

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Victor Vega, Latin America & Caribbean Region President



Happy New Year!

I hope you had a good holiday season, and I wish you the best for 2016. We begin the year with many challenges as industry, and we will have to work hard to continue to motivate existing members and potential new members to stay connected with the industry and with our activities.

In these difficult times, I would like to highlight the power of networking and the opportunities that AAPG or any other professional society can bring. If you are interested, please consider volunteering in the many areas and activities that we provide for our membership.

Opportunities in the Latin America and Caribbean Region this year include Geosciences Technology Workshops (GTWs) in Brazil in May and in Argentina in November. We also are planning the Imperial Barrel Award (IBA) competition in April and a Student-YP Leadership Summit in conjunction with the International Conference & Exhibition (ICE) in Cancun, Mexico in September.

We continue to make progress in the organization of the AAPG-SEG ICE event in Cancun. We have secured several

sponsorships as well as the support from Pemex and Mexican Petroleum Institute. We expect to have strong regional participation in the oral and poster presentations and in the exhibition.

Finally, I would like to mention that we have advanced in conversations with young professionals, student chapters and local societies in the region to start planning an Earth Science Week to promote geoscience as a career option for middle and high school students. We want to use this opportunity to provide some meaningful activities to our younger members (YPs and Students) who can better connect with the younger generations to motivate them to explore sciences.

Many thanks to all of you who volunteer for AAPG, local societies or other associations. Our work would not be possible without your support.

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REGIONAL NEWS UPDATE

LACR's IBA Competition Largest Yet

The 2016 AAPG Latin America & Caribbean Region's Imperial Barrel Award competition will be the largest yet, with 23 teams from eight countries participating in the regional semifinals.

AAPG's Imperial Barrel Award (IBA) program is an annual

prospective basin evaluation competition for geoscience students from universities around the world. University teams compete to win scholarship funds for their department and the international recognition that comes from competing or winning in the competition. The program is rigorous and contributes to AAPG's mission of promoting petroleum geoscience training and advancing the careers of geoscience students.

In this global competition, university teams analyze a dataset (geology, geophysics, land, production infrastructure, and other relevant materials) in the eight weeks prior to their local competition. Each team delivers their results in a 25-minute presentation to a panel of industry experts. Students have the chance to use state-of-the-art technology on a real dataset, receive feedback from an industry panel, impress potential employers in the audience, and win cash awards for their school. The judges will select the winning team on the basis of the technical quality, clarity and originality of presentation.

The LAC Region semifinals has two phases, a virtual round for all teams and an in-person round for a smaller group. All 23 teams will participate in a virtual round, conducted via videoconference, and top finishers travel to Bogotá to compete in person at the Region semifinals.

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IBA continued from previous page

The winning team receives US \$1,000 and travels to represent the Region at the IBA global final competition held in Calgary prior to the AAPG Annual Conference and Exhibition (ACE) in June.

LACR IBA Timeline:

Dataset release..... 1 February 2016
Virtual round with all teams (via WebEx)..... 1 April 2016
Región semifinal competition: Bogotá, Colombia..... 29 April 2016
Global final competition (ACE): Calgary, Canada..... 17-18 June 2016

Participating Teams:

- Universidad EAFIT University – Medellín, Colombia
- Universidad Nacional de Colombia – Bogotá, Colombia
- Universidad Nacional de Colombia – Medellín, Colombia
- Universidad de los Andes – Bogotá, Colombia
- Universidad Industrial de Santander – Bucaramanga, Colombia
- Universidad Pedagógica y Tecnológica de Colombia – Sogamoso, Colombia
- Escuela Superior Politécnica del Litoral – Guayaquil, Ecuador
- Universidad Central del Ecuador – Quito, Ecuador
- Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México – Mexico City, Mexico
- University of the West Indies – St. Augustine, Trinidad & Tobago
- Universidad Central de Venezuela – Caracas, Venezuela
- Universidad Simón Bolívar – Caracas, Venezuela
- Universidad de Buenos Aires – Buenos Aires, Argentina
- Universidad Nacional de la Plata – La Plata, Argentina
- Universidad Nacional del Comahue – Neuquén, Argentina
- Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro – Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- Universidad Federal Fluminense – Niterói, Brazil

- Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul – Porto Alegre, Brazil
- Universidade Federal de Sergipe – São Cristóvão, Brazil
- Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos – Lima, Peru
- Universidad Nacional de Ingeniería – Lima, Perú
- Universidad Nacional de San Antonio Abad del Cusco – Cusco, Peru
- Universidad Nacional de San Agustín – Arequipa, Peru

The AAPG Latin America & Caribbean Region wishes all the teams the best of luck!

