

Minutes of SPG-NA Q1 2010 Meeting at University of Houston

Ten members of Society of Petroleum Geophysicists North America Chapter (SPGNA) met at the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, University of Houston on March 27, 2010 between 12 and 3 p.m. The meeting was very vibrant and interactive. 3 student members were part of the total number of attendees. During the meeting the attendees put in a total of \$140 (7x\$20). The students were exempted from registration this time in lieu of the work they put in arranging the venue. Of this amount \$87.73 was used to defray the costs of pizza and soda lunch and \$52.27 has been put aside in the SPGNA fund.

Notable aspect of the meeting:

Dr. Purna Singh from Chevron presented a talk on “Unconventional Gas Resources – A Paradigm Shift in Natural Gas Supplies – Examples from U.S. Gas Shales”. The talk was very informative and spawned a lot of questions from the attendees. We thank Dr. Singh for presenting this great talk and particularly on short notice. We look forward to such presentations in the future.

Highlights of the discussion topics during the meeting are outlined below:

Informal Introduction

Dhananjay Kumar, SPGNA President proposed that SPGNA should foster informal interaction between members and their families. Therefore, our introductions during the meetings should not only include professional affiliations and matters but to some extent family and/or personal highlights. We followed his suggestion at this meeting and introduced ourselves very informally. It is worth mentioning that this idea was embraced very well by the members and resulted in informal chat over lunch. Thanks Dhananjay!

SPGNA Scholarship Fund

We drew attention of the attendees to the creation of the “SPGNA Scholarship Fund” and requested them to donate to it. We also requested the members to spread the word and solicit donations from others interested. The suggested donations are \$50 for professionals and \$20 for students per year. It was also mentioned that preference will be given to use this fund to support student/s. Criteria for selecting students were requested and several ideas were proposed:

- (1) Students selected by SPG India
- (2) Students who have accepted papers at the SEG Annual Meeting, and SPGNA chooses the best from them
- (3) Students recommended from the local SEG student chapters by faculty members and then SPGNA members choose one from amongst them based on the technical material they plan to present

- (4) Students apply directly to SPGNA and members choose the best based on technical material they plan to present

Dileep Tiwary reminded members that SEG and major oil companies sponsor students through various programs and so it is important to spread the word so eligible students can avail of the opportunities. Information about such opportunities can be found on the SPGNA website at: <http://www.spgnorthamerica.org/resources.html>

It was also proposed SPGNA members who are alumni of various institutions in India attempt to spread the word through their juniors and encourage them to apply and avail of the opportunities.

SPGNA at SPG-2010

SPGNA secretaries Dr. Chandan Kumar and Dr. Pradip Mukhopadhyay represented SPGNA at the recently concluded SPG-2010. A poster on SPGNA's behalf was also put up at the meeting. Chandan Kumar spoke about the highlights during this meeting. A formal summary of the experiences will be posted on SPGNA website shortly.

Wikipedia Page

SPGNA student member Dip Shankar Nanda volunteered to take up the responsibilities of keeping the SPGNA wiki page active and up to date. We thank him for his help and encourage members to actively contribute.

Publications in “Geohorizon” journal

Eight technical articles from SPGNA members were published in “Geohorizons” in their SPGNA special issue. The issue can be found online at: http://spgindia.org/geodec_09/. We thank all members who contributed and during the meeting encouraged everyone to continuously contribute to this journal.

Additionally, an effort was initiated earlier to have as many colleagues/members recommend “Geohorizons” for adequate indexing and citation. Members were encouraged to do so such that researchers are motivated to publish their work in this journal.

Social Networking

Attendees proposed that SPGNA should foster social networking. Several sites such as LinkedIn, Orkut etc. were mentioned. It was also brought to notice that Orkut should be preferred because it is more popular and widely used in India.

Minutes were recorded and prepared by Abhijit Gangopadhyay.