

JANUARY 2009

THE IMPORTANCE OF REGIONAL CHAPTERS

As the AIPN grows larger in geographical scope and the number of members worldwide, our seven Regional Chapters become increasingly important as the way to deliver services to members on the local level. We have approximately 2600 members from over 80 countries and the Regional Chapters are best equipped to conduct meetings of regional interest in various locales around the world. Since I became President in late April 2008, the Chapters have held meetings in Almaty, Calgary, Dallas, Dubai, Ho Chi Minh City, Houston, London, Kuala Lumpur, Melbourne, Moscow, Perth, Rio de Janeiro, and Singapore. Plans are underway to hold Chapter meetings in Aberdeen, Ashgabad, Astana, Baku, Bangkok, Beijing, Buenos Aires, Budapest, Doha, Tokyo and Washington D.C., in addition to the more common meeting locales.

This year, we have a particularly active group of Regional Directors, who are leading the efforts of planning and implementing programs in their Chapters. The Regional Directors are:

Abayomi Akinjide – Europe-Africa
Marleen Bergman – U.S.
Courtney Fowler - CIS
Sean Korney – Middle East Chapter
Bill Lafferandre – Australia-Asia-Pacific
Luis Pacheco – Latin America
Jay Park – Canada

These Regional Directors are valued members of the AIPN Board of Directors and assist the AIPN in a multitude of ways. In addition to serving on the AIPN Board and planning Regional activities, they help the AIPN headquarters with any AIPN events within the Region, act as liaisons with headquarters, and recruit prospective members.

A HISTORY OF AIPN CHAPTERS

The AIPN was formed in 1981 by international petroleum negotiators based in Houston. For the next 12 years, the AIPN remained essentially a Houston-based group, with almost all meetings held in Houston or surrounding areas in Texas. Internationalization of the AIPN began in the early 1990's. 1993 was a landmark year. Informal meetings of what was to become the Canada Regional Chapter began in Calgary that year, initiated by Patrick Wesley. The first international conference was held outside the U.S. in 1993, with London as the venue. Mick Jarvis became the first AIPN President to hail from outside the U.S. in 1993.

Attempts were made in 1996 to start a European Chapter, but it wasn't until 2001 that the EAMC Chapter was approved by the AIPN Board of Directors. At that time, the Chapter covered an extensive geographical area and included Europe, Africa, the Middle East and CIS. The CIS Chapter split off from EAMC in August 2005 shortly before the international conference in Moscow with the support of Jennifer Josefson. The Middle East Chapter split off in December 2006, leaving the original Chapter with only Europe and Africa. Sean Korney and Curt Satre were instrumental in establishing this Chapter. At such time as there appears to be a critical mass of members in Africa, the Europe-Africa chapter will most probably be split into two Chapters.

Although AIPN meetings had been held in Houston since October 1982, under the jurisdiction of AIPN headquarters, the AIPN Board decided in December 2001 to create the U.S. Chapter to recognize the internationalization of the AIPN and put the U.S. Chapter on equal footing with the other Regional Chapters. What was to become the South American Chapter held an organizational meeting in Rio de Janeiro in the late 1990's under the leadership of Pablo Alliani, Justo Norman and Marilda Rosado and was approved in late 2001. In 2003 the Chapter was renamed the Latin America Regional Chapter when Mexico was included in the Region. The Australia-Asia-Pacific Chapter was created in May 2003. By this time, the AIPN had at least one Board member from six continents. Since then, efforts have continued to increase geographical diversification on the Board, as well as other types of diversification, such as the diversity of commercial and legal, which I wrote about last month.

At present, AIPN membership is distributed as follows within the seven Regions:

AAP – 362 – 13.9%
Canada – 156 - 5.9%
CIS – 65 – 2.5%
EA – 770 – 29.5%
ME – 127 – 4.9%
LARC – 202 - 7.8%
US – 924 – 35.5%

A new Chapter can be created if ten AIPN members residing in a given geographical area petition the Board for approval of the formation of a Chapter.

REGIONAL CHAPTER GOVERNANCE

For many years, Regional Directors led efforts in their respective Regions without much assistance from other AIPN members, except for informal steering committees. In recent years, it became obvious that the governance of each Region was too big a job for one person to fill. Each Regional Chapter now has an Executive Committee whose members assist the Regional Director in brainstorming activities of interest to members in that Region and they also help in organizing activities in locales different from the

base of the Regional Director. The Europe-Africa Chapter has two committees, one each for Europe and Africa. You can find out who the members of each Regional Executive Committee are by clicking <http://www.aipn.org/events/regions.asp>.

At the beginning of my term, I instituted the position of Alternate Regional Director. This position was provided for in the AIPN Bylaws but had never been implemented. Each Regional Director was encouraged to find an Alternate Regional Director to assist with Chapter activities and possibly be groomed to become the Regional Director after the term of the current Regional Director ended. In general all Regional Directors serve for a three year term, although some serve for a longer or shorter time.

The Regional Chapters are financially independent of the AIPN, although each Region is given a small amount of money annually to promote activities and/or help offset any losses from Chapter events.

If you are interested in volunteering to serve the AIPN, assisting with the work of your Regional Chapter is one of the very best ways to become involved. It is a rewarding experience and a great way to network with other AIPN members. Contact your Regional Director to find out how you can help.

REGIONAL CHAPTER LIAISON

In April 2007 Tim West issued a list of ten AIPN Goals, among them Goal No. 2, Promote Regional Growth. A Goal Committee headed by Tim Martin and Caroline Kehoe was created to plan ways to increase regional membership. The AIPN Regional Chapter Standing Committee was formed in April 2008, following completion of work by the Goals Committee. Tim West and Elisabeth Eljuri currently co-chair the Standing Committee which consists of all Regional Directors. They meet quarterly to discuss issues common to the Regional Chapters and ways to assist AIPN headquarters. Recent discussions at Regional Chapter Committee meetings include providing petroleum laws and regulations of each producing country within the Region in the event the AIPN is successful in acquiring an interest in the Barrows Library, translating AIPN Model Contracts, identifying prospective members for the AIPN Education Advisory Board, identifying NOCs and their needs, providing input to the 2009-2011 AIPN Business Plan, providing webcasts of Regional Chapter meetings to all AIPN members, and assisting with International Conference planning.

AIPN HISTORY

If you have read all the way to the bottom of this letter, you may be interested to know that the AIPN is preparing a history of the organization from its inception in 1981 through the present. It will be set against the ever changing international petroleum industry. Work has been underway on this project for about two years and

the publication should be available in 2009. Numerous members have been interviewed about their AIPN experiences. Tim West and Jim Barnes are co-chairs of the AIPN History Committee and they are ably assisted by committee members Frank Alexander, Dave Asmus, Gordon Barrows, Al Boulos, John Champion, Andy Derman, Tim Martin, Skip Maryan, Norm Nadorff, and Dee Simpson, who have long-term involvement with the AIPN. They are reviewing and commenting on drafts as they are prepared. A notice to all members will be sent when the AIPN History is finalized.

All the best,
Pat Allison