



AAPG Middle East Regional Newsletter

Winter 2008



Message from the President

The purpose of this newsletter is to keep you informed about AAPG activities in the Middle East Region. We are working with AAPG affiliated societies in the Emirates, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain and Dhahran, and are seeking volunteers to represent members in other countries in the Middle East. Our purpose is to serve your professional needs through lectures, training, field trips, to promote communications among our members and collaboration among our professional societies, and to help improve geoscience education in the region.

I look forward to seeing you at the AAPG reception on Tuesday Evening at 7:00 PM during **Geo2008**. See the note to the right→.

I urge you to vote in the forthcoming election of AAPG officers. This year, your vote for AAPG President is particularly important because the stakes are high for the international direction of AAPG, due to the presence of a petition candidate. Please carefully review the backgrounds of the candidates before casting your vote, and vote for your top two candidates, not just one. This is because when there are three candidates, the votes for the candidate receiving the least number of votes shall be divided among the other two candidates **as indicated by the second preference on the voter's ballot**. (For candidate backgrounds, see: <http://www.aapg.org/business/candidates/index.cfm>).

Abdulkader M. Afifi

GEO 2008

Geo 2008 is Coming!

The Middle East's premier geoscience meeting will be held 3-5 March 2008 in Bahrain. See: <http://www.geobahrain.org/events/index.php?eventid=55> for full details.

Reception at the **Geo2008** for all AAPG Members and Applicants

There will be a reception for all AAPG Middle East Region Members and spouses on Tuesday evening at the **Geo2008** Meeting in Bahrain, after the end of the day's technical sessions. There will be a short introduction of regional officers and Delegates, and a welcome to the AAPG President-Elect Scott Tinker. There will also be information on Student Membership and how to establish Student Chapters. Information will also be available on participation of the AAPG Student Chapter teams in the worldwide Imperial Barrel Competition (*detailed information on Page 3 of this Newsletter*). There will be plenty of time for meeting old friends and new colleagues, and identifying sponsors for those applying for AAPG Student, Associate, or Active Membership or upgrading their Associate Membership to Active Member.

Time: 7:00 PM Tuesday 4 March

Place: **Crowne Plaza Hotel Convention Center**, Diplomatic Quarter, Manama Bahrain (just off the intersection of the Corniche Boulevard (King Faisal Highway) and Al Fatih Highway)

Look for a handout at the **Geo2008** meeting for a map and other information for this event.

[AAPG Middle East Region Visiting Lecturer Program](#)

The AAPG Middle East Region is starting-up an [AAPG Middle East Region Visiting Lecturer Program](#). Our vision is to make available a selection of quality technical presentations that focus on the Middle East Region available to you as affiliated societies, and Universities with AAPG student chapters.

Once we have the program in-place, a listing of the speaker availability and selection of talks will be circulated to the ME Region Societies and Universities. The host Society or University can then begin requesting speakers through the Middle East Region Executive Committee.

The speaker list will be updated 2 or 3 times a year as the speaker availability changes.

The AAPG Middle East Region budget will provide round-trip economy airfare for the speakers along with taxi fare to and from the speaker's home country airport. The inviting

society or University will provide transportation, meals and lodging for the speaker once the speaker arrives in the country of the host Society or University.

Country Representatives Needed

We are trying to identify colleagues interested in being **AAPG Middle East Region Country Representatives**. We hope these Members will be a first contact for potential members seeking information, as well as making sure that events of geological and industry interest in their countries are suitably publicized within the MER. IF you are interested, please contact any MER officer.

(http://www.aapg.org/regions/middle_east.cfm)

Membership

Currently the MER has one Honorary Member, 262 Active Members, 181 Associate Members, (114 of these with enough experience for Active Membership!), 76 Student Members, and six Emeritus Members.

News from the Affiliated Societies

Affiliated Societies

Currently there are four **AAPG Affiliated Societies** within the AAPG MER. These are the **Arab Geologist Association** (Iraq), **Dhahran Geoscience Society** (Saudi Arabia), the **Emirate Society of Geoscientists** (UAE), and the **Qatar Geological Society**.

Any qualifying geoscience society within the ME Region may affiliate with the AAPG and the Middle East Region. Details may be found at: <http://www.aapg.org/member/affiliate.cfm> and any MER officer can provide further details.

Local Society Activities Around the Region

Arab Geologist Association
(no report available)



Dhahran Geoscience Society

Dinner meetings are held monthly September-June, and have either local or invited speakers

from out of the region. Also, several field trips are conducted each year. For further details, check the webpage at:

<http://www.dgsonline.org/> Or contact the DGS President, Ahmed Otaibi, at ahmed.otaibi.1@aramco.com.



Emirates Society of Geoscientists

The ESG holds periodic evening dinner meetings and 1-2 field trips per year. For more information, check the webpage at:

<http://www.esg-uae.org>

Or contact the ESG Chairman Salem Al Matroushi at smatroushi@adnoc.com.



Qatar Geological Society

We have no current information on the QGS, but information may be obtained from the QGS President, Manny Fernandez at

manny.n.fernandez@conocophillips.com.

2008 AAPG Annual Convention & Exhibition

**Deliver the Conventional;
Pursue the Unconventional**

April 20-23, 2008 • San Antonio, Texas



AAPG

International Conference and Exhibition

26-29 October 2008

Cape Town, South Africa

News for Students



New for Students—

The Imperial Barrel Competition

The AAPG has started a worldwide contest for Student Chapters from around the world. Each Region or Section can select a team to participate in the annual competition at the AAPG Annual Convention—*all expenses paid!* And the 2007 winning team received a First Prize of **\$20,000 USD**.

We hope to have a competition later in 2008 to select a team to represent the Middle East Region. Start now to establish your Student Chapter, gather advisors and coaches, and begin to prepare.

There is a lot more information on the competition at:

<http://www.aapg.org/iba/index.cfm>

But the important thing is to set up your AAPG Student Chapter NOW!

Middle East Region—AAPG Student Chapters

Currently there are no AAPG Student Chapters in the Middle East Region, but we hope to add several this coming year. We also will be trying to identify every university in our region which offers geoscience degrees. If you are a graduate of any of the geoscience university programs in the region, consider being an advisor to the student chapter at your past school, and also perhaps a coach for your school's Imperial Barrel competition team.

We are currently aware of the following MER universities with geoscience curricula:

Iraq—Salahaddin University, University of Suleimaniya

Iran—University of Amir Kabir, Khorasan Azad University, Mashhad University (<http://www.um.ac.ir/modules.php?op=modload&name=Faculty&file=depart&dn=2104&id=21>)

Jordan—University of Jordan (<http://www.ju.edu.jo/sci/GeoIndex.htm>)

Lebanon—American University of Beirut

Oman—Sultan Qaboos University (<http://www.squ.edu.om/sci/Earth/indx.html>)

Qatar—Qatar University (http://www.qu.edu.qa/qu/colleges/arts_sciences/cas_chm_intro.html)

Saudi Arabia—King Abdulaziz University, King Fahd University of Petroleum & Minerals (<http://www.kfupm.edu.sa/es/>), King Saud University (<http://www.ksu.edu.sa/sites/Colleges/CollegeofSciences/GeologyDepartment/default.aspx>)

Syria—Damascus University, University of Aleppo

United Arab Emirates—UAE University (<http://www.fsc.uaeu.ac.ae/Geology/>)

Yemen—none known