Maintaining our momentum in difficult times

Mohammed Alfaraj
EAGE president
2015-2016

Despite these difficult economic times, I can report that EAGE continues to make strides to reach out and provide services to its members worldwide. We are doing this at the same time by reviewing every part of the organization and the delivery of services to ensure that we are cost effective. This is only prudent and respectful of the hardship which many of the industry – companies and individuals - are going through worldwide.

Beijing hosts digital rock physics event

The emerging theory and applications of digital rock physics will be the focus of discussion at an upcoming international symposium in Beijing to include keynote speeches, technical presentations and a visit to a digital rock laboratory.

The event on 30-31 March, 2016 is being organized by EAGE and the Society of Core Analysts (SCA) and hosted by the China University of Petroleum, Beijing (CUPB).

The high-powered scientific committee charged with preparing the programme is co-chaired by Dr Lizhi Xiao (CUPB), Dr Dirk Smit (Shell) and Prof Martin Blunt (Imperial College and iRock). This EAGE/SCA event is seen as creating a platform for geoscientists and petrophysicists to consider topics such as laboratory rock physics, new methods, theoretic and numerical studies, rock physics for unconventional resources, rock physics for reservoir surveillance and current industry practice.

Trivia Question

Singapore is the world’s only island city-state.

A - How many km is it above the Equator?
B - How many people live in the city?
C - How many territorial islets surround Singapore Island (Pulau Ujong)?

Answers on p. 8
Maintaining our momentum in difficult times

Interaction among all participants. We already look forward to the next round in Barcelona, September 2016, and hope to see a noticeable representation from Asia Pacific.


However, 2016 does not only promise exciting initiatives, it will also be a difficult period. I appeal to all stakeholders in our industry not to downplay the importance of R&D. Specifically, I would strongly advise against allowing the R&D staff of our industry to become one of the first corners to be cut in this tough economic downturn. R&D is the shop that cheaply generates innovative ideas that may enable us to reach the ‘as yet unreach-able’. Be warned, too, that R&D staff may never return to our industry once let go.

Beijing hosts digital rock physics event

continued from p. 1

The day before the symposium, there will be a one-day short course on ‘Digital Rock Technology’ conducted by Prof Mark Knackstedt (Australian National University) at the CUPB venue. The course is intended to provide an in-depth description of digital rock analysis techniques with an emphasis on the fundamentals, plus the tools and practical methods utilised in this workflow.

After the symposium, there will be a one-day field trip to Yanqing Geopark, a world class geo-heritage with North China-type karst landforms, dinosaur footprints and bedding planes of 1000 m carbonate rocks. Ruins of the famous Great Wall were built on the exposed waved surface of the Badaling complex rock which became a vivid example of the relationship between geo-heritage and history of Qing dynasty.

Jean-Jacques Biteau, EAGE vice president elect, Peter Verweij, director, regional development, and Gerard Wiegnerink, regional manager, Asia Pacific, showed their support by being present at the symposium in Beijing.

Chief executive meets the Asia Pacific team

Marcel van Loon, EAGE’s executive director, was on hand recently to meet the current team in the Asia Pacific regional office and discuss development of EAGE membership and services in the Asia Pacific region. From right to left: Terrie Sung, finance manager, Siti Munira, membership & registration assistant, Gerard Wiegnerink, regional manager, Marcel Van Loon, Rachel Moo, event manager, Kogila Ramesh, membership & registration assistant, and Juliana Wong, event manager.
Extending friendship to Myanmar Geoscience Society

EAGE/AAPG/MGS Myanmar Oil and Gas conference on 19-20 November, 2015 was a huge success with over 200 participants. It was also the occasion to welcome the Myanmar geoscience community into the EAGE family. Technical proceedings began with keynote addresses by Claude Rangin of Nice University (France); Chris Morley, Chiang Mai University (Thailand); Lynn Prior, Frogtex (Australia); and Prof Khin Zaw, University of Tasmania (Australia), focusing on fundamental geological issues. This set the scene for the parallel sessions on ‘Offshore Studies and Operations Updates’ and ‘General/Regional Geology/Onshore’ in which key oil companies such as PTTEP, Total, Petronas, Ophir, Chevron, CNPC and Woodside, and service companies including Schlumberger and CGG contributed presentations.

A highlight for EAGE in Myanmar was the signing of an associated society membership agreement with Myanmar Geoscience Society, based in Yangon, Myanmar. The society was represented by U Soe Myint, president. EAGE was represented by Gerard Wieggerink, regional manager, Asia Pacific and Peter Verweij, director, regional development. Through this formal associated agreement, local and national geoscientific societies are given the opportunity to use the knowledge and network of an international, professional society like EAGE. As a gesture of goodwill, EAGE extended 100 free one-year full memberships to the geoscience community in Myanmar.

