

WellCAP, RIG PASS ensure proficiency

WELLCAP, IADC'S program for ensuring well-control proficiency through accreditation based on carefully considered industry benchmarks, reached several milestones during the past year.

The Offshore Operators Committee (OOC) named WellCAP as its preferred training standard for the Gulf of Mexico.

The endorsement came well in advance of the October 2002 effective date of new MMS regulations placing responsibility for well control training directly on offshore lessees. With this endorsement, WellCAP entered an important new phase.

Approximately 13,000 WellCAP certificates were issued in the last year, bringing the total to more than 40,000 since the program was launched seven years ago.

WellCAP certificates issued in the last year totaled approximately 13,000, bringing the total to more than 40,000 since the program was launched seven years ago.

The number of schools with approved or pending WellCAP accreditation stands at 55, up 20% from last year's 46, and they operate in 47 countries.

Also during the past year, the first WellCAP schools were accredited for wireline, coiled tubing and snubbing, and underbalanced drilling.

WellCAP and RIG PASS promotional brochures were updated, including a new logo for RIG PASS. The brochures are available in English and Spanish.

WellCAP is a dynamic program, as recent enhancements attest. Deepwater well control topics were incorporated in the WellCAP core curriculum guidelines for subsea drilling well control.

IADC also implemented a program to provide individual certificates of approval for WellCAP instructors. The Introductory Level of WellCAP was revised to allow greater flexibility in

delivering basic well control instruction to rig personnel.

Additionally, with cooperation from the IADC Northern Arabian Gulf Chapter, **Saudi Aramco** recently opened its landmark Contractor Training Center in Abqaiq, Saudi Arabia.

The facility was championed by Aramco President and CEO **Abdallah S. Jum'ah**, with strong support from IADC North Arabian Gulf Chapter Chairman **Khulgan Al-Barry**. Future plans include providing WellCAP accredited well control training.

RIG PASS, IADC's program for basic rig safety orientation, has also had an exciting year: 53 RIG PASS schools now operate from 90 locations in 11 countries.

More than 83,000 RIG PASS cards have been issued throughout the industry, and they have been redesigned to provide a space for an optional student photo. ■

UBO Cmte to develop standards

THE UNDERBALANCED OPERATIONS Committee, one of IADC's most active, has worked aggressively developing standardized forms and operating guidelines, among other things.

The Committee reached an agreement in principle with the API under which the UBO Committee will draft UBO supplements for existing API specifications.

It is envisioned that these supplements will ultimately be incorporated into the appropriate API standards.

Rotating control heads and chokes used in underbalanced operations are examples of the equipment to be addressed.

The project is the result of the committee's gap analysis of existing technical standards to address deficiencies in existing technical documents.

This gap analysis in turn was the result of the IADC Well Classification System for Underbalanced Wells issued in 2001.

UBO TRAINING

WellCAP's UBO curriculum for supervisory personnel has drawn applications

1st IADC contract now 50 years old

AN EARLY GOAL of IADC was the development of standardized model contracts.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the first IADC model form contract, which was a footage contract.

The IADC's contract work continues today, not only with model contract forms but with contract workshops around the world to keep members up to date on new developments while bringing fundamental instruction to emerging regions.

For example, a workshop in January in Dubai focused on contract issues specific to Middle East operations. In September, a workshop in Krakow, Poland built on the success of similar workshops in 1998 and 1999.

The contract workshop program in other areas will continue in 2003. ■

from several training institutions. Plans are in place to develop curricula for introductory and fundamental levels of training.

Additionally, the UBO Committee approved and released a RIG PASS safe-

The Underbalanced Operations Committee, one of IADC's most active, works aggressively to develop standardized forms and operating guidelines.

ty orientation accreditation program for underbalanced operations.

This is designed to provide a basic understanding of UBO techniques and equipment and related hazards.

Also, a new IADC-written UBO glossary is available that provides definitive guidance to UBO terminology.

New drilling fluids guidelines assist in the selection of roper fluids for underbalanced operations. ■