

## New SPE Canada Organization Created

The Boards of SPE and the Petroleum Society of Canada have approved a merger agreement that will create a new Canadian organization, SPE Canada, to serve the combined membership of approximately 4,500 in Canada. The merger agreement is expected to go into effect this month.

"This is an exciting opportunity for both Petroleum Society and SPE members to develop an even stronger organization in Canada and to enhance technical knowledge exchange globally," said Leo Roodhart, 2009 SPE president. "We are pleased that Petroleum Society members voted overwhelmingly in favor of the merger, and we welcome the Canadian members to SPE."

"Members of the Petroleum Society of Canada see the merger with SPE as a very positive event. It is this type of cooperation and vision that makes me proud to be a member and to see the society grow to the benefit of all of its members," said Robert Hawkes, Petroleum Society of Canada chairperson.

SPE Canada will focus on enhancing benefits for members and supporting the Canadian upstream sector. SPE will gain approximately 1,000 members in Canada through the merger as well as additional technical resources, including the Petroleum Society's *Journal of Canadian Petroleum Technology*, the TechBank database of technical papers, continuing education program, and several key Canadian conferences.

The Petroleum Society office in Calgary will become the SPE Canada office, continuing support of services to Canadian members and the publication of the *Journal of Canadian Petroleum Technology*. While some energy professionals already hold memberships in both societies, all 2009 Petroleum Society members can automatically become SPE members by opting in.

A list of frequently asked questions about membership is posted at [www.petsoc.org](http://www.petsoc.org) and at [www.spe.org/go/canada](http://www.spe.org/go/canada).

## New Northern Asia Pacific Regional Director Appointed



Yaw Hin Wee is the new SPE Northern Asia Pacific regional director. He is taking over the position from Mohd Jukris Abdul Wahab who resigned. The Board approved Wee's nomination by mail ballot.

Wee is managing director of Sarawak Shell and heads the Shell Malaysia Country E&P business as senior representative, a post he has held since February 2006. In these roles, he oversees upstream operations for Shell in Malaysia, and represents the E&P business in the Shell Malaysia Business Council. Wee also has been general manager for Sarawak Asset and general manager for Gas & Power in Shell South Africa.

Wee will serve as a member of the SPE Board Committee on Technical Programs and Meetings, providing support for current initiatives in the area of technology transfer, and developing opportunities to disseminate technology to appropriate membership communities within the region.

Wee earned a BE degree in civil engineering from the University of Wales and an MS degree in structural engineering from Imperial College of Science and Technology, London University. He is a professional engineer with the Board of Engineers, Malaysia, and a Fellow member of the Institute of Engineers, Malaysia.

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## Production and Operations Committee Seeks Assistance

SPE's Production and Operations Advisory Committee is looking for companies and individuals who can assist with several projects, including accreditation, case histories, graduate student research material, and workshops.

The committee is seeking industry volunteers to assist with petroleum engineering accreditation visits because of an increase in such requests. Volunteers will be required to attend a training session, followed by an accreditation visit as an observer. Travel expenses will be paid by SPE.

Committee members are also interested in creating a database of production and completion case histories for use in senior design projects by petroleum engineering students, and want to create a list of topics that could be used for a graduate student research thesis. These topics should be

determined by the current technology needs of the industry. This will help universities assist the industry by attempting to solve current, need-based problems.

In addition, the committee is seeking companies and industry personnel to provide a list of individuals who can deliver seminars and workshops on production and operations topics. The names of these individuals and their topics of expertise will be posted online so groups that seek qualified speakers can contact them.

For more information on the accreditation and thesis topic requests, please contact Tom Whipple at [twhipple@spe.org](mailto:twhipple@spe.org). For more information on the case histories database and workshop projects, contact Shasta Stephenson at [sstephenson@spe.org](mailto:sstephenson@spe.org).