EAGE to make its presence felt at Adelaide event

EAGE will be present in more ways than one at the 25th International Geophysical Conference and Exhibition (ASEG-PESA-AIG 2016) being held in Adelaide, South Australia on 21-24 August, 2016. The event is organized by ASEG (Australian Society of Exploration Geophysicists), PESA (Petroleum Exploration Society of Australia), and – for the first time - AIG (Australian Institute of Geoscientists).

One of the conference highlights for student delegates will be the regional EAGE Geo-Quiz. Students can team up (three students per team) and compete against fellow students in a multidisciplinary geoscience quiz. The winning team will receive travel grants and free entrance to the 79th EAGE Conference & Exhibition held on 12-15 June, 2017 in Paris, France! The event will also host EAGE’s EET11 short course ‘Gravity and Magnetic Methods in Mineral and Oil and Gas Exploration and Production’ presented by Dr Yaoguo Li (Colorado School of Mines).

The conference theme is ‘Interpreting the Past, Discovering the Future’: a nod to our past and a view to our future. The call for papers closes in early March 2016, and authors must register for the conference by 1 June, 2016. For all event details, see: www.conference.aseg.org.au

HAGI members elect first woman as president

EAGE would like to congratulate Rusalida Raguwanti on her election as the first HAGI female president (2016-2018). A geophysicist, she ran for the presidency with strong encouragement from fellow peers and won with 75% of the votes at the recent Joint Convention at Balikpapan (Indonesia).

Raguwanti has over 18 years of experience in the G&G field. She studied geology at the Universitas Pembangunan Nasional ‘Veteran’ Yogyakarta and at University of Tulsa, USA, where she earned her MSC in geophysics.

Since then, she has worked as a geophysicist specialist for Pertamina. She attended the 2015 EAGE Annual Conference and Exhibition 2015 in Madrid, Spain as president elect with Dicky Rahmati Aprillian, HAGI president of 2014-2016, and witnessed the signing of the associated society MOU between HAGI and EAGE.

PTTEP looks forward to hosting major IPTC event in Bangkok

PTTEP is to host the 10th International Petroleum Technology Conference (IPTC) from 14-16 November, 2016 in Bangkok.

Following the closing ceremony of IPTC 2015 in Doha, Qatar, Somporn Vongvuthipornchai, president and CEO of PTTEP, said: ‘It is important to continue educating ourselves, the community and the younger generation on how the oil and gas industry can help build a thriving and sustainable economic ecosystem. IPTC is vital in promoting technology dissemination and knowledge sharing on a global scale. This will help us realise and work for a sustainable future.’

Themed ‘Innovation and Efficiency Excellence for our Energy Future’, IPTC 2016 will feature multiple high-level plenaries and panels, a multidisciplinary technical programme and a state-of-the-art exhibition showcasing the latest innovations and technologies.

It is anticipated that over 4000 energy professionals from around the world will attend IPTC 2016.
Opening eyes in China to colour perception in geoscience interpretation

Dr Gaynor Paton, director of Geosciences at GeoTerra (ffa), relates her experience on the inaugural EAGE Student Lecture Tour in China.

China is a country that has everything on a large scale, its history, its population, its geology, and the number of students eager to absorb new information. In November 2015, EAGE ran the first Student Lecture Tour in China as part of the annual Asia Pacific lecture tour. It was part of a series of lectures to universities in the Asia Pacific region which I was honoured to be asked to present. With support from EAGE China chapter, the EAGE SLT 2015 schedule included China University of Petroleum Beijing, Peking University, China University of Geoscience, CAS Institute of Geology and Geophysics and CNPC Research Institute of Petroleum Exploration & Development. I spent a week in Beijing speaking to post-graduate students from five different institutes, all located in Beijing. The attendance at each lecture was impressively high, with over 500 MSc and PhD geoscience students listening to my lecture over the course of the week.

During each lecture, I was discussing colour perception and its role in seismic interpretation, with particular emphasis on visual cognition and how we understand the images that we see. The students very quickly became engaged in the presentation when they were asked, what sounded like basic questions about what they saw, but which were actually visual perception tricks. Following on from this, they were asked to identify features with no context of where the image came from (geological, biological or astronomical), something which is very hard to do accurately. This illustrated the impact of context and association on our ability to identify what we see.

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The lecture opened the eyes of both the students and the professors to a new way of thinking about colour, human cognition, and the impact they can have on how we perform our everyday tasks. This applies not only to seismic interpretation but all aspects of geoscience, and our wider understanding of visual stimuli. Visual cognition is based on our past experience and knowledge, and my time in Beijing has certainly added a new and positive experience to my cognitive database. The welcome I received from all the universities was exemplary and I thank my hosts and all the students who attended.

