in crane operations and maintenance and cargo handling. 109 of the attendees represented 30 operating companies.

This represents a significant portion of the Gulf of Mexico production, observed **Andrea M Recasner, Chevron USA**, Chairwoman of the Planning Committee.

“We are here to improve the safety of crane operations in the Gulf of Mexico,” Ms Recasner said. “Our goal is to share best practices and knowledge so that the proper hardware, tools, and processes are in place to protect the people and equipment that may be impacted by crane operations.”

The event, co-sponsored by IADC, Offshore Operators Committee, and the American Petroleum Institute, and with federal spon-

sorship from the US Coast Guard and US Minerals Management Service, took place 2-3 April in Lafayette, La.

Registrants also included dozens of drilling contractors, representatives of the Coast Guard and MMS, and crane manufacturers.

“It’s an excellent example of industry and government working together to solve a problem,” noted **Joe Gordon**, Chief of the Office of Safety Management for the MMS. Mr Gordon was a featured speaker at CraneSafety 2001.

LCDR **William Daughdrill** urged contractors and operators to adhere to industry best practices in crane operations and maintenance.

Under a 1998 Memorandum of Understanding, the USCG is responsible for cranes aboard MODUs and vessels, while cranes on fixed offshore platforms lie in MMS’s domain.

enhanced the efficiency and safety of offshore drilling operations around the world.

“The spirit of camaraderie and friendship, which characterizes our Association has been immeasurably enhanced by your presence, social graciousness and generosity in giving of your time and talents to our organization.”

Mr Virk joined Global Marine in 1972 as a Naval Architect and will retire from the company on 30 March. He graduated Summa Cum Laude from **Indian Institute of Technology**, Kharagpur, India in 1963 with a degree in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering.

He received an MS degree in Naval Architecture from **UC Berkeley** in 1967 and joined **Litton Ship Systems**. After joining Global Marine in 1972, he became Chief Naval Architect in 1975 and Manager of Engineering in 1980.

His involvement in IADC committees and task groups included the IADC and API Mooring Task Group; the IADC IMO Task Group—IMO MODU Code 1989; and the IADC USCG MODU Regulation Committee. He also was active with the IADC USCG SOLAS and DIMO Advisory Group; IADC Jackup Site Assessment Steering Committee; IADC Jackup Rig Committee and others.

As a member of these committees, Mr Virk made major contributions involving the IMO MODU Code, procedure for jackup site assessment, and the ABS JIP on MODU stability.

IADC safety posters now available for download

PREVIOUSLY ISSUED IADC safety posters are now available for download at no charge from IADC’s web site.

Roughly 80 posters have been selected that illustrate various safety subjects, including:

- Routine Drilling Operations;
- Material Handling;
- Rig Repair & Maintenance;
- Rig Moves, Well Completion.

Other topics are also the subject of the popular safety posters.

The posters illustrate typical accident hazards and are designed for use on drilling rigs.

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