

Right now is a good time to think about volunteering for an AIPN committee. It's just the beginning of our "year" and there are many things AIPN is doing and we can use your help. This spirit of volunteerism has been the hallmark of the AIPN since its inception. All the education programs, conferences and model contracts are created and delivered by volunteers.

Following are some of the ways in which AIPN members volunteer to help improve the quality and types of AIPN products and services. There is always an open invitation to all members to get involved.

*Model Contracts.* AIPN Model Contracts drafting committees are a very popular choice. These committees not only allow a member to participate by voicing opinions and sharing experiences, but also allow a member to learn about an area they may not be familiar with. The process can take as much as two to three years to complete an agreement. The LNG Sales and Purchase Agreement committee, for example, consists of more than 100 participants and began work in late 2005. The committee met in several locales around the world and the final version should be available this summer. Drafting committees also prepare Guidance Notes for the Model Contract to provide insight into the rationale and use of specific contract provisions. Education Modules, designed to introduce the Model Contract to people in Regional Chapters are created in powerpoint format. Committee Co-chairs and primary drafters also present the latest drafts of their Model Contracts at the annual Model Contract Workshop each year while the contract is being developed. The following are Model Contract currently being developed or revised and members are welcome to join these committees: (1) revised Joint Operating Agreement, (2) revised Service Agreement and a new International Drilling Contract, (3) Model Contracts Template, Terms and Definitions, (3) Area of Mutual Interest and (4) Data Exchange Agreement.

We also need another co-chair for the 2010 Model Contract Workshop. The Model Contract Review Committee, another committee that may be of interest, prioritizes what new and revised Model Contracts should be drafted over the course of the next several years.

*Conferences.* Numerous AIPN members are involved in planning, implementing and speaking at our various conferences. This year's fall international conference will be held in Bangkok October 18-21 and many volunteered their time to bring us a very exciting program. We need help planning our 2010 international conference to be held in Doha, Qatar. We need co-chairs and planning committee members for our 2010 spring conference which will be held in the Houston area. Co-chairs and planning committee members are also needed for the 2011 international conference in Banff, Calgary. Other members speak at the Dispute Resolution conferences we hold with various international arbitration institutions. Our next Dispute Resolution Conference

will be in Singapore, held in conjunction with SIAC October 26-27 just following the international conference in Bangkok.

*Education.* Education is a focus for many committees. We have a committed volunteer faculty who teach (1) at the annual “short course” consisting of one week of upstream and one week of mid-stream international energy law, contracts and negotiations, (2) the semi-annual Negotiation Skills Workshop, and (3) this fall for the first time a 2-day course “Oil and Gas Asset Valuation and Decision Analysis. We also hold one-day education courses in conjunction with our conferences. This year’s education course, to be held in conjunction with the Bangkok conference, will unveil the new LNG Model Contract as well as focus on carbon trading issues. A committee plans these one-day seminars and there is always room for members on the committee.

In addition to the courses and workshops, there are other education committees including student outreach (to universities around the world), student scholarship (determine who should receive the four scholarships AIPN gives each year), student writing competition (reading and judging the papers submitted from students around the world) and research paper (determining the subject matter as well as the author of each year’s research paper).

*Regions.* Our Regional Directors are assisted by an Alternate Regional Director and an Executive Committee. You may want to assist with the Executive Committee for your Region. The Alternate Regional Director will assist the Regional Director in planning events and arranging speakers. A list of the leadership of each Regional Chapter can be found in the Non-Member section of our website.

*Others.* We need of Website and Advisor Committees as well. The Website Committee is charged with determining how to improve our website. The Advisor Committee assists with making our newsletter a better publication, providing articles, etc. We also have Membership, Commercial Forum, NOC and Young Negotiators committees that would welcome new members to participate.

The dedication of the many volunteers that contribute to AIPN, who are too numerous to name in this letter, make the AIPN a truly unique professional organization. My thanks go to them as well as to their companies, who permit them to spend time on AIPN activities. Most of their companies also pay for them to travel to the courses or conferences at which they make presentations.

As the AIPN grows in the number of members and global reach and as we identify new services to provide our members, the need for additional volunteers also grows. If you have an interest in participating in any of the committees, please contact Valerie Van Lelyveld, our Executive Director, at [valerie@aipn.org](mailto:valerie@aipn.org).

We are always looking for creative ideas and helpful suggestions. You will find that you get the very most of your AIPN membership when you get involved!

Regards,

Karen Krug  
AIPN President