Gravity and magnetics short course to make debut in Australia

EAGE is pleased to announce that Dr Yaoguo Li from Colorado School of Mines is bringing to Australia his EET11 course on ‘Gravity and Magnetic Methods for Oil & Gas and Mineral Exploration and Production Gravity’. The short course will be held on 25 August in conjunction with the 25th International Geophysical Conference and Exhibition in Adelaide on 21-24 August, 2016, to serve the Australian geoscience community who attend the ASEG annual event. Dr Li’s course emphasises the importance of selected inversion-based interpretation techniques in the fields of mineral and oil and gas exploration and production.

Dr Li is currently an associate professor of geophysics at the Colorado School of Mines and leads the Center for Gravity, Electrical, and Magnetic Studies (CGEM) and the Gravity and Magnetics Research Consortium (GMRC). He is a co-recipient of the 1999 Gerald W. Hohmann Award, SERDP 2007 Project of the Year Award and 2010 ASEG-PESA Laric Hawkins Award.

Those interested in attending this short course can visit and register with http://www.conference.aseg.org.au. A course book and catering will be provided for attending this short course at Mercure Grovesnor Hotel.
Managing geoscience and golf in Vietnam

Dr Nguyen Hong Minh is deputy general director, Vietnam Petroleum Institute, in charge of training and human resources development, and economic and management studies. After completing a PhD study in geophysics at the Moscow Geological Prospecting University, he joined Vietnam Petroleum Institute (VPI), first as an interpretation geophysicist, then as deputy manager of the Geophysics Department. In 2002, Dr Minh obtained an Executive MBA in International Business and Technology Management from the Asian Institute of Technology. Different management positions have included geo-resources sector manager for geoscience programmes in East and Southeast Asia (CCOP), an inter-governmental organization in Bangkok.

What attracted you to geophysics?
At high school I loved physics, but was selected by the Higher Education Ministry to study geophysics. Maybe, even at that time in 1976, the country could already see the development potential of mineral resources in Vietnam.

Why did you do your training in Russia?
I was selected and sent to study in Moscow. At that time, it was something like an award or scholarship that everyone would like to have. You cannot choose, you are chosen. But I never regret that I studied there. Besides the solid foundation, I had the opportunity to understand the beautiful and culturally rich soul of Russia and its people.

What was the subject of your PhD and what did it involve?
My original career was as an exploration geophysicist for uranium and rare minerals. My PhD thesis was on development of the processing techniques for combining gravity, magnetic and gamma-spectral data to identify the prospective zones for further rare mineral exploration.

What languages were required to do your PhD and Executive MBA? And how difficult is it to work in different languages?
In Russia, I used Russian for my study. But when doing my Executive MBA later, I had to learn English. Altogether I spent nearly nine years living in Russia, so Russian became almost mother tongue for me. But with the MBA, English was difficult for me to start with. Fortunately, when mastering one foreign language, the mindset makes it easier to learn another.

Tell us a little about what your job involves?
I am currently responsible for economic and management studies, training and human resources development of Vietnam Petroleum Institute (VPI), i.e., the core activities of the Research Centre for Petroleum Economics and Management (EMC) and the Centre for Petroleum Training and Information (CPTI), which all are subsidiaries of VPI. EMC acts as advisor on energy and the petroleum industry for the Vietnam Government and Petro-vietnam including market research for crude oil, petroleum and petrochemical products, consultancies on management systems for Petrovietnam and its subsidiaries. CPTI carries out advanced technical and management training, and is also a consultant on human resources training and development for Petrovietnam and its subsidiaries.

What career achievements so far are you most proud of?
In my career there have been no big moments. Instead small successes and also some failures over the past almost 34 years have shaped what I am today. One thing that I am happy with is the book The Petroleum Geology and Resources of Vietnam published both in Vietnamese (2006) and in English (2009). I was not only the contributor to one chapter, but most importantly had responsibility for the huge managerial job over more than two years to coordinate more than 50 authors and contributors to produce the outcome. I think this book is a good reference and one of the most cited in petroleum geoscience studies in Vietnam.

What technologies/research are VPI most interested in?
The geoscientists of VPI are constantly trying to better understand the complex geology of Vietnam and researching for the new guides that can help to locate the commercial hydrocarbon accumulations offshore Vietnam. Regarding geophysical research, we are currently working on applications of advanced techniques like AVO, seismic attributes, special tools for well logging interpretation, etc., to characterize the reservoirs. There is also interest in developing new methods using diffraction imaging to characterize the fractured granite basement, important producing targets in Vietnam.

What more would you like to see EAGE do for the Vietnam’s professional geosciences community?
I would like to see more visibility for EAGE in Vietnam. Free lecture tours, seminars, workshops and even conferences would be great opportunities to showcase the activities of EAGE to benefit the community of geoscientists and engineers in Vietnam.

