

# EDITORIALS

From the Chairman

## BEHOLD THE ELEPHANT!

**REMEMBER THE STORY** about the blind men and the elephant? Each man inferred a completely different creature, based on his sightless observation of the patient creature. Each experience represented a part of the reality, but none encompassed the whole.

IADC is like that. Our association represents a myriad of drilling interests around the world—land and offshore, Arctic and desert, forest and plain.



Claus Chur, Chairman

I will share with you a sampling of IADC's work—not an encyclopedic report but scattered touches from which the elephant's silhouette may emerge:

- Jackup site assessment: The US Minerals Management Service has identified this as a priority, following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

IADC's Jackup Committee represents us in completing this ISO standard, likely out in draft form this year.

- IMO MODU Code: IADC is developing amendments for the next edition of the code, expected around 2008. Changes include cost-effective improvements for new equipment.

- EU Energy Infrastructure Security Initiative: Since the Sept. 11 attacks, IADC has been working with the US government on safeguarding energy facilities. In 2004, IADC began similar efforts with the Australian government and recently with the European Union.

- Health, Safety and Environment Committee: This active committee has formed a task group to establish basic industry criteria to track spills and emissions. It is also reviewing revisions to the US OSHA Rig Audit Form, as well as new US spill-prevention rules affecting drilling rigs.

- Rig Moving Committee: Development of Winch Truck Guidelines now centers on reviews of problems with equipment manufacturers and vendors. The committee is also examining potential effects of US rules for reduced-emissions engines, effective in 2007.

- Hydraulic Fracturing: Working with independent producers, IADC preserved a legislative exemption for E&P activities from the US Safe Drinking Water Act that would have hampered water injection, thereby inhibiting development of coalbed methane resources.

- SafeGulf: Culminating months of IADC negotiations, RigPass was recognized as compliant with SafeGulf, a training-verification program implemented earlier this

year by 4 major Gulf of Mexico operators (Chevron, BP, Shell and ExxonMobil).

- New Accreditation Programs: IADC recently unveiled its Competence Assurance Accreditation. Look later this year for the new Drilling Industry Training Accreditation Program, designed to accredit training that's currently not addressed.

- IADC HSE Case Guideline: The revised IADC Health, Safety and Environment Case Guideline for Mobile Offshore Drilling Units will be more relevant and benefit users.

- European Competency Training: To supplant national requirements impeding free movement of rigs and personnel across Europe, IADC is developing a pan-European Competency Training Program. The embryonic program has already been accepted by 5 governments.

- India Safety Initiative: Working through the South Central Asia Chapter, IADC is advising ONGC and government authorities regarding the Bombay High North platform disaster to ensure improvements in safety performance.

This is just a taste of IADC's activities around the globe. I encourage you to attend IADC events to learn more and to take an active part in our initiatives. It will benefit you, your company and the entire industry. You will come to behold the elephant! ■

From the President

## A LESSON FROM WHALING HISTORY

**IN 1843, US** whale oil production was 11.6 million gallons. Three years later, the American whaling industry reached its peak, with 736 vessels and 70,000 people employed.

Then, things started going wrong for the whaling industry. Even though new whaling grounds were opened, their productivity declined. The big herds had been hunted out. Ships had to sail farther, longer and into more hostile environments to seek more expensive harvests and smaller production.



Lee Hunt, President

The industry was beset by 2 highly publicized disasters. Explosions and fires aboard 2 whaling ships, killing most of the crews, led to imposition of new rules and regulations. Environmental interests succeeded in limiting the opening of new whaling grounds and in closing many of the heavily hunted old preserves. A new energy source, kerosene, was replacing whale oil as a cheap illuminating fuel.

The population of whale herds was diminishing. Access to more distant, fertile whaling grounds was being limited. The cost of operating whaling vessels was soaring. Manpower dissipated to other employment.

The last American whaling vessel sailed in 1928. ■