IBA Sponsorship Opportunities

Support the next generation of geoscientists as an Imperial Barrel Award competition (IBA) sponsor. Your support helps our Region's best and brightest prepare for careers in industry, and provides your company with global recognition and unique recruiting opportunities. Contact latinamerica@aapg.org for more information.

LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Hogg and Region Leadership Promote ICE During Visit to Mexico

AAPG President John Hogg and members of the Latin America & Caribbean Region leadership team visited Mexico City in November to launch the International Conference and Exhibition (ICE) event set for 6-9 September 2016 in Cancun.

The Region visit was the second for President Hogg, who attended the Colombian Geological Congress and the AAPG Student – YP Leadership Summit in Colombia in August.

Hogg was joined by Victor Vega, Region president and Gustavo Carstens, lead delegate for AAPG's Latin America & Caribbean Region and director of the Society of Exploration Geophysicists (SEG), who serve as general vice chairs for ICE Cancun 2016.

While in Mexico City, leaders met with key ICE supporters from Pemex, the Mexican Petroleum Institute and host societies the Mexican Petroleum Geologists Association (AMGP) and the Mexican Exploration Geophysicists Association (AMGE).

The highlight of the visit was the AAPG-SEG ICE Cancun 2016 cocktail launch held at the JW Marriott Hotel in Polanco. The event was attended by 38 individuals representing 21 companies, four professional associations and two universities, as well as Mexico's Ministry of Energy and National Hydrocarbon Commission.

Organizing committee members present included Pemex Exploration Manager Jose Antonio Escalera, ICE Cancun general

chair; Ulises Hernandez (AMGP) and Marco Arreguin (AMGE), technical program chairs; and Everardo Castro (AMGE), sponsorship chair.

Hogg welcomed the group, and Vega provided an overview of the ICE Cancun program, activities and organizing committee. Ulises Hernandez closed the meeting inviting all those present to participate actively through registration, sponsorship and participation in the exhibition.

While in Mexico City, Hogg and Region leaders took advantage of the opportunity to meet with student and YP leaders.

They held a dinner meeting with YP Mexico chapter leaders Alfonso Reyes Pimentel and Nayeli Islas García, both of whom work at Mexico's National Hydrocarbon Commission. They learned about Mexico's regulatory environment and discussed AAPG activities region-wide.

The leaders also visited the Geological Engineering Department at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), where Hogg delivered the lecture "Young Professionals in the Workforce" to approximately 80 university students and faculty.

Following the talk, guests had lunch with UNAM Chapter Faculty Adviser Ricardo Padilla, Student Chapter President Fernando Apango, chapter Vice President Eduardo Tapia. They talked about

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Leadership continued from previous page

the industry in Mexico, Earth Science Week and the 2016 LACR Student-YP Chapter Leadership Summit in Cancun. The group enjoyed typical Mexican cuisine, including guacamole with crickets!

Overall, the Mexico City provided an opportunity to strengthen existing relationships and pave the way for the future. It also enhanced the excitement surrounding ICE 2016 Cancun, which is expected to be a valuable experience for industry professionals, academia and the next generation of geoscientists.



Victor Vega addresses attendees at the ICE 2016 cocktail launch in Mexico City.



Ricardo Padilla, John Hogg, Emily Llinás, Eduardo Tapia, Fernando Apango, Victor Vega and Gustavo Carstens hold a lunch meeting at the UNAM campus in Mexico City.

STUDENTS AND YPS

Report compiled by course participants from Universidad Nacional de la Plata

Modeling Course Strengthens Student/YP Partnership

The Universidad Nacional de la Plata (UNLP) in La Plata, Argentina, hosted a Seismic Pattern Recognition and Reservoir Modeling course in late October 2015.

The course was organized by the AAPG UNLP Student Chapter in collaboration with the AAPG Argentina YP Chapter and the oil and gas software provider Paradigm.

The course was taught by Juan Jose Ramos and Javier Sotillo who are currently working for in Paradigm in Buenos Aires. Juan specializes in geological modeling and Javier in seismic interpretation and characterization. Javier also participates in the AAPG Argentina YP Chapter.

The aim was to give students useful tools that are commonly used in the oil and gas industry. UNLP chapter members consider the course a great achievement because it was our first attempt at developing such activities.

We used the course as an opportunity to strengthen relations with the AAPG chapters in Argentina and with members of the UNLP Society of Exploration Geophysicists (SEG) Geophysics Society.

