

# Contest Winners Recruit More Than 1,000 New SPE Members

Erica Shillings, JPT Assistant Features Editor

SPE members successfully recruited 1,081 new members during the 2007 Build the World of SPE contest. Contest participants recruited 14% of all new SPE members last year. Of the 14 SPE regions, the Middle East had the highest number of new members—1,559—and 28% of those members were recruited by contest participants in that region.



Irvine-Fortescue

Jamie Irvine-Fortescue, a Project Manager for Shell E&P and membership chairperson of the SPE Oman Section, recruited 156 new members. A leading recruiter worldwide for 4 consecutive years, Irvine-Fortescue was the regional prizewinner for the Middle East region in 2007. He promoted SPE with posters, emails, and personal contacts to encourage colleagues to join the society, and he also created a template for his section to collect memberships for bulk payment.

Membership recruitment and retention is the responsibility of every SPE member, Irvine-Fortescue said. "My motivation is driven by the desire to help the newcomers to our industry at the start of their careers," he said. Irvine-Fortescue has been an SPE member since 1981 and is a member of both the Century Club, which recognizes members who have recruited 100 or more new members, and the SPE 25 Year Club.

Even though Irvine-Fortescue will be handing over his responsibilities of membership chairperson to another colleague, he will continue to recruit many members. "SPE member benefits rank by far as some of the most favorable of any professional society. Employees in the upstream petroleum industry belong in SPE. My message is simple: Technical knowledge is the key. Join the brightest minds of the E&P industry—join SPE and help build the world of SPE in 2008," he said.



Bali

Rahul Bali, Superintending Production Engineer-Installations Manager for Oil and Natural Gas Corporation and secretary of the SPE New Delhi Section, recruited 113 new members during the campaign.

Bali said he shares the benefits of joining SPE to potential members during SPE section technical meetings. "Most nonmembers, when they come to the section technical meetings, are quite impressed and become members. Many professionals were encouraged to join through emails that elaborated the value that SPE provides to its members.

Easy-to-use soft copy of membership forms were used," he said.

"My belief in the cause of SPE as an organization that has helped the industry, academia, and consultants for so many years—a true 'Society for Professional Excellence'—has developed my passion for this great society," Bali said. "Peer recognition is another reason that motivates me. Above all, it is the pleasure of volunteering and giving back to this society by introducing fellow professionals to the benefits of SPE and encouraging them to join, 'To Build the World of SPE' year after year."

Bali has been an SPE member for the past 17 years. In 2002, as part of the grand prize for the membership contest award, Bali was awarded Lifetime SPE Membership, and he was inducted into the Century Club in 2003. This year, he hopes to recruit as many new members as possible.

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“With 79,300 members in 2007, SPE is the largest E&P multidisciplinary society that holds the maximum number of quality conferences and ATWs each year across the globe,” he said. “I take pride in sharing that joining SPE has been probably the best investment of my career. I have made several great friends all over the world from various E&P companies all because of my involvement with SPE.”



Bell

Herb Bell is the top membership recruiter overall in SPE, having signed up 2,683 members. He signed up eight new members in 2007. A member since 1966, Bell has recruited most members while attending the SPE Annual Technical Conference and Exhibition for the last 30 years and the Offshore Technology Conference for the past 20 years. “At the conferences, I have SPE applications in hand,” he said. “If I see somebody wearing a badge that says nonmember, I go up and talk to them.”

When Bell began recruiting new members, he and members Howard McDonald and Jim Paul created a competition among each other. “For 10 years, the three of us would go to SPE meetings every year and battle one another to see who could sign up the most members. We had a very heavy,

serious competition. Anybody we saw with a nonmember tag on, one of the three of us would race over and try to get him to sign up,” he said. To grab attendees’ attention, Bell wore buttons and made signs that said, “Come see me about a free membership.”

