

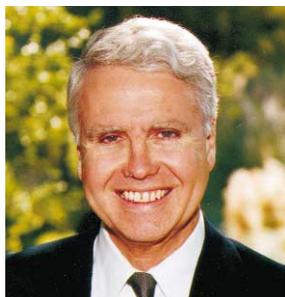
EDITORIALS

From the Chairman

MAKE TIME FOR IADC!

IN OUR INDUSTRY, our work makes terrific demands on us in times good and bad alike. When activity is high, we scramble to be sure our rigs have the people and equipment necessary to ensure quality operations for our customers. When the shoe is on the other foot, we run a quick-paced treadmill to keep those same rigs under contract. It's a cycle that rarely gives us pause.

Nonetheless, it's important to remember that the pace of IADC activity never lets up either. IADC activity is not a function of the rig count. Even when the industry is at a low ebb, as it has been for the last several months, the demands upon our Association are as great as ever.



John R Irwin, Chairman

This is why it is absolutely vital for us to maintain a vigorous volunteer effort through IADC, despite the scarcity of time and people.

The continuing regulatory onslaught can be unpredictable and totally oblivious to the industry's ability to spare time and people. IADC is our voice on regulatory

issues worldwide. Let me cite some examples of issues that have suddenly arisen just in the last few weeks in the US alone.

The most well-publicized of these is the OSHA ergonomics proposal. The preamble alone to this gargantuan regulation boasts more than 1,000 pages. Yet this proposal was only received by the industry at year-end, with comments demanded by the first of February. Due to the tremendous volume of comments from US business, OSHA just recently extended this deadline to 2 March. IADC has drafted comments pointing out the numerous flaws in this far-reaching proposal.

Even if the drilling industry hasn't been busy, OSHA certainly has. The agency also decided it needed to re-propose a standard for drilling and well servicing. The agency originally proposed such a rule in '82, but it was successfully resisted by IADC. We are committed to fighting this proposal again today.

Offshore, the US Coast Guard is working toward a similar end. Regulations they are proposing would impose significant new occupational safety and health standards for OCS operations.

I am pleased to note that a recent meeting on this subject at IADC headquarters drew 21 attendees. Virtually every drilling company operating in the US Gulf of Mexico attended. That is the kind of volunteer effort that keeps IADC sharp—and well-regarded by regulators.

Unfortunately, the offshore sector has more burdens to shoulder, however. The US Environmental Protection Agency recently issued a new rule phasing in stringent emissions stan-

dards for new marine engines. US-flagged MODUs and vessels will definitely be affected by this rule.

I encourage you to learn more about these and other issues confronting the drilling industry through IADC periodicals, our IADC website (iadc.org) or from our IADC staff professionals.

IADC is our association. We will get out of it as much as we devote to it and participation can result in a value-adding exercise for all of us in the industry. The volunteers who contribute their time and efforts to confronting key issues faced by the industry deserve our support, recognition and thanks. ■

From the President

RIGHT AT HOME IN MUMBAI!

IN VISITING WITH members around the globe, I am consistently impressed by how much we all share in the drilling business, and the comradeship among drillers everywhere.

I recently enjoyed the hospitality of our IADC South Central Asia Chapter in Mumbai.

This chapter, under the leadership of my friend S M "Sam" Malhotra, never fails to convene an impressive program of business and social events. This meeting in late January was no exception.

Dozens of E&P, drilling and oilfield service professionals filled the room to capacity for this South Central Asia Technology Meet. I was privileged to address the audience, following Mr Malhotra's opening remarks.

We were also honored by an address by I N Chatterjee, Director (Finance) of India's Oil and Natural Gas Corporation.



Lee Hunt, President

The 4 technical presentations spanned many of the major challenges and interests of the 21st Century drilling industry. Prof K M Tagirov of the Russian research institute Sevkav-nipigaz (GAZPROM), spoke on underbalanced drilling techniques and equipment, flow drilling in very high-permeability formations, and use of diesel exhaust gas in place of nitrogen or air in underbalanced operations. Bill Rose, VP-Operations for Noble Drilling, discussed the innovative EVA 4000 design for deep-water semisubmersible conversion. The chapter did not forget safety either: Arunalo Ghosh, Drilling Superintendent for Neptune Exploration, discussed the role of supervisors in a total safety culture. Finally, IADC Director of Operations-Middle East and Asia Norman V Edwards wound up the program with a brief presentation on IADC activities.

Next time you're in India, make time to attend one of our South Central Asia Chapter's fine meetings. No matter where you're from, you'll feel right at home! ■