Finally, what do you like to do outside work?
Golf is my favorite game. Playing golf is like solving the multi-variables of a geophysical problem. The final score depends on course, weather conditions, physical health, mentality, and technical ability of the player across six fundamental techniques and play strategy. But the most important thing is you play against yourself, just like the geoscientists who need to constantly search for new things in order to contribute more to society.
Countdown to event of the year in Vienna!

How do we face the most challenging period in the history of the oil and gas industry? Looking for answers will be the top priority at this year’s 78th EAGE Annual Conference & Exhibition 2016 including SPE EUROPEC, the world’s largest multi-disciplinary geoscience event being held in Vienna.

The meeting on 30 May to 2 June, 2016 at the city’s Reed Messe Wien centre has as its theme ‘Efficient Use of Technology – Unlocking Potential’. It is an invitation to the world’s geoscience and engineering community to consider the impact of the low oil price environment and what can be done to be more efficient and cost effective.

The main conference covers a wide variety of technical topics in parallel sessions, along with poster sessions including student contributions. There are also numerous workshops to choose from as well as short courses and field trips.

Supporting the event is the major exhibition where around 350 companies and organisations are expected to showcase the latest in technology and services. International and national oil companies, service companies, equipment suppliers, research institutes, and many governmental agencies are among those represented.

Key business and technology issues will be given particular attention at the now well established EAGE Forum on the opening day, and at the several executive sessions planned. Two popular special interest sessions for Young Professionals and Women in Geoscience and Engineering will again be on the agenda.

Geoscience students with a career in the industry in mind will once more be well catered for in Vienna with a programme themed ‘Perform & Peak’. It includes dedicated technical presentations, workshops, an exhibition tour, trial interviews and contests such as the legendary Geo-Quiz.

To learn more about everything going on at EAGE Vienna 2016, and why you should attend, visit www.eage.org/event/vienna-2016. Don’t forget that registration is open now, and if you want to save some money, book before the early bird deadline of 15 March!

Ultimate read on gravity and magnetics in the bookshop now

If you want a book covering everything you need to know about gravity and magnetic methods, then the new EAGE e-book Advances in Gravity and Magnetic Processing and Interpretation by Prof Derek Fairhead is for you. It is a must buy for Master’s students studying exploration geophysics as well as oil industry professionals. As well as exploration, it focuses on recent developments of how local phase derivatives are being used in both processing and interpretation gravity and magnetic data.

The book is the result of over 40 years teaching by Prof Fairhead emeritus professor of applied geophysics at the University of Leeds and founder of Getech, a gravity and magnetics company. The work does not go into any detailed mathematical treatment of potential field theory, which is more than adequately covered by other recently published textbooks. Instead it adopts a more practical approach to how to process and interpret gravity and magnetic profile and grid data to generate 3D structural depth maps.

Prof Fairhead describes how advanced processing and interpretation have evolved significantly over the last two decades. The traditional amplitude derivative methods are now augmented by powerful local phase and local wavenumber derivative methods, all of which are used to identify and map structural lineaments as well as providing accurate depth estimations using infinite and finite depth models.

In what one can call the post-Euler era, interpretation methods have evolved from generating clouds of Euler depth solutions to estimating depths of individual magnetic anomalies. Where sedimentary basins are at their deepest, there is often a sparsity of depth solutions but not magnetic data. Transforming the magnetic data into pseudo-gravity now provides a means of mapping the whole basement surface.

The book draws extensively on collaborative works with Dr Ahmed Salem, other colleagues and research students via publications which are referenced both within the text and at the end of each section. Advances in Gravity and Magnetic Processing and Interpretation is available as Ebook as well as print copy at the EAGE Bookshop, www.eage.org/bookshop. (Ebook: member €128, list €161; Print: member €154, list €193).
Malaysian students win trip to Vienna 2016

Students Ng How Sik, Nik Emil and Nor Fariza from the University of Malaya emerged the winners of the regional Geo-Quiz held at the Asia Petroleum Geoscience Conference & Exhibition (APGCE) 2015 held in October. Their prize was a ticket and travel fund for the 78th EAGE Conference & Exhibition in Vienna from 30 May to 2 June, 2016 where they will contest the final.

Nor Fariza said: ‘First and foremost, I really did not expect to win. As we know, there are so many participants from other Malaysian universities who are equally as good and maybe even better than us. This was a great surprise for us. It’s both nerve-wrecking and exciting to be representing Malaysia and Asia Pacific region in the upcoming Global Geo-Quiz’.

The team was impressed with the format of the EAGE quiz, according to Nik Emil. ‘It was really fun and interactive. I will study very hard because the pressure of the Global Geo-Quiz is very real now.’

As part of their preparations, the team did some self-study on unconventional resources and EOR (enhanced oil recovery). Ng How Sik noted: ‘It is important to keep ourselves updated on topics other than what is taught in lectures’.

Now it is on to the global competition. Nik Emil summed up the team’s determination. ‘Before Vienna, we will probably try to cover all sub-disciplines relating to what we anticipate will come out in the Global Geoquiz and just do our best’.

