

Free Energy Education Tools Coming to SPE Sections

Erica Shillings, JPT Assistant Features Editor

Energy4me, SPE's energy education outreach program, has made available new tools for SPE members to give classroom presentations. Each SPE section will receive a complimentary sample of the new Energy4me Kit and the *Oil and Natural Gas* educational book in January 2009.

The Energy4me Kit, updating the Magic Suitcase, is designed so members and educators can quickly and easily prepare for an energy-related classroom presentation. The kit includes a speaker's guide, ready-to-go presentations, videos, and interactive classroom activities for primary, intermediate, and secondary school students.

"Young people today learn best by doing things that relate to their everyday lives. We wanted to make sure that our members have activities to use that will capture the interest of students of all ages," said Bill Pike, Chairperson of the SPE Energy Information Committee that

guides SPE's global outreach program. To make the materials accessible globally, SPE is translating both the *Oil and Natural Gas* book and the Energy4me Kit materials into Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian, and Spanish in 2009.

Deborah Hempel-Medina, SPE Dallas section member, has used the kit for several science classroom and career fair presentations since its initial release last September. "The Energy4me Kit is really easy to use. It saves preparation time, and the activities included really get the kids engaged." Mobilizing SPE's 79,000 members in 115 countries to make classroom presentations is a cornerstone of the Energy4me program.

Whenever a member gives a classroom presentation, SPE donates a copy of *Oil and Natural Gas*, SPE's colorfully illustrated, and information-packed book on the history and uses for oil, and how it shapes our world. "It's

incredibly rewarding to reach out to the kids, and make a difference by sharing my knowledge and leaving such a valuable resource [the book] with the school," Hempel-Medina continued.

SPE also provides a copy of *Oil and Natural Gas* to every teacher who attends teacher workshops held at select SPE conferences. These one-day workshops have been held at the Offshore Technology Conference in Houston and at SPE's Annual Technical Conference and Exhibition for several years, in partnership with the National Energy Education Development Project (NEED). Energy4me plans to host their first energy education teacher conference outside of the US in 2009. The teacher workshops provide fun, hands-on classroom activities teachers could use immediately to "energize" their students.

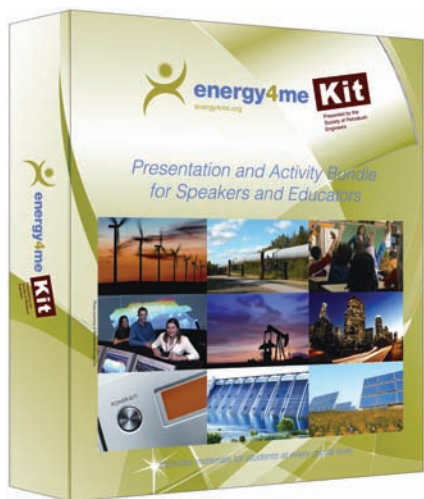
NEED offers more than 700 teacher workshops each year. NEED's Executive Director, Mary Spruill said, "The *Oil and Natural Gas* book has made such a great impact with teachers at SPE teacher workshops that I encourage other companies and organizations to give it to teachers at the workshops they sponsor as well." Companies agree, and have purchased the book for their own teacher workshops and to give to local schools. Kuwait Energy purchased 500 books for schools in their region.

Although *Oil and Natural Gas* was originally intended for preuniversity students, several universities have been using it as a supplement in first-year petroleum engineering courses. Corporations have also gifted *Oil and Natural Gas* to nontechnical or new employees. Several museums, such as the Houston Museum of Natural Science, are selling the book in their gift shops.

More than 6,000 copies of *Oil and Natural Gas* were distributed in 2008.



Oil and Natural Gas is a fun, colorfully illustrated, and information-filled book for primary and secondary students.



The Energy4me Kit offers classroom activities for every grade level.

Energy4me plans to increase distribution in 2009 to 38,000 books targeting intermediate schools in the US, Canada, the UK, and Australia. Translated versions of the book will be available in a

hardbound copy, and the translated kit materials will be available for download on the Energy4me website, www.energy4me.org. Distribution of the translated books is planned for schools in regions where SPE members live and speak the relevant language, and where the oil industry has a significant presence. Sections may wish to seek corporate sponsors to fund translations into additional languages for use in their regions.

Expansion of the Energy4me website will also begin in 2009, with the goal of creating a premier global platform for electronic dissemination of energy information and career resources to students, educators, and the public. Key portions of the website will be presented in languages other than English, beginning with Spanish. Career content will be expanded to include the geosciences and other engineering professions. New interactive features will be added to appeal to students, as well as ways for teachers and industry professionals to share information.

“We recognize that member and section involvement is critical to energy education outreach,” said Pike. “We’ve already seen some inspiring examples by SPE sections from Australian to Aberdeen, and sections in between.” Last September, SPE’s Aberdeen section teamed with Total E&P UK to give several hundred copies of *Oil and Natural Gas* to the schools in their region. Billings Petroleum, Permian Basin, Powder River Basin, and South Australian are among other sections that provided the new Energy4me materials to local schools and teacher workshops. Energy4me is currently working on the next phase of SPE membership participation, which includes a program for SPE members to share the Energy4me program with school administrators or principals.

Energy4me provides factual, non-biased energy education resources for students, educators, and the public through website and printed materials. Visit www.energy4me.org for more information on Energy4me. **JPT**

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SPE/AIChE Joint Workshop: Practical Strategies for Managing CO ₂ Emissions? Where Are We Going?	23–24 February 2009	Sonoma, California, USA
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Maximizing the Value of Horizontal and Multilateral Wells: New Challenges, Technologies and Approaches	8–11 March 2009	Penang, Malaysia
Real Time Decisions While Drilling	9–11 March 2009	Madrid, Spain
Petroleum Reserves Estimation Workshop: Sharing the Vision	10–11 March 2009	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
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Production Management Best Practices for CBM Fields	30 March–2 April 2009	Queensland, Australia
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Well Control	14–16 April 2009	Macaé, Brazil
Human Resources Challenges	20–22 April 2009	Muscat, Oman
Natural Gas—Development in a Sustainable Manner	22–23 April 2009	Port of Spain, Trinidad
Electric Submersible Pump Workshop	29 April–1 May 2009	The Woodlands, Texas, USA