

# Reflections

Bill Cobb, 2008 SPE President, [president@spe.org](mailto:president@spe.org)



My term as president ends at the SPE Annual Technical Conference and Exhibition next month. I am amazed at how quickly the time has passed. This will be my last column, and so I think it is a good time for a bit of reflection on the organizational and personal goals with which I began my term:

**Promote new Petroleum Resources Management System (PRMS)**—In a previous column, I talked about the development of the PRMS. An important update is that the PRMS served as a major basis for recommendations made in late

June to the US Securities and Exchange Commission for rule changes to modernize their reporting requirements for oil and gas companies. Our Oil and Gas Reserves Committee is preparing comments to the Commission on their proposals that relate to PRMS. I presented a briefing about the PRMS at a roundtable session on reserves at the World Petroleum Congress in Madrid in early July.

**Develop leadership in carbon capture and sequestration (CCS)**—I appointed an expert committee to guide SPE in this important area and to promote technical information exchange on best practices and lessons learned relating to CCS. The committee provided an update to the Board in June on upcoming SPE events with sessions on CCS topics, as well as efforts to coordinate our activities with other engineering societies.

**Support young professionals programs**—Our young professionals have great momentum in organizing workshops and programs around the world. I spoke to young professionals, as well as students, in almost every country I went to. I am confident that our industry will be in good hands. I also spoke at the World Petroleum Congress on the importance of industry collaboration to ensure that we attract new talent to the industry.

**Promote energy education outreach programs to pre-college students**—SPE's new *Oil and Natural Gas* book represents a tremendous opportunity to educate teachers, parents, and students about our industry. I've given copies to company and government leaders, as well as section leaders, throughout my travels this year. We also continue our efforts to collaborate with other professional societies on career outreach, and hope to expand [www.energy4me.org](http://www.energy4me.org) to offer geoscience career information as well.

**Build bridges to universities to help alleviate faculty shortage**—High industry demand for petroleum professionals is causing both an inflow of students and an increase in faculty vacancies in the US and elsewhere. To help address the faculty shortage, SPE has created an Adjunct Faculty Clearinghouse on [www.spe.org](http://www.spe.org) to help academic departments publicize their faculty needs to industry. SPE also recently established 15 new fellowships for graduate students, who may choose a career in teaching.

**Emphasize SPE Professional Certification Program**—To date, the certification exam has been taken by 102 professionals, with a remarkable 58% pass rate. We

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will offer five exams in 2008. In my travels, I have found that members in countries that do not have registration programs for engineers are very interested in demonstrating their competence through SPE's certification program.

**Ensure long-range plan is implemented**—We are treating the long-range plan as a strategic document that we revisit and update annually to keep it evergreen. In June, our board committees conducted this year's annual review to assess our progress in achieving our objectives and to determine whether any parts of the plan should be revisited.

**Stimulate members to volunteer**—Throughout my section visits, I've been impressed with the quality of volunteers and their willingness to serve SPE at the local and regional level. You will be doing yourself and the profession a big favor by volunteering in your local section, as well as participating in such other opportunities as Technical Interest Groups or Technical Sections. I know you will receive more than you give.

**Serve as an ambassador to SPE members**—This was both a privilege and a pleasure. My goal was to spread the word about the technical and professional development that SPE offers to members of all years of experience. I also wanted to hear what members need from SPE as our geographic and

demographic diversity increases. Finally, I wanted to make sure members were aware of recent Board actions.

Here's a brief report of key actions from the SPE Board meeting in late June.

Several new SPE programs will expand the technical information available in other languages.

- A new bimonthly SPE regional newsletter will be launched in October 2008. The publication, *SPE Review: Russia and the Caspian*, will be published in Russian and available online only.

- The Petroleum Resources Management System will be translated into Spanish as a pilot program.

- A new collaborative online E&P Glossary allows members to both look up and contribute terms and definitions in multiple languages, and is now available at [www.spe.org/glossary](http://www.spe.org/glossary).

To support our retired members, SPE will collaborate with Expert Alumni to match members who are interested in continuing to use their expertise on a contract or part-time basis with companies that are seeking assistance. Links to Expert Alumni will be made available from [www.spe.org](http://www.spe.org).

A new Production and Operations Technical Section was approved. A technical section allows SPE members with a common interest in a technical area to join together to share ideas, promote competence, and develop projects related to their technical interest.

Prior to the Board meeting, Board officers and staff met with some members of the new Industry Advisory Council. The meeting was very successful, and a second meeting with additional council members is planned for September.

This has been a rewarding year for me. I want to express my appreciation to my fellow members for allowing me to serve SPE. I have had the opportunity to make many new friends in my travels to sections and chapters around the world. I also want to thank the Board of Directors for their able leadership and support of programs to help move SPE forward as a truly global organization. Finally, I want to recognize the contributions of the SPE staff in making this a well-run and forward-looking organization that cares about its members.

I hope to see many of you in Denver at our Annual Technical Conference and Exhibition. JPT

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

*Bill*

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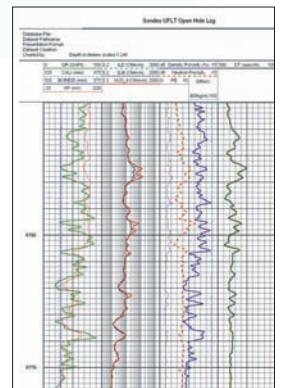


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