



EDITORIAL

From the Chairman

We're nothing without our people

"It's a people's business."

That was the editorial headline from the January/February 2006 issue of *DRILLING CONTRACTOR*. If you read through the magazine in your hands, you will see that its layout and content have been significantly revised and improved since a year ago. The redesigned *DRILLING CONTRACTOR* offers wider editorial coverage and a fresh look to match a re-energized drilling industry. This was done by people.



Claus Chur, Chairman

Over the past year, I have visited many IADC chapters and participated in numerous conferences in the US, Europe, India and the Middle East. Everywhere I met interesting and lovely people. Without people, these conferences could not happen. I urge everyone to step up their participation

— not just in IADC conferences but also in chapter and committee meetings and working groups. The support and communication we get from these groups are essential for the industry, and they're not possible without the people who participate. To make sure this line of support and communication continues, as half of the current workforce retires over the coming decade, industry veterans must do their best to encourage younger employees to participate. We must get them involved now so we can establish a new generation of industry supporters.

In March, IADC held the first meeting of the International Forum of Energy Centres & Museums in Amsterdam. The goal was to improve the dialogue and communication among these institutions with the intention to coordinate existing public education programmes, to promote their availability and to develop new vehicles to enhance public understanding and appreciation of our industry. I was impressed with the level of activity that already existed to teach young pupils and adults about the important role our industry plays in securing the future energy supply. Of course this is not done by "institutions" but by wonderful people who have dedicated their professional life to it.

During the year, IADC's total membership increased by 12.5%, from 887 in 2005 to nearly 1,000 in 2006. All around the world, they work day and night to find and produce hydrocarbons, and every one of these companies — whether drilling contractors, service companies or operators — would be nothing without people.

During the year, the rig fleet on- and offshore grew by approximately 350 units. To operate these rigs, about 20,000 new employees — from roustabout to toolpusher — had to be employed and trained. Simultaneously, the manufacturing and service industry had to produce and perform accordingly as well.

This enormous growth, driven by the steady increase in demand for oil and gas, created both enormous opportunities and challenges for our industry that will continue into 2007. Again it will be our people, highly motivated professionals, who will meet these challenges.

Last but not least, the challenge will be on our safety performance. Integrating such an enormous number of new employees into our industry needs absolute commitment and focus on training and the development of safe behaviour. So let's do everything possible to provide a safe working place for our people.

With that, I would like to thank everyone I met during my term as IADC's 2006 chairman.

With many of you I will certainly stay in contact during the next couple of years and continue the stimulating discussions we had.

I also would like to express my deep thanks to the whole IADC staff for the excellent support they have given me throughout the year.

Finally I would like to congratulate **Bob Long**, our next chairman, to his election and wish him as many valuable and pleasant experiences as I had during my term.

Glückauf,

Claus Chur