

## Saudi Arabia Section Celebrates 50th Anniversary

The SPE Saudi Arabia Section celebrated its 50th anniversary at a dinner meeting in January attended by nearly 500 people, which included SPE members, current and retired Saudi Aramco executive management, and executives of many service companies. The section was established on 16 January 1959 and was the third section outside North America. Stephen Holditch, 2002 SPE president and department head and Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation endowed chairperson in petroleum engineering at Texas A&M University, and Farouk Elbaz, noted scientist and director of the Center for Remote Sensing at Boston University, attended the event.

“The wonderful turnout of our members is heartwarming and indicates that our growth signifies an interested and involved membership, eager to give and benefit,” said Hiba Djalid, SPE Saudi Arabia Section chairperson.

“Today is a chance to honor the vision and foresight of the founders of the SPE Saudi Arabia Section,” said Khalid Al-Falih, president and chief executive officer of Saudi Aramco. “To thank the generations of men and women who helped build the organization and who steered it through periods of momentous change in our nation, in our industry, and in our companies.”

The anniversary celebration provided members the opportunity to reflect on lessons of the past while looking to challenges of the future, said Al-Falih. “This is an occasion to reflect on the achievements of previous generations. It is also a chance to celebrate the accomplishments of the present generations, to express our gratitude to the men and women of our oil industry. Most importantly, the anniversary provides us with the opportunity to look ahead to the future, not just relive the past.

“Consider the incredible volume and value of the oil and gas resources that have been entrusted to the members of this section to steward: fully a fifth of the world’s proven reserves of crude oil and the planet’s fourth-largest reserves of natural gas,”



**Khalid Al-Falih, president and chief executive officer of Saudi Aramco, speaks at the celebration.**

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**SPE Saudi Arabia Section board members at the 50th anniversary celebration. Front row, from left: Mohammad Y. Al-Qahtani, executive director of petroleum engineering and development, Saudi Aramco; Abd Allah Al Saif, retired senior vice president of exploration and producing, Saudi Aramco; M. Yusuf Rafie, retired senior vice president, Saudi Aramco; Hiba Dialdin, SPE Saudi Arabia Section chairperson; Khalid Al-Falih, president and chief executive officer of Saudi Aramco; Amin Al-Nasser, senior vice president of exploration and producing, Saudi Aramco; Abdullah Al-Naim, vice president of exploration, Saudi Aramco; and Hamoud Al-Anazi, SPE Saudi Arabia Section vice chairperson for technical programs. Back row, from left: Mohammad Al-Shenqiti, SPE Saudi Arabia Section treasurer; Ali Al-Yousef, Saudi Aramco; Abdul Aziz Al-Marshad, SPE Saudi Arabia Section vice chairperson for trips and social activities; Abdullatif Al-Omar, SPE Saudi Arabia Section vice chairperson for young professionals and student outreach; Nasser Al-Ali, SPE Saudi Arabia Section technical committee member; Mohammed Jawfi, SPE Saudi Arabia Section technical committee member; and Mohammed Al-Ghuson, SPE Saudi Arabia Section vice chairperson for electronic media.**

he said. "Because this section plays such a distinctive role in the upstream segment of our business, there is a tremendous amount riding on the work of this organization."

He concluded, "We have an opportunity to take our respective companies and institutions to new levels of excellence, to deliver even greater value to our nation and its people, and to record even more significant achievements as a petroleum powerhouse. I am confident in our collective ability to scale those heights and to write a stirring new chapter in the proud history of our industry and of our nation."

Dialdin's presentation included quotes she gathered from former chairpersons of the SPE Saudi Arabia Section. Former chairperson Sami Neaim said of the section's 50 years, "During those years, the SPE Saudi Arabia Section grew very fast from a few members to more than 2,000 members and from a small section to one of the top three sections worldwide. It grew from a section with limited resources and activities to a section that won the SPE President's Award for Excellence."

After the speeches, an anniversary cake was cut by Al-Falih along with current and past section board of directors members.



**Hiba Dialdin, SPE Saudi Arabia Section chairperson, speaks to attendees.**

## 2009 SPE Regional Award Winners

SPE Regional Awards, which were announced earlier this year, recognize regional achievements and excellence in eight technical disciplines: completions optimization and technology; drilling engineering; formation evaluation; health, safety, social responsibility, and environment; management and information; production and operations; projects, facilities, and construction; and reservoir description and dynamics. Regional service award recipients, outstanding young members, and distinguished corporate support are also recognized. Pictured are some of the SPE Regional Award winners who recently received their awards.



**The 2009 SPE Regional Awards for the Middle East Region were presented at the SPE Middle East Oil and Gas Show and Conference in Bahrain. Ali Al-Hassan, SPE Middle East regional director, presents Shereen Qutob, Baker Hughes, with the SPE Regional Outstanding Young Member Award.**



**The 2009 SPE Regional Awards for the Southwestern North America Region were presented at the Southwestern North America Awards Dinner Banquet in Midland, Texas. Front row, from left: Hoxie Smith, SPE Regional Service Award; Jeanette Reyes, SPE Regional Outstanding Young Member Award; Celia Payne, SPE Regional Production and Operations Award; Billy Harris, SPE Southwestern North America regional director; and John G. Stewart, SPE Regional Projects, Facilities, and Construction Award. Back row, from left: Bill Cobb, 2008 SPE president; David McKinzie, who received the SPE Regional Distinguished Corporate Support Award on behalf of Halliburton Energy Services; Jeffery Laufer, SPE Regional Formation Evaluation Award; Darrell Norris, SPE Regional Completions Optimization and Technology Award; Mark B. Merritt, SPE Regional Management and Information Award; and Peter Schrenkel, SPE Permian Basin Section chairperson.**



**The 2009 SPE Regional Awards for the Western North America Region were presented at the Western North America Annual Regional Awards Luncheon in San Jose, California, which featured keynote speaker John McDonald, chief technology officer, Chevron. Front row, from left: Timothy A. Frame, SPE Regional Service Award; Ahmed Badruzzaman, SPE Regional Formation Evaluation Award; Richard Ames Seaman, SPE Regional Drilling Engineering Award; and Jairam Kamath, SPE Regional Reservoir Description and Dynamics Award. Back row, from left: Jerry Hale, SPE Regional Service Award; William D. Wood, SPE Regional Completions Optimization and Technology Award; John McDonald; Behrooz Fattahi, 2010 SPE president, who received the SPE Regional Distinguished Corporate Support Award on behalf of Aera Energy; Med Kamal, SPE Western North America regional director; Charles Webb, SPE Regional Projects, Facilities, and Construction Award; and Russell Lockman, SPE Regional Production and Operations Award.**



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