Nor Fariza had a final compliment for EAGE as an integration of multiple disciplines of both geoscientists and engineers. ‘The APGCE event conducted by EAGE is the most fun event I have ever attended so I think that the Association has a good approach to get students to be more interested in the industry’.

EAGE student chapters are born in Malaysia and Borneo

From right to left: Ethan Chen, EAGE Student Chapter president, with the newly formed Curtin Sarawak student chapter.

The University Malaya (UM) has a student chapter again. It was formally approved by EAGE on 9 November, 2015 and is advised by Prof Ralph Kugler, principal consultant in the Department of Geology.

Professor Kugler has been instrumental in forming the Young Professional Talk and Regional Geoquiz for the Asia Petroleum Geoscience Conference and Exhibition (APGCE) student programme.

Since the inaugural meeting, the student chapter has participated in a technical talk by Dr Gaynor Paton as part of the EAGE student lecture tour and attended the APGCE co-organized by EAGE and ICEP. In addition, it celebrated the achievement of the UM undergraduate team which won the EAGE GeoQuiz competition.

Students have also attended a workshop on low-resistivity/low-contrast hydrocarbon pay organized by the Formation Evaluation Society Malaysia (FESM) in December 2015.

EAGE also welcomes the Curtin Sarawak Student Chapter of EAGE formed in October 2015 in joint collaboration with the existing Curtin Geology Club. Under the guidance of Professor Ramasamy, EAGE collaborated with the Curtin Geology Club to organize a student lecture tour by Dr Paton. In addition, Curtin Sarawak geology students flew from Sarawak to attend the APPGCE event in Kuala Lumpur.

Ethan Chen, president of the EAGE Curtin student chapter, said: ‘We feel very honoured to be offered a chance to form the first EAGE student chapter in our university. Our team will strive to be a platform which is able to fill the gap between students and professional industries in the geoscience community. We are also hopeful of inviting professionals to join our future geoscience related events.'
Society collaboration at work in China

EAGE is joining forces with the non-profit Chinese American Petroleum Association (CAPA) and the SEG to put on some high level courses in Beijing.

Prof Michael C. Pöppelreiter will be presenting his two-day short course on ‘Applied Microfacies’ during the CAPA/EAGE/SEG Joint Training Workshop on ‘Exploration and Development of Carbonate Reservoirs (May 16-20). Prof Pöppelreiter is director of the South East Asian Carbonate Research Lab (SEACaRL) and Shell Chair in Petroleum Geology at the Department of Geosciences of Universiti Teknologi Petronas (UTP), Malaysia.

Other courses at this joint event will be presented by Prof Charles Kerans, Jackson School of Geosciences, University of Texas, Austin and by Prof Sam Sun, China University of Petroleum.

EAGE looks forward to further collaboration with CAPA in the future and would like to welcome its new president Dr Eddy Lee.

For registration questions, please contact asiapacific@eage.org or check lg.eage.org for more information.

Reservoir modelling takes the stage in Kuala Lumpur

EAGE Asia Pacific is arranging a conference in Kuala Lumpur, on Integrated Reservoir Modelling on 5-7 December, 2016 with the theme ‘Optimization & Value Creation in Challenging Times’. The event is a follow-up to a successful regional conference in Dubai. The intention is to showcase the best practices, case studies, technology and innovation from a fresh perspective. The conference chairs are M. Kamal Embong, PETRONAS, and Maike Willuweit, Roxar Software Solutions.

The format will comprise a mixture of invited presentations and contributions selected from open submissions. The conference technical committee invites professionals involved in reservoir modelling from IOCs, NOCs, service companies and academia to share the focus on the latest developments in integrated reservoir modelling. The four main topics to be discussed will be Status of Integrated Reservoir Modelling; Value of a Good Model, Cost of a Poor One: Decisions for a Relevant Static Model; Uncertainty Analysis and How It Reduces Development Risks; and Low Resistivity and Low Contrast (LRLC) Reservoirs

You are welcome to submit your extended abstract online via www.eage.org. Please review the guidelines on our event webpage prior to submitting. The submission deadline is by 1 July, 2016.

For a complete list with all subtopics, enquiries about this conference or sponsoring, please visit the event website (www.eage.org) or contact the EAGE Asia Pacific office via asiapacific@eage.org.

Velocity is the issue at Kuala Lumpur workshop

EAGE is holding a workshop on Velocity with the theme ‘Reducing Uncertainties in Depths’. It is scheduled for 25-27 April in Kuala Lumpur and we look forward to seeing professionals interested in this topic.

Submissions to the main workshop were impressive in both quantity and quality, according to the technical committee and workshop chairman, Ahmad Riza Ghazali, head of Geoinaging Technology Technical Global, PETRONAS Carigali.

