



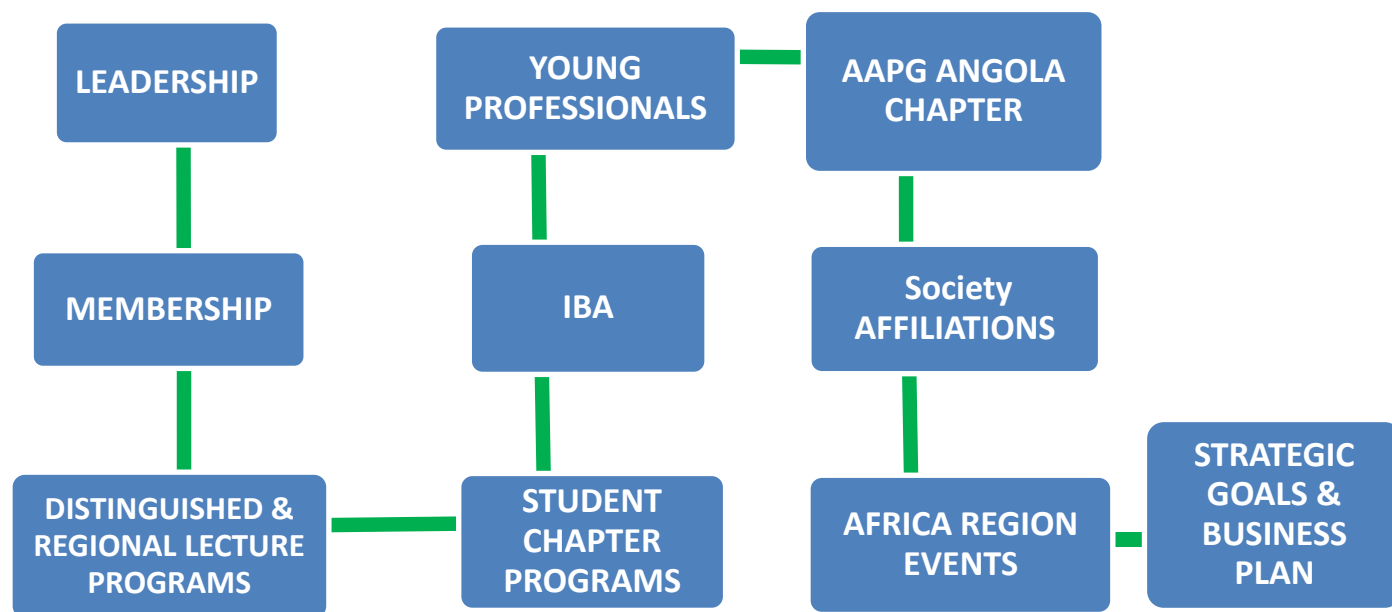
AAPG

Africa Region

AFRICA REGION

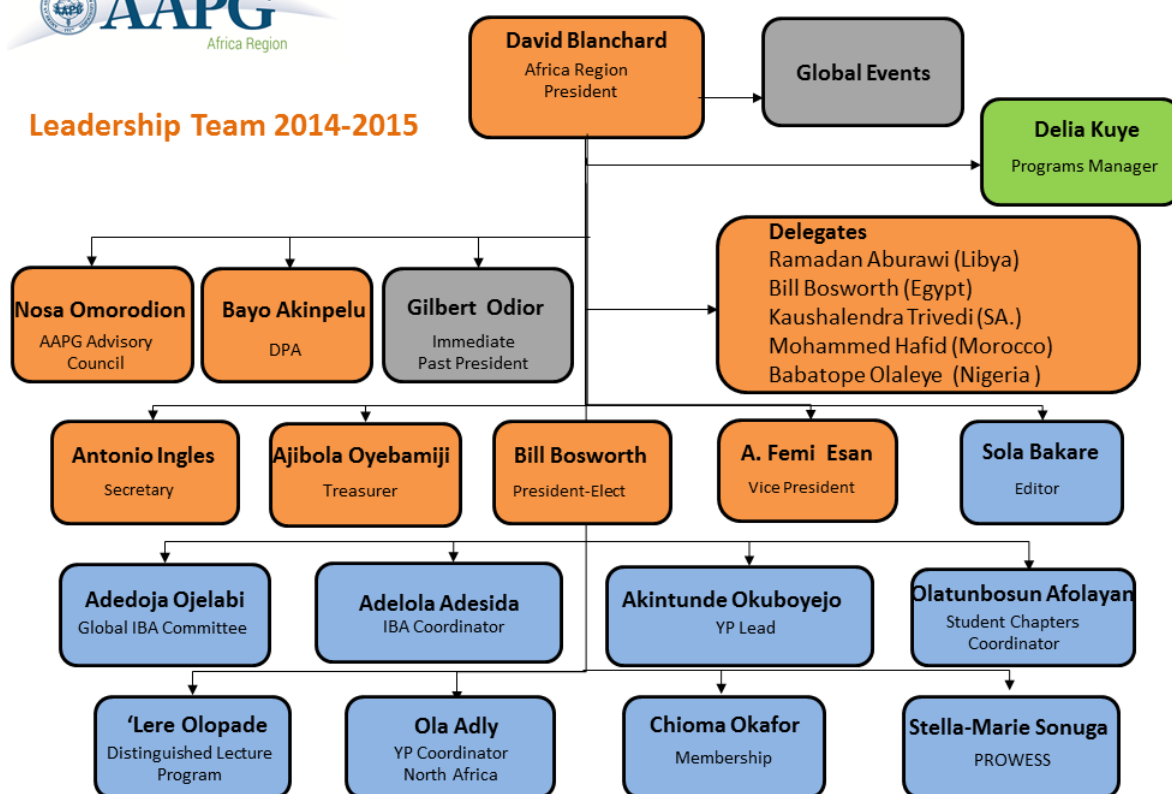
ANNUAL REPORT FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2014-2015

2014/2015 AAPG AFRICA REGION ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE



AFRICA REGION LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE

Leadership Team 2014-2015

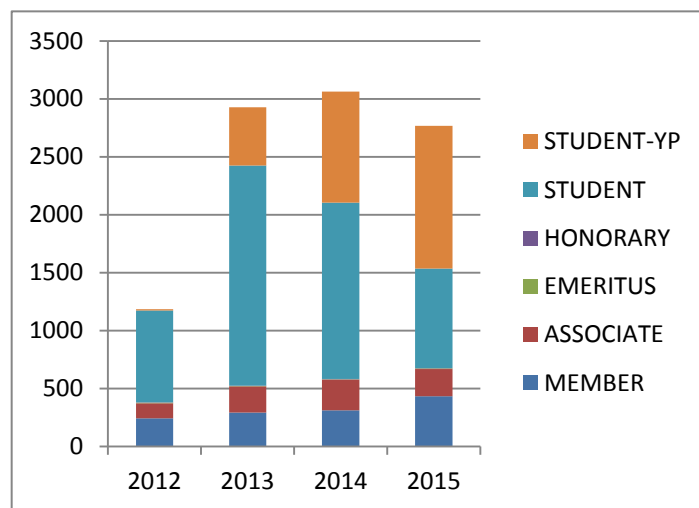


Over the past several years the Region has worked to close communication gaps and create a more diversified yet cohesive and effective leadership team. AAPG Africa Region officers for 2014-2016 are Mr. David Blanchard (President, USA), Mr. Femi Esan (Vice President, Nigeria), Mr. Antonio Ingles (Secretary, Angola), Mr. Ajibola Oyebamiji (Treasurer, Nigeria) and Dr. William Bosworth (President-Elect, Egypt). These officers have worked during the past year to ensure effective delivery of AAPG programs across the Region. They continue to work diligently towards ensuring continued improvement in the delivery of AAPG programs in Africa, and the implementation of key events including short courses, workshops and world class E&P conferences in association with affiliates & sister societies for the 2016 financial year and beyond.

