

EDITORIALS

From the Chairman

PARTICIPATION NO ONE-WAY STREET

DURING THE LAST YEAR, it has been my honor and my pleasure to serve as Chairman of IADC. As such, I've had the opportunity to travel to IADC chapters and conferences around the world, from West Texas to the North Sea. It's inspiring to see the hard work put forth by our chapter volunteers and the solid results it gains in their communities and for our industry.

IADC chapter golf tournaments fuel scholarship programs that assist deserving young men and women in pursuing studies in petroleum engineering. Our Houston Chapter, just to take one of many examples, will distribute US\$ 87,000 in scholarships to 27 petroleum engineering students during the 2004-5 school year. The chapter also provided \$5,000 grants to three Texas universities—Texas A&M University, College Station; University of Texas at Austin, and Texas Tech University, Lubbock. These scholarships are to be awarded by the schools to deserving freshmen interested in petroleum engineering. (See this issue's "IADC Connection", p 50.)



Marion M Woolie, Chairman

By the same token, the Houston Chapter for the last few years has donated significant sums to Just Like Us for the education and well being of disabled children in the Houston area. Our North Sea and Brazil Chapters have also assisted children-focused charities in their communities.

None of this could occur without the active, enthusiastic participation of dedicated volunteers who shoulder these responsibilities in addition to, particularly these days, their busy professional schedules.

In fact all IADC activity is driven by volunteer participation, not only with local chapters, but through our regional and international committees and work groups. Most recently, IADC volunteers organized an Accounting Committee, chaired by Karen Acree, GlobalSantaFe Corporation, with David Tonnel, Transocean, serving as Vice Chairman.

Take a virtual stroll through IADC's website and check out the list of committees. There are few areas of endeavor in the drilling industry that IADC is not addressing through its work groups and committees.

We are talking about landmark work here in many cases. For example, in May, IADC and the Offshore Operators Committee received a Special Citation from the Offshore Technology Conference, recognizing the joint development of the "IADC/OOC Deepwater Well Control Guidelines". The Guidelines have also been praised by the US Minerals Management Service.

We are about to release another first—the "IADC Surface BOP Guidelines for Floating MODUs". This landmark document will be rolled out at the upcoming IADC Surface BOP Conference, 1 December in Houston. (See www.iadc.org/conferences/SB4-program.htm for details.)

Both the deepwater and surface BOP guidelines were the result of collaboration among contractors, operators and service companies.

None of these achievements would be possible without the engagement of volunteers from the drilling industry. And make no mistake: This volunteer contribution of time and effort is not a one-way street. If you asked anyone involved in IADC, I have no doubt they would confirm that the camaraderie, contacts made, and sheer satisfaction of a job well done more than compensates for the extra effort. Besides that, every company with an interest in a given technical area ("has a dog in the fight", as we Texans put it) should have a voice in Association decisions. That's the best way to ensure your point of view is heard.

Take an active part in your Association, IADC. Participation is not a one-way street! Just one last comment. Thanks for the privilege and opportunity to serve as chairman of this great organization. ■

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From the President

ALIVE AT 65

IN OCTOBER 1940, a group of drilling contractors met at the Baker Hotel in Dallas, Texas. They came together to address the concerns they had about the state of the business they were in—problems with techniques, technologies and tools; problems with government policies; problems with commercial implications for their contracts and, ultimately, their profitability and survival.

They agreed to form an association through which they could concentrate their efforts in developing common solutions to the range of things which assailed their businesses. That organization was named the American Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors, or AAODC.

Immediately these men set about the various tasks leading to such innovations for the industry as a standard daily drilling report; a common, model for drilling contract; a common statement of safe operating procedures. A group boarded a train and headed for Washington, D.C. to appeal to the government their plight in pre-war time restrictions on steel which were limiting their ability to build derricks and manufacture drill pipe.



Lee Hunt, President

In 1975 the Association had grown to include members working in the international arena and the name was changed to the International Association of Drilling Contractors, or IADC as we are known today.

As we move into 2005, that Association stands as the premier, worldwide trade association representing energy drilling companies. With offices in four countries, 19 chapters worldwide, nearly 900 members and a cadre of officers and members who are the multinational leaders in the industry, IADC is a prospering and growing organization delivering consistent, high quality service and results through the combined efforts of its membership.

Next year, we'll highlight in greater detail the achievements of sixty-five years of cooperative association in the industry. For now, let's just take a moment to say "Happy 65th Anniversary, IADC". ■