Despite considerable improvements in seismic data quality and imaging algorithms, velocities and earth models remain the key challenge for depth prediction. The programme for the workshop will focus on all aspects of reducing uncertainties; including case histories and applications in seismic imaging, velocity model building and depth conversion.

The workshop is being preceded by a five-day short course (18-22 April) on ‘Seismic Velocities and Depth Conversion’ presented by Dr Mac Al-Chalabi, author of the authoritative EAGE publication Principles of Seismic Velocities and Time-to-Depth Conversion.

On 28-29 April, experienced EAGE tutor Alan Atkinson will host a post-workshop classroom laboratory ‘Gas Clouds and Beyond: Solving Difficult Depth Conversion Problems’. The laboratory covers intermediate-advanced velocity analysis and velocity modelling techniques that are used for depth conversion, and which can also be used for building preliminary depth imaging models. A structured approach is used to simplify hard-to-solve problems.

The workshop opens with an icebreaker reception on Sunday 24 April and there is a group dinner on Tuesday 26 April. For all details including registration please refer to the EAGE website, or contact asiapacific@eage.org.

Trivia answers

A - 137 km.
B - 5.5 million.
C - 62.

Boyhood experiences led to a geoscience career

Yusuke Ozaki recently joined the Tono Geoscience Centre, Sector of Decommissioning and Radioactive Waste Management, Japan Atomic Energy Agency. He is a researcher in the Crystalline Environment Research Group, and explains what this involves and how he came to the job.

What made you choose engineering as your first study topic?
Experiences in my childhood affected my choice in study topics. When I was a child, my father took me to a river to collect an ore of antimonite. The beautiful stone sparked my interest in geoscience. In addition, my hometown is known for abundant pure groundwater and there are so many artesian wells there. This environment also aroused my interest in the below the earth's surface. When I entered university, I happened to know that there was a technology to visualize inside the earth. I thought that this technology could answer the questions of my childhood and decided to major in exploration geophysics as my first study topic.

Have you in your studies been able to travel abroad, if so where and what did it involve?
When I was a PhD candidate, I visited Idaho in the US for two months and Marseille in France for four months for my internship. In the US, I analyzed the self-potential data observed in the test field for study of hydrology in Boise with my inversion method. In France, I developed a new electrical resistivity tomography method and applied it to the data observed in Tournemire underground research site. This experience in France was one of the triggers that decided me to travel to the Tono area. I am planning to visit these places because I enjoy being in nature. In addition, Tono area is famous for the production of pottery, so I am planning on getting involved in soil physics.

What special skills that you have acquired do you find most useful in your work?
Skills and knowledge of numerical simulation are very useful in my work. When I start new simulations, these skills render them more accessible. Good computing skills also expand the fields where I can play a role. On the other hand, my skill in observation of core samples or gallery is poor. Tono Geoscience Centre has the Mizunami Underground Research Laboratory with a depth of 500 m. Here I have plenty of chances to observe them and improve in this area.

Where do you see yourself professionally in 10 years time?
I hope to become a geophysicist who can offer the geophysical method that meets the demand from geologists, hydrologists, etc. in the study of radioactive waste management.

You have been involved in student affairs. How can EAGE do more to help geoscience students and the professional geoscience community in Japan?
I know that EAGE has already supported the Japanese geoscience community through the lecture tour held in Japan. From my experience, to join in an annual meeting is the best chance to receive the support from EAGE especially for students. My supervisor introduced us to the activities of the student chapter and I joined them. Through the activities of the student chapter, I was able to get a lot of information on EAGE support.

What activities do you like outside work?
I have just moved to the Tono area, central Japan. There are some places where many fossils are excavated. Some beautiful mountains are also close to the Tono area. I am planning to visit these places because I enjoy being in nature. In addition, Tono area is famous for the production of pottery, so I am planning on getting involved in soil physics!
Satellite tour completes its mission

Our touring lecturer Alessandro Feretti of Tele-Rilevamento Europa, Milan, Italy has completed his mission to present his EET short course on ‘Satellite InSAR Data: Reservoir Monitoring from Space’ in Australia, New Zealand and Japan. He started mid-November in Japan hosted by SEGJ at the University of Tokyo in conjunction with 12th SEGJ International Symposium (18-20 November, 2015). Next on the agenda was Perth, Western Australia hosted by CSIRO. Feretti then continued his tour to Wellington, New Zealand hosted by the Geoscience Society of New Zealand in conjunction with New Zealand Geoscience Conference (24-27 November, 2015). It was the first time that an EET had been presented in the country. The final stop was in Canberra hosted by ASEG at Geoscience Australis. We would like to thank all hosts for supporting the EET short course.

Indonesia is the next stop for South Asian Geosciences Student Conference

There aren’t many opportunities for geoscience students in the South Asian region to get together. So time to start getting ready for the second South Asian Geosciences Students Conference (SAGSC) on 22-27 August, 2016 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. EAGE is excited to be supporting the conference and will be actively involved in the organization.