Along with 15 UNLP AAPG Student Chapter members, we had five members of the UNLP Geophysics Society and two members from the AAPG University of Buenos Aires (UBA) chapter attend.

The success of the course is reflected in the following participant comments:

"I ended up with a very good feeling, both about the course and about getting to know UNLP students and the campus. I always really enjoy these experiences of change of place and social circle. As for the course itself, I feel I learned more in four days than I usually learn in a quarter." - Pablo Perez (UBA chapter)

"These courses serve to help a lot to learn about software and to practice using it. It is also a very good tool to use in the IBA. It was good to learn about this branch of industry while building

relationships with colleagues from other chapters." - Fermin Palma (UNLP Chapter)

"First of all I want to congratulate the chapter for having achieved this course and all you did, also thank you for letting us participate. From my point of view; the course was very good and interesting. We, in geophysics learn about seismic interpretation and seismic attributes, but only mathematically, and we know there's more. I liked seeing the application. We had never done structural modeling either, so this course helped me make a lot of progress. I hope this is the beginning of more united efforts between chapters. - Consuelo Sagarra (SEG chapter member)



Seismic/Reservoir Modeling course participants.



Javier Sotillo, YP chapter member from Paradigm, teaches students about seismic pattern recognition.



UPCOMING EVENTS

2-3 March 2016

SPE/AAPG Offshore Colombia Workshop – Challenges and Opportunities for an Emerging Industry
Bogotá, Colombia

1 April 2016

Latin America & Caribbean Region IBA 2016 Virtual Competition
Via WebEx

3-6 April 2016

AAPG-SEG 2016 International Conference and Exhibition
Centre de Convencions Internacional de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain

29 April 2016

Latin America & Caribbean Region IBA 2016 Semifinals
Ecopetrol, SA, Bogota, Colombia

18-19 May 2016

GTW Brazil 2016 – Exploration and Production Challenges and Opportunities in a Low-Price Environment
Rio Hotel Othon Palace, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Co-hosted with the Associação Brasileira de Geólogos de Petróleo (ABGP)

19-22 June 2016

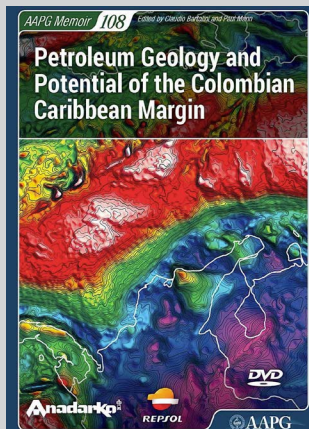
AAPG Annual Conference and Exhibition (ACE)
BMO Centre at Stampede Park Calgary, Canada

6-9 September 2016

AAPG I SEG International Conference and Exhibition (ICE) – Exploring Frontiers in a Competitive Environment
Cancún, Mexico

For more information and sponsorship opportunities, contact
latinamerica@aapg.org

Petroleum Geology and Potential of the Colombian Caribbean Margin Now Available



AAPG Memoir 108, Petroleum Geology and Potential of the Colombian Caribbean Margin, is now available for purchase.

Memoir 108 is the first international book published on the petroleum geology and hydrocarbon potential of the Colombian Caribbean Margin. The volume's highly valuable and innovative information is critical for geoscientists in the petroleum industry, research institutions, and academia.

Purchase AAPG Memoir 108 at
<http://store.aapg.org>.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Calling all Graduate Students

Looking for funding for your master's or doctorate research? Apply for the AAPG Foundation Grants-in-Aid Program. Applications are due 15 February. Find out more at foundation.aapg.org.

STAY IN TOUCH

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Something to share with the AAPG Latin America & Caribbean Region?

To contribute to our next newsletter, send articles or story ideas and photos to latinamerica@aapg.org. Submissions are due 15 March.

AAPG COURSES...PROVIDING A COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE

Looking for hassle free, cost-effective ways to keep your employees and your company competitive during the industry downturn? Let AAPG provide you with customized in-house courses offered at reasonable rates. Our global network of instructors brings you world-class training from the convenience of your own office.

Training is available in the following areas:

- Sandstone reservoir characterization (deepwater, fluvial deltaic, shallow marine and more).
- Seismic stratigraphy applied to exploration (3-D seismic).
- Sequence stratigraphy (fluvial, marine, deep-marine, biostratigraphy).
- Geology of unconventional and shale plays.
- Basin and geologic modeling.
- Siliciclastic petrography.

TRAINING

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