

# EDITORIALS

From the Chairman

## SAFETY IS AN EXCITING BEHAVIOUR

**RECENTLY I WAS** invited to the IADC North Sea Chapter's annual Safety Awards Ceremony in Aberdeen.

More than 300 representatives of drilling contractors, service companies and operators participated in the prestigious event.

Awards in different categories were given to rig crews and their drilling contractors that have demonstrated world-class safety performance and leadership in their operations.



Claus Chur, Chairman

The safety performance of our industry has significantly improved over the last 12 years. This can be demonstrated by incident rates, which have been halved over the said period.

However, it is worth noting that over the last 3 years safety performance has not continued to improve. Of

course, we have seen an increase in activity, which means many start-ups of new operations and many new people. It would be easy to argue that we have managed this well, but the truth is our overall performance has reached a plateau.

If we look back over the last 30 years, we can clearly see steps the industry has taken and the achievements we have made in improving safety.

It started with the focus on our equipment and tools and the obligation to wear proper personal protective equipment.

As a result of incidents such as Piper Alpha in the North Sea, stringent regulations were enforced.

During the '90s, drilling contractors established management systems in general and for safety in specific.

Today, all of us are committed to the ultimate goal of "no one getting hurt."

However, we are not there yet, and it's important to look to the future and how we will get to "no injuries." For me, the breakthrough will be the change in culture and personal behaviours demonstrating that, as an industry, we all believe an injury-free workplace is possible and we're leading our people to this common vision. This is why parts of the industry now focus on the further development of safety leadership and safety behaviour.

This means all of us being accountable and taking care of ourselves and others, not because it is required by the company but as a matter of personal concern.

To accomplish this demanding mission, we must think of

new ways of getting better access to the hearts and minds of our people.

IADC has invited **Thomas Bubendorfer**, a former extreme free climber, to give the keynote address on 3 Oct at the upcoming IADC Drilling HSE Europe 2006 conference in Amsterdam.

Mr Bubendorfer can be seen as an extreme example of someone who is totally focused on taking care of himself and has accepted full accountability for his personal safety.

Although I do not recommend climbing without a safety rope or entering the fingerboard without a safety harness, I encourage all of us to begin a discussion of how we can make safety and the establishment of a safety behaviour culture more exciting so that it becomes second nature to us. ■

From the President

## STORMS UPPED THE ANTE ON MOORING

**LAST YEAR'S HURRICANES** were a rude awakening.

Yes, drilling contractors stand proud that there was no loss of life during the storms. Proud that there was no significant environmental damage. And yes, the industry responded to the disasters quickly and courageously.

Nevertheless, we were hit with one fact – that we weren't doing enough to protect our rigs and equipment. Hurricanes Katrina and Rita caused unprecedented evacuations, and the shut-in of offshore facilities severely impacted the US oil and gas supply.

In the midst of surveying rig damage and assessing losses, IADC already began looking at ways to improve mooring performance.

Members with jackups in the Gulf of Mexico closely examined damaged rigs, and in February, **Jackup Rig Committee** members briefed the **US Minerals Management Service** on their findings and suggested areas for improvement.

IADC worked with the **American Petroleum Institute** on Recommended Practice 95F – published in April – with interim guidelines for the 2006 hurricane season. We then worked with the MMS on NTL 2006-G10, which mandated the use of the RP.

On 23 May, the IADC Mooring Workshop was held to examine the reliability and improvement of mooring systems. In one forum, operators, contract drillers, service companies, regulators and insurers came together to share knowledge of the past and ideas for the future.

The work is far from done, and many challenges remain ahead. As MMS Director **Johnnie Burton** said, "One can never be truly ready for a hurricane," but we've made a great start. ■



Lee Hunt, President