The first conference was held in India last year and was a great success. It is a truly international event, attended by students from all over the world. There is something for everyone in the planned programme. It includes four days of lectures and activities, plus two days of post-conference seminars.

In addition to the lectures, featured during the week will be a grand opening ceremony, exhibition, competitions, Geo Bowl contest, field trip, and city tour. With the theme ‘Empowering Geosciences, Energising Tomorrow’, SAGSC 2016 covers up-to-date topics and activities on energy and natural hazards challenges that geoscientists currently face. The SAGSC aims to offer what students of today need to give their careers a head start.

The international character of the conference provides the opportunity to gather ideas from geoscience students from all over the world. But the focus of the conference will naturally be the South Asian region. We are already looking to the next generation of geoscientists to bring inventive and inspirational ideas to solve the many energy and environmental issues we face.

The conference gives students the opportunity to speak up, share ideas, and brainstorm with peers from similar disciplines related to earth science. Therefore the SAGSC offers a perfect platform, not only for geoscience students, but also to professionals, companies, and other involved parties to show and develop their capabilities.

SAGSC 2016 will be held at Universitas Gadjah Mada, in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, a region on Java Island well suited to host the SAGSC 2016. This city has many scientific areas of interest in the surrounding area: Merapi Volcano, structural region of Sewu Mountain or Kulonprogo, karst area of Gunungkidul, beautiful shores, desert, and more. Yogyakarta is also proud of its heritage. Once a kingdom (Kraton Yogyakarta) it continues to preserve the classical Javanese culture. So, all roads lead to Yogyakarta!

Students can submit an abstract for the SAGSC’s technical programme. The submission deadline is 31 March. More information is available online at http://www.sagsc2016.ugm.ac.id/.

EM international event in Thailand

Geoscientist readers might like to note the upcoming Electromagnetic (EM) Induction Workshops 14 – 20 August, 2016 under the auspices of the IUGG and IAGA being held for the first time in Thailand at the Convention Centre, Chiang Mai. Past workshops have been attended by over 300 scientists and have covered all fields of EM related research. Gerard Wieggerink, regional manager, EAGE will be representing the Association at the event. For more information, please visit www.emiw2016.org.
China’s energy demand is slowing, studies suggest

Two new studies suggest that oil demand in China is slowing. Exxon Mobil in its latest Outlook for Energy has lowered its forecast for China’s annual energy demand growth by almost a tenth to 2.2% through 2025. It predicts that energy growth will plateau around 2030, resulting in an annual energy demand growth between 2025 and 2040 of only 0.2%.

Despite China accounting for almost half of the global growth in energy demand between 2000 and 2014, Exxon expects that almost half of the increase in the world’s energy demand through 2040 will come from China and India together.

In 2012, China’s GDP increased at about double the rate of energy-consumption growth. According to data from China and the World Bank, in 2015, China’s GDP grew over six times faster than energy-demand growth. The country’s energy consumption increased by 0.9% in 2015, despite gross domestic product increasing 6.9%, the weakest annual rate in 25 years.

US analyst ESAI Energy says oil demand in China from 2015 to 2030 will slow by almost 60% versus the 2000-2015 period. In a new study Balancing Act: China’s Oil Demand and Energy Mix to 2030 ESAI Energy takes an in-depth look at China’s oil demand trends to 2030 and projects the energy mix and demand for 13 oil and alternative fuel products.

The study highlights China’s efforts to balance the delicate relationship between coal, natural gas and oil, and handling dramatic changes in its oil products market. Beyond demand, the study looks at refining developments and estimates China’s net trade position for each petroleum product. China will become an even larger supplier of gasoline to the world and will eventually export fuel oil while continuing to absorb significant quantities of LPG, the report says.

Polarcus Amani and Ramform Titan Seismic contractors trade world records offshore Myanmar

Polarcus and PGS are claiming records for the size of the spreads they are using in seismic operations offshore offshore Myanmar.

Polarcus Amani is towing an in-sea configuration that measures 1.8 km wide across the front ends. Each of the 10 streamers is separated by 200 m so that the total area covered by the spread is 17.6 km². The company says this is the largest in-sea configuration ever towed by a single seismic vessel as well as the largest man-made moving object on earth.

Polarcus will be delivering up to 190 km² per day, a production rate claimed to be unrivalled in the seismic industry. Duncan Eley, COO, Polarcus, said: ‘Such industry leading operational efficiency in Myanmar by one of our right-sized 3D seismic vessels exemplifies Polarcus’ strategy to deliver fit-for-purpose geophysical solutions to our clients.’

Meanwhile PGS has chalked up its version of the world record. Its Ramform Titan working offshore Myanmar in the Bay of Bengal has been towing the industry’s first-ever single vessel 18-streamer seismic operation. The deployment over a mile across is the widest on record, according to the company.