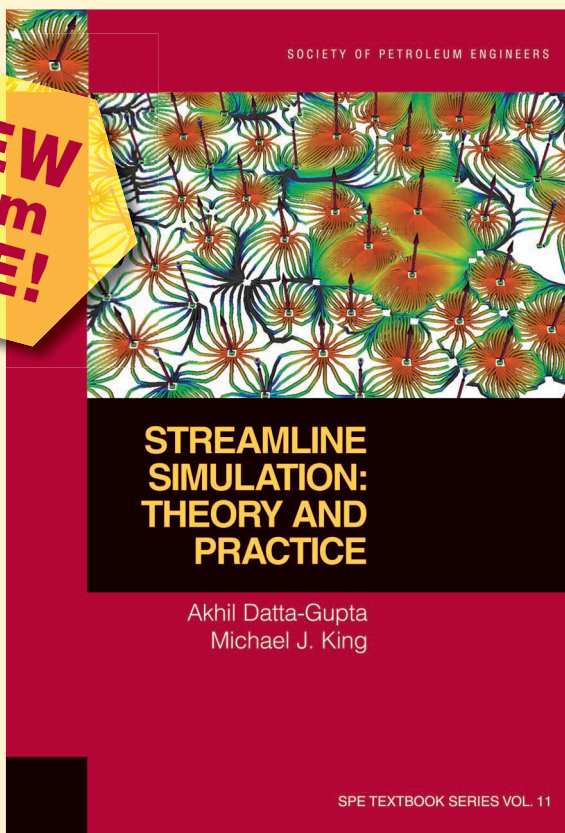
Inducted into the Century Club in 1980, Bell says SPE is the single best organization in the oil and gas industry. “In 2007, SPE had 79,300 members, with every single discipline of members that you could think of: engineers, geologists, lawyers, etc. That is what enables SPE to solve any problem in the oil and gas industry, because the membership base is so broad with so many different disciplines and knowledge.

“When I sign up new members, I encourage them to get as active as they possibly can in their local sections because they will get a lot out of it. Some of it is going to be technical knowledge, and some of it is going to be good old friendships with people,” he said.

The 2008 Build the World of SPE contest began 1 January 2008 and continues until 31 December 2008. SPE members do not need to sign up for the contest. Once a member recruits his or her first new member, his or her name is listed on the application, and SPE automatically enters the member in the contest. To learn more about the contest, go to [www.spe.org/recruit](http://www.spe.org/recruit).

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# 2009 LACPEC To Be Held in Colombia



**The 2009 LACPEC Steering Committee from left to right: Adolfo Pires, SPE Macaé Section; Julio Shiratori, SPE Argentine Petroleum Section; Carlos Ferraris, SPE Bolivia Section; Anelise Lara, SPE Brazil Section; Solange Ferreira, SPE Senior Manager Latin America and Caribbean Activities; Bill Cobb, 2008 SPE President; Pedro Martinez, SPE Colombia Section; Jorge Robles, SPE Patagonia Section; Cesar Gama, SPE Western Venezuela Section; Nigel Sookdeo, SPE Trinidad and Tobago Section; James Pappas, SPE Director Production and Operations; and Ivan Miranda, SPE Peru Section.**

The 2009 Latin American and Caribbean Petroleum Engineering Conference (LACPEC) will be held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, from 31 May to 3 June 2009.

LACPEC is a biennial conference that has been held in various locations in Latin America, including Argentina, Trinidad and Tobago, Brazil, and Venezuela. The 25-year-old conference will be a partnership involving SPE and SPE sections in South America and the Caribbean and will involve industry experts from both inside and outside

the region. Involving all SPE sections in the region will allow the conference to expand its technical program and increase participation.

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## BUILDING BRIDGES (cont'd. from page 14)

As I urge you to volunteer, I also ask you to understand that for some positions you may not be called on right away. In making committee appointments at the society-wide level, we strive for a balance of company, geographic, and technical-expertise representation, and your demographic may already be represented on the committee you volunteered for.

There's a list of volunteer opportunities on [www.spe.org](http://www.spe.org), under the section About SPE. You can help build bridges with your peers, with young members and potential entrants into our profession, while you make lifelong friends and enhance your own professional abilities. There are so many ways to become involved in SPE—surely one will be your passion. Take a look around SPE and say “I can.”

On the road, building bridges, and encouraging SPE members...

JPT

Bill

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