

**Excerpts from Interview given By Narendra K Verma
Vice President Association of Petroleum Geologists &
Coordinator GEO India 2008 to D&W Journal on the
Preparations of GEO India 2008 ...**



What is high on the agenda at GeoIndia 2008? Could you elaborate on the theme of the event?

GEO India is a truly International E&P Conference and Exposition platform launched under the umbrella of three Indian geosciences societies namely Association of Petroleum Geologists (APG), Society of Petroleum geophysicists (SPG) and Society of well Log Analysts (SPWLA) and a global Geoscience Society American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG) partnering together for the first time to provide an unique opportunity to the Indian geosciences fraternity to pursue their knowledge quest and share their experience with international experts and E&P entities. The Conference will provide a common platform for all the geoscientists to explore new thoughts and ideas on E&P activities, innovative approaches for handling the persistent problems, identifying the needs and channelizing the R&D efforts towards outstanding issues, share and generate knowledge, exchange their domain specific problems and implications for larger E&P issues and seek the most efficient and effective solutions by synergizing the collective thinking and interactive discussions and networking. The conference theme is **“Investing in Geosciences to Secure the Future”** is focused on the growth of geosciences to enable it to lead the E&P industry from the front and provide the solutions to E&P problems. Considering the importance of such efforts from geosciences fraternity, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. – the leading NOC of India has taken the initiative and accepted the responsibility of Lead Sponsor and Patron for creating the platform and holding its maiden event at Greater Noida EXPO XXI from 16th to 19th Sept. 2008. The value and importance accorded by NOC to the conference is reflected from the fact that, Chairman & Managing Director of ONGC Group of Companies, Shri R.S. Sharma has personally taken time to support the conference as General Chairman and Shri D. K. Pande, Director (Exploration) has devoted lot of his time and efforts to bring together all the participating societies together and steer the conference preparations as Organizing Committee Chairman.

In addition to APG, Geo India 2008 is being jointly organized by AAPG, SPG and SPWLA. How will the joint efforts of all these societies enrich the event?

GEO India will pave a way to fill-up a long existing gap in the South Asia’s geosciences International Conferencing and Exposition arena, where in no full scale International E&P Conference hosted by any of global geosciences societies like AAPG, SEG, SPWLA or EAGE has taken place so far, although there have been number of conferences organized by Indian societies dedicated to specific domain areas of E&P with limited international participation. The GEO India platform is created by pooling up the Indian society’s resources together with a global host Society AAPG and is expected to bring in an extensive global participation of geoscientists to provide linkage for transforming these conferences ultimately in to full scale regular International events and act as catalyst to bring India on the map of global E&P

conferencing by premier global societies mentioned above including World Petroleum Congress in the coming future. Besides this, it also provides an opportunity to have inherent benefits of international E&P conference to Indian geosciences fraternity. In the joint efforts, AAPG has brought in the international quality norms, global participation initiative and best practices for such conferences, wherein participating Indian societies have given their inputs for mobilizing the India specific E&P experience and technical contents and organizational support for enriching the experience of the participating delegates.

How many young authors are being invited to present technical papers at Geo India 2008?

A very strong technical program with 21 oral technical sessions covering more than 275 high quality presentations including plenary , Key Note speeches ,oral and poster presentations are scheduled in the conference programs. A large number of technical papers are being presented by post graduate and research students and Academia members from more than 20 Universities and IITs. For the first time more than 100 post graduate geosciences students with strong contingent of international students from southeast Asia and neighboring countries are participating in the conference. Besides technical papers, a very active student-Academia interaction program is planned in the conference with emphasis on promoting the creative talent of the budding geoscientists and provide them an opportunity for involvement in full scale E&P activity and induce them for choosing geosciences as future career.

Technical program also includes interactive session on the R&D interfacing with Academia and on E&P issues. Around 1000 delegate registrations from all over world, large number of exhibitors, participation of large number of E&P and service companies from India and overseas make it a unique opportunity for participating delegates for knowledge and experience sharing, interaction, personal growth and networking. GEO India will expand upon the highly successful APG conferences and exhibitions run since 2002. With a highly technical conference program, workshops, pre-conference courses and an exhibition of international significance, we expect the event to help ensure that India's oil and gas professionals remain at the forefront of the latest developments in E&P industry. E&P in general is inherently knowledge driven and multidisciplinary wherein synergistic efforts of various functional domains and pooling of resources is required to realize the effective leveraging of fast changing technology and providing effective solutions to problems related to E&P frontiers.

E&P industry in India is passing through the challenging times with changing business and economic scenario and GEO India 2008 will address not only new developments and applications in geology , geophysics, and geochemistry, but also some overarching issues such as future potential of hydrocarbons and carrying out E & P activities in Indian Subcontinent under changing business and economic indices as well as demand and supply scenario . The Conference will provide a platform for and ultimately contribute to the ongoing expansion of E&P activity in India and the throughout South Asia.

What specific programmes are being laid out for the students at Geo India 2008?

As mentioned earlier, the conference theme “ **Investing in Geosciences to secure the future**” is itself oriented towards new and budding talent in the Geosciences and need for nurturing them and carefully is has been assimilated in the entire conference program structure. Besides other things, a very active industry- student-Academia interface program is planned in the conference with the participation of large number of students. Considering the importance of such endeavors for E&P industry in India, ONGC has generously supported the whole program by financial grant, which will cover the cost of conference registrations, travel and accommodation to most of the participating students and faculty members to encourage their participation.

Currently E&P industry globally is undergoing through very crucial phase with severe scarcity of the trained E&P professionals and young talent are not very much attracted to the geosciences as career. There is an imperative need to promote the regular inflow of young and bright minds to E&P industry to maintain the cutting edge and innovative research. The planned program will provide impetus to this process by bring Industry and academia together and forge new ties for growth.

Students will be exposed to the full technical program with active involvement in presentations themselves, interact and learn the new technologies through their interactive visits to the exhibition and creative debating, quizzes, technical film screening, interactive sessions with industry leaders and experts. An active session on the industry-Academia interfacing of the R&D efforts towards E&P would be very crucial and important area of interest for the students and budding geoscientists for their future pursuits in geosciences.

In petroleum geosciences what are some of the key technologies to be displayed at GeoIndia 2008?

A very large number of Service Companies operating in India as well as from Overseas are actively participating and generously contributed towards the conference both technically and financially. On behalf of the organizing committee, I am personally thankful to them. They are showcasing their state of the art solutions to the visiting geoscientists and the list includes some of the emerging technologies like passive seismic imaging in geologically and logistically challenging areas and Subsurface resistivity Profiling and modeling for fluid characterization, which are still in the testing and initial application stage. Besides this several innovative additions to the existing technologies and exploration – development tools are being showcased. The experience sharing by the using E&P companies and Service Company experts with the potential future users will be win-win for all the stake holders. As far as technical program is concerned all the conference subthemes are carefully chosen to encompass various functional and multidisciplinary areas for active deliberations and have received good response from Indian and overseas professionals as quality technical contributions. High quality Key Note and

Plenary speeches during the conference are likely to set the tone for technical deliberations during the conference. In particular, the student-Academia program is one of the most exciting opportunities to bring in the young and bright talent together with the industry professionals for channelizing their minds for active contributions to the E&P activities in India to meet the challenges in the coming decades.