The Ramform Titan seismic spread is 18 streamers, each 7.05 km long, with 100 m separation between the streamers. This makes a total spread width of 1.7 km and represents close to 127 km of streamers. If tied together end to end, it would reach from New York City to Philadelphia. The total surface area of the streamer spread is 15.6 km².

Although the Ramform Titan class is built to tow 24 streamers, this is the first time PGS has deployed 18. The ultra-large streamer count and 100 meter streamer separations employed on this project offshore Myanmar offer significant geophysical and project efficiency advantages. The daily production for this single seismic vessel was more than 160 km², unrivalled in the seismic industry according to PGS.

Australian agency found to comply with environmental regulations

The National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA) in Australia has concluded its staged release of documents relating to Bight Petroleum’s proposed seismic survey in the Great Australian Bight, off the coast of South Australia.

NOPSEMA began publicly releasing documents relating to the survey in December 2014, following a request by the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) under Freedom of Information (FOI) legislation.

NOPSEMA CEO, Stuart Smith, said the authority undertook a thorough assessment of Lightning 3D seismic survey environment plan submitted by Bight Petroleum. ‘Finalising the release of documents is in line with being a good regulator. NOPSEMA has applied robust assessment processes, including rigorous compliance monitoring of the proposal by Bight Petroleum.

The decision to release the environment plan assessment was based on the circumstances of this particular case. Future requests for information will be considered on a case-by-case basis. In September 2015 an independent review of NOPSEMA’s compliance with the environmental management authorisation process determined that it was meeting all of its commitments, and has appropriate measures in place to ensure ongoing compliance.
India excited by gas hydrates find

India’s Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is reported to have found gas hydrate reserves in the deep sea off the Andhra Pradesh coast. The reserves are in the Krishna-Godavari Basin, where Reliance Industries hit natural gas a decade ago.

The discoveries have been made in Blocks 982, D3, D6 and D9 in the Krishna-Godavari basin, off the Andhra coast. The blocks are 30 km south-west of Reliance Industries’ natural gas block KG-D6.

The new reserves are estimated to be around 134 trillion cubic feet (tcf), about one-third of the gas reserves of the United States, which is the largest producer of natural gas in the world. The issue, however, is how to develop the as yet not available technology to produce them. Last summer the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) of India contracted the research vessel Chichi from Japan Drilling Co to explore offshore India in the Krishna-Godavari and Mahanadi areas for gas hydrates.

Woodside rewarded with Myanmar gas find

Woodside Petroleum says its Shwe Yee Htun-1 exploration well in Block A-6 in the Rakhine Basin, in the western offshore area of Myanmar, has intersected a gross gas column of approx. 129 m. About 15 m of net gas pay has been interpreted within the primary target interval.

With a 40% interest in A-6, Woodside is the joint operator with MPRL E&P (20% interest). MPRL E&P is operator with respect to government liaison and Woodside Myanmar is the operator with respect to all other operations, including drilling. Total E&P Myanmar holds a 40%, non-operated interest.

Woodside has interests in six blocks in the Rakhine Basin - Blocks A-6, AD-7, A-7, AD-5, A-4 and AD-2. The six permits make up 46,000 km² and represent 20% of Woodside’s global exploration acreage.

Lundin begins well offshore Malaysia

Lundin Malaysia has been drilling of the Maligan exploration well in Block SB307/SB308 in shallow water offshore East Malaysia.

The Maligan well, to the north of a major producing field, was expected to target hydrocarbons in Miocene aged sands. It was being drilled with the West Prospero jack-up rig to a total depth of approximately 1700 m below mean sea level. Drilling started in January was expected to take approximately 30 days.

Lundin Malaysia holds 85% working interest in SB307/SB308 with 15% working interest held by PETRONAS Carigali Sdn Bhd with 15% working interest.

EAGE Asia Pacific Event Calendar

**April 2016**
25-27 April
EAGE • EAGE Workshop on Velocities: Reducing Uncertainties in Depth
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia | www.eage.org

**May 2016**
15-20 May
CAPA/EAGE/SEG • Joint Training Workshop on Exploration and Development of Carbonate Reservoirs
Beijing, China | www.eage.org

**August 2016**
21-24 August
ASEG/PESA/AIG • 25th International Geophysical Conference And Exhibition
Adelaide, Australia

**September 2016**
1-13 September
EAGE • Education Days Beijing
Beijing, China | www.lg.eage.org

**November 2016**
14-16 November
EAGE/AAPG/SEG/SPE • 9th International Petroleum Technology Conference (IPTC)
Bangkok, Thailand | http://www.iptcnet.org/2016/

**December 2016**
5-7 December
EAGE • Third EAGE Integrated Reservoir Modelling Conference
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia | www.eage.org