



## Fred Aminzadeh

### President, Society of Exploration Geophysicists (SEG)

Fred Aminzadeh is the 2007–2008 President of the Society of Exploration Geophysicists (SEG). He has been Unocal's (now part of ChevronTexaco) Manager of Geophysical Technology, an Adjunct Professor at Rice and a consultant to the National Laboratories at Los Alamos (LANL), Lawrence Berkeley (LBNL) and Oak Ridge (ORNL). He is also President and CEO of dGB-USA. Dr Aminzadeh has published 10 books and holds three US patents. He is a member of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG), the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) and the European Association of Geoscientists and Engineers (EAGE), and has helped to strengthen intersociety relations; he pursued collaboration with EAGE on the SEG/EAGE's Salt/Overthrust modelling project. He has been on the Editorial Board of SPE's *Reservoir Evaluation and Engineering Journal*, and has contributed to the AAPG's *Memoirs* and the AAPG's *Explorer*. The Secretary of Energy recently appointed Dr Aminzadeh to the Unconventional Resources Technology Advisory Committee (URTAC).

**A** warm welcome to the readers of *Exploration and Production – The Oil and Gas Review 2007 – Issue II*. As President of the Society of Exploration Geophysicists (SEG), I am pleased to take this opportunity to highlight the history, achievements and aspirations of SEG.

Founded in 1930, SEG is the leading international organisation dedicated to applied geophysics. For most of its early history SEG focused on the US; however, the Society's demographics have changed dramatically in the past 20 years. We now have more than 27,000 members who live and work in more than 125 countries, and more than 60% of our membership is from outside the US. SEG's primary role is the transfer of state-of-the-art geophysical theory and technology. This is accomplished via a comprehensive publications programme, an extensive professional development curriculum and sponsorship of major professional meetings around the world.

The publications programme consists of two journals, industry-standard textbooks and an extensive website that has been undergoing a multimillion-dollar upgrade during 2007. The two journals are *Geophysics* – the major archival publication for peer-reviewed research in applied geophysics – and *The Leading Edge* – which presents news of the society, historical reviews and case histories about geophysical field work in a format that is accessible to non-specialists. The books programme usually adds half a dozen or more new titles annually; for example, eight new books were published in 2007. Many of these treat the latest developments in geophysical theory, technology and 'best practices', and instantly become the authoritative works in their disciplines.

SEG's Annual Meeting, held every autumn, has long been unrivalled as the world's premiere showplace for the most sophisticated geophysical instrumentation and computer software. In recent years, this meeting has had an attendance of 8–10,000, more than 600 technical presentations and a sold-out exhibit hall with booths from more than 300 companies.

SEG, along with most professional societies somewhat linked with the oil and gas industry, suffered a major downturn in membership in the mid-1980s when the price of a barrel of oil plunged dramatically. However, SEG's membership began to increase in the mid-1990s at a pace that is still accelerating, and is now 33% higher than its 'pre-bust' peak. Students represent almost one-third of the Society's total membership. This is a critical figure, since a large fraction of SEG's current membership is within a few years of the normal retirement age, and replacing this body of knowledge and experience in the upcoming 'crew change' will almost certainly be a major problem for many companies around the world. As a result of the obvious need for young geophysicists to enter the profession, the SEG Foundation has dramatically enhanced its 50-year-old scholarship programme in recent years. In 2007, SEG awarded nearly US\$500,000 in grants – almost double its previous high – to students in more than 30 countries. In September 2007, the SEG Foundation launched a US\$15 million major gifts campaign titled 'Advancing Geophysics Today, Inspiring Geoscientists for Tomorrow'. The campaign is raising funds for several major educational and scholarship programmes and the initiative to enhance SEG's online presence.

Also in 2007, the Society launched the SEG Advanced Modeling Project, which seeks to advance the science and technology of applied geophysics through a co-operative industry effort focused on subsurface model construction and the generation of synthetic data sets. ■

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