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President 2010-2011

In Honor and Recognition
of Outstanding Leadership
and Dedicated Service
to the AAPG Energy
Minerals Division.

April 2012



News from the Departing EMD President (2010-2011):



As my term as your President comes to an end, I would like to leave you with a review of the tremendous growth in EMD membership, and with a summary of the EMD activities undertaken over the past year. All this has finally allowed the general AAPG membership to gain free access to EMD's many features designed specifically to be of use by geoscientists involved in unconventional and alternative energy resources in the U.S. and now throughout the world.

First, with the elimination of the EMD dues last year, combined with improved communication with the other committees within AAPG and with the increase in the quality of technical information made available via the EMD Web site by the [Unconventional Energy Resources Group](#), consisting of the committees on coalbed methane, gas hydrates, tight gas sands, gas shales, oil (tar) sands, and oil shale), and via the [Alternative Energy Resources Group](#), consisting of the committees on coal, uranium (and nuclear minerals), geothermal energy, taken together, these expanded activities have resulted in an EMD membership increase approaching 160% since last March, 2010 (see plot [Here](#)). To date, EMD has gained 951 Active Members, 901 Associate Members, and 730 Student Members (the latter of which tends to be variable). To place this growth in context, see the historical EMD membership since 2000 ([Here](#)).

A side note: You EMD Associate Members who have yet to convert your membership to Active status should consider doing so soon. If you need assistance in finding sponsors to sign-off on your application, feel free to contact any of the EMD officers, commodity committee chairs, or councilors in your area. We would be pleased to assist you in becoming an Active Member of EMD.

Second, over the past few years, EMD has increased its collective support of the planning and execution of the AAPG ACE, ICE, GTWs and other meetings through expanding the roles of the Commodity Committee Chairs and Section and Regional Councilors, with a special emphasis on the latter in the activities of the local, sectional, regional, and national geoscience-based societies and associations to further the cooperation in advancing the development of quality geoscience in unconventional and alternative energy resource exploration, production, and environmental management. The Houston ACE turned out to be a major success with a concerted supporting effort coming from EMD. Final planning is underway for the Long Beach ACE in April, 2012. A major effort is also being made by EMD to emphasize the EMD Regional activities in various parts of the world to support the International Conferences and Exhibitions (ICEs) being held overseas, such as the ICE to be held in Milan in 2011, Singapore in 2012, and others in the planning stages (see [Here](#)).

Combined with the above, EMD has also expanded the roles of the EMD Commodity Committees by providing support to the Chairs in tasking them to appoint Vice-Chairs for

Industry, University, and Government, and by assisting the Chairs in widening participation in each of their Commodity Committees by having a Chair-appointed Advisory Group to assist the Chair and Vice-Chairs, and an Observing Group to monitor the Committees' overall activities. Interest in possible appointment to the Advisory Group by the Chair or in the general activities of the committee can be demonstrated by an interested EMD member by visiting the EMD Membership Web page and by clicking the boxes of interest ([Here](#)). An example of the general committee organization is illustrated ([Here](#)). The goals of EMD Committees are summarized ([Here](#)).

Another feature that has been developed over the past year is the interactive EMD-DEG-DPA Web Portal. This is designed to support all AAPG Divisions in providing up-to-date technical and media on the current issues of the day; all three Divisions of AAPG provide the 3rd dimension to the AAPG. It is the responsibility of each of the EMD Commodity Chairs to generate technical reports, papers, news items, and supporting technical information covering conventional and unconventional and alternative energy resources and associated environmental topics of interest. Others may also input information, all of which is reviewed by Web Portal staff for relevancy and appropriateness before allowing the material to go live to the Web Portal. It is complementary to AAPG's other technical information systems currently available, such as [Search and Discovery](#). The Web Portal is growing in popularity with EMD members and I anticipate this growth to increase in the years ahead (see growth to date: ([Here](#))).

One aspect of EMD outreach to non-AAPG geoscientists and the general public is now being managed by each of the Commodity Committees through rejuvenating their respective Public Home pages covering each of the energy resource commodities involved. This should become apparent to you in the months ahead as the revisions come on-line.

Our incoming EMD President, [Stephen Testa](#), will bring new views for discussion and new energy to the EMD, and he has indicated his support in continuing the EMD path of reorganization in the year ahead. As the new EMD Bylaws are translated into a revised Procedures Manual, these changes will be integrated into new EMD activities. You will be hearing from him in July. I look forward to supporting his administration as he did mine over the past year in his role of President-Elect. As the Immediate Past President, I will continue to support EMD but with a slightly new role of looking toward to the future and in representing those members making up the EMD Advisory Council and the Chairs of the Unconventional Energy Resources Group (UERG) with [Andrea Reynolds](#), the incoming President-Elect (2012-2013) and Vice-Chair of UERG.

On a personal note, one of the features of EMD that I have come to understand during the past few years is that EMD is driven by geoscientists who are providing *pro-bono* professional services to the EMD and AAPG. This extends even to non-AAPG members and the general public for the sole purpose of expanding the knowledge of geosciences in the exploration, development, production, and environmental management of unconventional and alternative energy resources in the U.S. and around the world. EMD will continue to expand as new and existing AAPG members see the benefit of becoming part of EMD, as well as DEG and DPA, and of becoming active in its ongoing goal of expanding the geosciences involved in unconventional and alternative energy resources worldwide.

I have been impressed with the senior professional geoscientists serving in the various *pro-bono* positions within the EMD and AAPG as elected Officers and as members of the EMD Executive Committee, as appointed Chairs of the Commodity Committees, as the Section/Region Councilors, and as the Supporting Committee Chairs, who guide EMD in continuing to reach for its membership-oriented goals. Without their dedicated efforts, we could not have progressed as we have over the past year. The question arises: "Why do they work so hard for no financial reward?" The answer is not an easy one. Many do so to give back to their profession after years of success. Many do so because it provides personal technical growth. Many do so for professional recognition. And many do so because they enjoy working with like-minded professionals who enjoy their profession. Another reason professional geoscientists get involved in EMD is because it can provide great satisfaction in being part of something worthwhile and in being given the opportunity to make a significant difference. I subscribe to this reason as well as to the other reasons above.

The past year has been a year to remember. I want to especially thank: Frank Walles, Creties Jenkins, Stephen Testa, Paul Basinski, Mike Wiley, all members of the EMD Executive Committee, the Chairs of the EMD Committees, and the EMD Councilors, as well as David Rensik, David Hawk, Rick Fritz, Stephen Sonnenberg, Scott Tinker of the AAPG, and Dan Tearpock of the DPA for their support and kindness over the past year. I could list many others but they know who they are and I thank them for their support.

Regards,

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EMD President (2010-2011)

and

Vice President and Chief Geologist/Hydrogeologist

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