



EDITORIAL

From the Chairman

Take a fresh look!

THIS ISSUE OF DRILLING CONTRACTOR takes a fresh look at our industry and launches a fresh look of its own. I hope you will enjoy it.

You will see a lot of changes, from the appearance of the DC nameplate to the arrangement of the articles

and features. Our goal is to underscore that DRILLING CONTRACTOR, despite the name, serves not only drilling contractors, but all managers, engineers and operations personnel engaged in the global drilling industry—operators, service companies and regulators.



Claus Chur, Chairman

This, the eve of our 2006 IADC Annual Meeting, marks an appropriate time to take a fresh look at IADC, as well. Like DRILLING CONTRACTOR, IADC also works for the benefit of all stakeholders in our industry. IADC's long-espoused philosophy is to do what's right for the rig by improving safety and training, harmonising operation practices, developing uniform

standards, advancing implementation of new technologies, ensuring protection of people, property and the environment through rigorous well-control practices, working toward increased drilling access, and initiatives too numerous to fully list.

Nonetheless, one can glean a taste of IADC's functional diversity by glancing at the sampling below:

International Maritime Organisation MODU Code Rewrite: The IMO MODU Code is critical to owners and operators of mobile offshore drilling rigs around the world. IMO's Sub-Committee on Ship Design and Equipment has made amending the Code a priority, and IADC is in the thick of the action, with project completion slated for next year.

Accreditation systems ISO certified: IADC's system of accreditation sets the standard for drilling industry. This year, our accreditation department registered another milestone, earning ISO 9001:2000 certification for Quality Management Systems.

Training harmonisation: As part of IADC's efforts to harmonise drilling training across national boundaries, we recently enhanced our IADC Training & Operations Passport. The document provides space to record data on training courses, operations assignments, immunizations and more. The revised document includes perforated serial numbers to thwart bogus photocopies. Each passport will be registered in an IADC database, enabling tracking of each passport holder's name and employer information.

Global HSE Case: IADC set a new level for drilling to standardise HSE management with the planned introduction of an updated version of the IADC HSE Case Guideline for drilling contractors. This new edition builds on contractors' experiences with the IADC North West European Guideline while incorporating principles of other international standards to provide harmonized guidance for use in those regions where an HSE/Safety Case is mandated.

Safety statistics: When one searches for statistics on drilling industry safety, IADC is a one-stop shop. IADC statistics analyze drilling safety performance by geographic region, injury type and where on the rig the incident occurred. Since 1961, IADC has streamlined and improved its safety data, making it the premier world source. At the same time, IADC offers numerous safety alerts on its website offering practical tips and timely warnings to guide the industry in enhancing accident prevention around the world.

Underbalanced operations: Underbalanced operations and managed pressure drilling are the cutting edge of drilling technology, valuable tools for enhancing reservoir recovery and improving well feasibility. The IADC UBO & MPD Committee continues to develop landmark guidance aimed at promoting the safe and efficient implementation of these important technologies. This year, the committee was particularly active, drafting a manufacturing specification, updating the IADC UBO and MPD HSE Planning Guidelines and, perhaps most importantly, developing a "best practice" document for UB operations, which will be submitted to API for adoption as a Recommended Practice. The best practice document will also be referenced by a new Canadian Industry Recommended Practice.

Host Iraqi delegation: A hallmark of drillers is our willingness always to help. An example of that cooperative spirit at the IADC level was our recent experience hosting a delegation of Iraqi oilmen visiting Houston during June. This gave the Iraqi visitors an opportunity to explore possible joint ventures and to search for promising technologies.

International Forum of Energy Centres and Museums: We understand our industry, but the public doesn't seem to. So IADC invited energy museums and representatives from around the globe to join forces to improve promotion of the public education of the industry's past, present and future and its outreach programs.

These, then, are just a few initiatives IADC pursues on behalf of us all. You will learn much more about our activities in the "IADC Connection" portion of this magazine. Please also join us in San Antonio on 21-22 September for our 2006 IADC Annual Meeting. Take a fresh look at IADC. You will like what you see. ♠