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## Sections Contribute to Energy Education

SPE sections around the world are enriching energy education in their regions. Classroom presentation programs, science teacher workshops, and donations of Energy4me materials such as the *Oil and Natural Gas* book and Energy4me kit of classroom materials are a few ways they are contributing. Energy4me is SPE's global energy education outreach program for students, teachers, and the public.

"We know that 50% of today's engineers will be retired within 15 years. There will be a great need for engineers in the years to come," said Jan Roar Drechsler, SPE Stavanger Section chairperson. "SPE focuses on increasing the number of educated engineers, as opposed to the falling trend we see today. The *Oil and Natural Gas* book and Energy4me kit are one attempt to inspire potential future engineers and are directed toward students at all levels, including university students."

The Stavanger Section purchased 450 books and 20 Energy4me kits to donate to schools in Norway, including the University of Stavanger, the International School of Stavanger, the British School of Stavanger, and the Stavanger Offshore Technical College.

The Gulf Coast Section has a well-established energy education initiative. It recently expanded its program by providing 700 *Oil and Natural Gas* books to science teachers attending teacher workshops held by energy education organizations throughout Houston, and teacher workshops organized by the section itself during 2009. For the third year, the section offered two teacher training workshops for 60 teachers in the Houston area called "Exploring Earth Science—A Summer Institute." The week-long workshops were held in partnership with the University of Houston Clear Lake. Teachers participated in a mix of classroom lectures, hands-on/interactive activities, and field trips covering geology, Earth science, environmental science, and energy topics. Section volunteers from a cross-section of energy industry disciplines engaged with teachers in



**Sam Clayton, SPE Gulf Coast Section member, describes the role of a geoscientist to teachers attending "Exploring Earth Science—A Summer Institute" in Houston.**

small-group discussions about careers in the energy industry, and provided demonstrations and materials to encourage classroom presentations of energy industry topics. The workshops were conceived and developed by Brenda Weiser, director of environmental education with the Environmental Institute of Houston and lecturer for the School of Education at the university, and funded by a grant from the Gulf Coast Section.

The Alaska Petroleum Section plans to donate *Oil and Natural Gas* books for the US National Energy Education Development Project teacher workshops to be held in Alaska this fall. The section also provided funding to the Alaska Mineral & Energy Resource Education Fund to pur-



**The International School of Stavanger, from left to right, J.P. Liyanage, professor at the University of Stavanger and SPE Stavanger Section scholarship chairperson, and Jan Roar Drechsler give Oil and Natural Gas books to Jill Egan, librarian, International School of Stavanger, and Belinda Wright, head of the science department at International School of Stavanger.**

chase these books for Alaskan teachers. The fund is a partnership between the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development and private industry to provide educational material to Alaska's teachers. Additionally, section members volunteer for the Engineers Explorers program that gives high school students an introduction to engineering in different industries. Professional engineers talk to the students about their careers, and provide activities to challenge their engineering skills.

While these are just a few examples of sections making an impact through energy education, SPE sections of all sizes are starting or enhancing their Energy4me energy education programs. To have your section's energy education activities considered for articles on [energy4me.org](http://energy4me.org), contact [EnergyEd@energy4me.org](mailto:EnergyEd@energy4me.org) with information and photos. Visit [www.energy4me.org](http://www.energy4me.org) for more information on Energy4me.

## Italian Section Organizes Workshop

In March, the SPE Italian Section organized and promoted the workshop "Competitiveness: What Future in the E&P industry?" held in Ravenna, Italy. The workshop, held during the Offshore Mediterranean Conference, stimulated discussion on how the nature of oil and gas competitiveness is changing in the 21st century. The panel of international speakers explored issues such as environmental stewardship and sustainability and how to create an additional basis for oil industry competition in the future.

**At the 2009 Offshore Mediterranean Conference in Ravenna, Serge Rueff (fourth from right), SPE South, Central, and Eastern Europe regional director, and Thomas P. Lockhart (third from right), SPE Italian Section chairperson, meet with students from the Augusta Taurinorum Student Chapter.**

