

## **Minutes of SPG-NA Q3 2009 @ SEG, Houston**

About 65 members of the Society of Petroleum Geophysicists North American Chapter (SPGNA) met over dinner at Mayuri Indian Restaurant in Houston, TX on October 28, 2009 between 7 – 10 p.m. The meeting was very upbeat. The attendees applauded the activities of SPGNA particularly during the past one year and specially recognized the efforts of the members. The initiatives of SPGNA were very much appreciated and the attendees agreed to support continued work by SPGNA.



Picture 1: Geoscientists gathered at SPG-North American chapter meeting @ SEG-09 (all pictures are courtesy of Dr. Somaditya Dutta).



Picture 1: Mr. Apurba saha presenting memento to Prof. K. K. Roy.



Picture 1: Mr. Apurba saha presenting travel award certificate on behalf of SPG North American chapter to Dr. Rima Chatterjee.

### **Highlights of the meeting:**

(1) **Dr. K. K. Roy, Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Department of Geology and Geophysics, Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, attended the meeting.** He briefly talked about current status of geoscience in India and appreciated the activities of SPGNA.

(2) **Mr. Apurba Saha, Asset Manager (Mumbai High), Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), India, and President, Society of Petroleum Geophysicists (SPG), India attended the meeting.** He presented a memento to Dr. K. K. Roy recognizing his services in teaching and research in Geophysics. He also spoke about various opportunities in geosciences in India, the improving job market, and greatly appreciated the work that SPGNA has done during the past year.

(3) **SPGNA sponsored Dr. Rima Chatterjee, Assistant Professor, Department of Applied Geophysics, Indian School of Mines University, Dhanbad, India, to travel to Houston and present at the SEG 2009 her paper** titled “Relationship of coal bed permeability with vertical stress from well log data: A case study from Raniganj coal field, India”. Mr. Apurba Saha presented her a travel award certificate on behalf of SPGNA. SPGNA member from Europe, Prof. Satish Singh, sponsored her SEG 2009 registration fees, and Samik Sil coordinated her stay and local hospitality in Houston. Everyone present at the meeting thanked SPGNA members for their prompt support on this matter that has now hopefully set a trend for future such activities.

SPGNA missed the presence of its President, Dhananjay Kumar, at this meeting. SPGNA Secretary, Imtiaz Ahmed coordinated the meeting, and Vice-President, Abhijit Gangopadhyay discussed the agenda with the attendees.

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

#### **Inclusion of multidisciplinary members**

Mr. Apurba Saha reiterated that SPGNA welcomes members from any discipline within the Earth Sciences to join the organization and contribute to it. Members were therefore encouraged to seek out other potential members and motivate them to join the society.

#### **Possible SPGNA Holiday Party in December**

Dr. Mrinal Sen proposed that SPGNA members should possibly get together informally for a holiday party in December either in Houston or Austin. SPGNA plans to send an e-mail to members to this effect trying to gauge participation for such an event.

## **Annual Newsletter/SPGNA Brochure**

The SPGNA annual newsletter and brochure prepared by Dhananjay Kumar and Ranjan Dash were circulated among the members for review and suggestions. The attendees appreciated the efforts although no new ideas were proposed. The SPGNA website and its Wikipedia were mentioned too and attendees were urged to look up those for regular updates and additional information. It was mentioned though that any write-ups/discussions from any member would be appreciated and must be forwarded to Dhananjay for inclusion in the newsletter.

## **SPG-2010**

Mr. Apurba Saha spoke briefly about preparations for SPG-2010 during February 1-3 in Hyderabad, India. **SPGNA Secretaries, Pradip Mukhopadhyay and Chandan Kumar will be in India attending the conference.** Some of the SPGNA members are planned to conduct short courses during the conference, including, Dr. Mrinal Sen, Dr. Subhashis Mallick, Dr. Satinder Chopra, Dr. Nader Dutta, Dr. Tapan Mukherjee, and Dr. Manika Prasad. Current plans include putting up a poster highlighting SPGNA and its activities (past and ongoing), and distributing brochures and newsletters. Other members of SPGNA are strongly encouraged to attend the conference if possible.

Mr. Apurba Saha informed that there will be recruiting events conducted by companies during SPG-2010.

**Reminder** - Hotels to stay in during SPG-2010 in Hyderabad are extremely costly, so an option could be to stay at National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) guest house because there is transportation from there to the meeting venue sponsored by NGRI and the guest house is way cheaper. However, the guest house fills up fast. So people planning to attend SPG-2010 should plan early. During the Q1 meeting, Ravi Prakash Srivastava (Scientist at NGRI) agreed to help out on this matter. Those who want to pursue the NGRI guest house option should contact Ravi Srivastava ([ravi\\_prakash@ngri.res.in](mailto:ravi_prakash@ngri.res.in)) at the earliest convenience.

## **Availability of industry data for research**

Some attendees expressed concern that Indian geosciences students are phenomenal in their theoretical knowledge of the subject but lack in their practical applications. An observation was that they have less exposure to real industry data. Dr. Mrinal Sen pointed out that nowadays a good amount of real industry data are available for use in research and he directed interested people to the SPGNA website where some such links are available (<http://spgnorthamerica.org/resources.html>). Once again, SPGNA reminds members to continuously look at its website for updates and addition of new information.

## **SPGNA donation/membership for 2010**

There were recommendations to collect annual membership that can be put in the SPGNA fund. We have decided to collect annual donation instead of membership fees for the SPGNA fund that will be used to support students and faculty members from India. In 2009 we proudly supported an Indian faculty to attend SEG-09. We will continue collecting money during SPGNA meetings that will cover member's food and beverage costs. You can send annual donation check to Abhijit Gangopadhyay or pay on-site during SPGNA meetings. The recommended annual donation is US\$50 for professionals and US\$20 for students. A reminder mail will be sent out in early January 2010.

## **Registering SPGNA as non-profit**

The idea to register SPGNA formally came up again in this meeting in a big way. It almost has now become a necessity and matter of convenience in many respects, particularly to invite companies and individuals to provide contributions that can be tax deductible. Official registration of the society will allow us to solicit industry donations. Efforts will be made to accelerate this matter. Mr. Apurba Saha suggested that a savings bank account be opened including names of 3 office-bearers on it and allowing operation of the account with the consent of at least 2 of the account holders. This matter will also be looked into in the near future.

## **Publications in "Geohorizon" journal**

8 technical articles were received from SPGNA members for publication in "Geohorizons" for their SPGNA special issue. Dr. Mrinal Sen has coordinated the peer reviews of these manuscripts and they are currently under production to be published during SPG-2010. SPGNA thanks Dr. Sen for his voluntary work on this matter. Dr. Sen particularly noted that the papers were all of very high quality and commended the authors on their great work. Others are requested to consider submitting their research work to "Geohorizons" for future publication.

## **Urging Faculty representatives to support the cause**

Attendees observed that there is a strong need for faculty representatives at Indian universities and departments to be more proactive in seeking student participation and spreading the message of available opportunities through SEG, AGU, AAPG, SPG, and SPGNA. It was noted that many times such opportunities pass by un-noticed and/or un-attended. Once again, SPGNA joins in to urge the faculty representatives to act on this matter on a priority basis. It is very important that the Indian students receive the necessary platforms to succeed that they truly deserve.

**The next SPGNA meeting will be held during AGU-09 in San Francisco on 16<sup>th</sup> December.**

Minutes were recorded and prepared by Abhijit Gangopadhyay.