Concerning the House of Delegates, the delegates whose term runs from 2012-2015 has been completed. The region leadership identified and communicated with candidates regarding interest in available delegate, DEG and DPA positions. The Africa Region leadership has been working at identifying suitable candidates from across the Region in filling the vacancies via appointment. New delegates and committee members will be announced in August 2015.

MEMBERSHIP

AAPG AFRICA REGION MEMBERSHIP 2012-2015				
	2012	2013	2014	2015
MEMBER	244	292	313	433
ASSOCIATE	130	227	263	235
EMERITUS	4	4	4	5
HONORARY	3	3	3	4
STUDENT	792	1899	1521	859
STUDENT-YP	12	501	958	1233
TOTAL	1185	2926	3062	2768



Africa Region membership statistics

Total AAPG membership in Africa has seen significant growth from 463 in 1999 when the Region was established to 2,768 today. In 2014/2015, the AAPG Africa Region leadership with support from the Region office made significant efforts during the last year to increase the number of voting members and achieved a 44% increase from 2012 to 2015. Email blast notifications containing personalized letters from the region president were sent out to eligible associate members periodically, and new applicants were encouraged to apply directly into member category where eligible. With the sponsorship requirement having been reduced from three to one, the AR president went the extra mile to encourage membership transfers by offering to sponsor membership transfer applications. Email blasts were also designed to be inclusive of all member categories and provided detailed instructions of how members in each category can go about the renewal process with ease. Student members and faculty advisors were also periodically informed about how to renew their membership option sponsored by Chevron.

The 2015 membership drive efforts resulted in over sixty five Associates transferring to Member status. There was an increase in membership in the student-YP and member categories by 28.7% and 38% respectively during the 2015 FY. Honorary and Emeritus membership categories both increased by one, while student membership saw a decline from ~1,500 in 2014 to 859 in June 2015.

The decline in student membership was, in part, likely due to many students graduating and obtaining Young Professional status. However, a renewed effort will be made during FY 2016 to remind all universities in the Africa Region that Chevron generously pays for student memberships and that AAPG will assist in applications and setting up student chapters.

DISTINGUISHED (DL) AND REGIONAL LECTURES

In 2015, the Region leadership team invited and engaged Dr. Terry Engelder in a Regional lecture to Cairo in 2014. The regional lecture was held successfully on 21st September in Cairo and was the result of collaborative efforts between AAPG Africa Region and the Egyptian Petroleum Exploration Society. The focus of the talks was on the US Marcellus shale as an unconventional resource analogue. The mixed audience comprised representatives from government agencies, oil companies, members in academia and students totaling over 300 attendees. The meetings were facilitated by Dr. Bill Bosworth

The Africa Region selected her top three choices for DL candidate to tour the Region in 2015 from the 2015 DL list approved and presented by the DL committee following the 2014 AAPG Annual Convention in Houston. Dr. Gary Hampson who was the foremost choice for the Region, was contacted and formally agreed with the DL committee to tour the Region in March 2015 for two weeks.

Due to circumstances beyond his control, Dr. Hampson was unable to make the tour as agreed with the DL committee. He was able to reach another agreement with the DL committee and the Africa Region to tour the Africa Region in 2016.



Dr. Terry Engelder at the Regional Lecture in Cairo, September 2014

STUDENT CHAPTERS

Student Chapters growth

In spite of the language barriers, the Region continues to witness an increase in the number and spread of AAPG Student Chapters across the region. In July & August 2014, new student chapters were created at the University of Western Cape, South Africa & Minia University, Egypt. The creation of a student chapter at Al Hikmah University, Nigeria followed in June 2015. The Region recorded 47 Student Chapters in Africa on 30th June 2015 which is a very healthy number and equates to 14% of the total AAPG student chapters globally. During FY 2016 these student chapters will be our ambassadors to recruit new student members and to reach out to other universities in their countries to form their own chapters.

2014 Local-Student Chapter Leadership Summit (L-SCLS)

NAPE/AAPG AR jointly hosted the Local Student Chapter Leadership Summit (L-SCLS) at the NAPE AICE in November 2014.

A total of twenty three (23) L-SCLS invitees were Student Chapter representatives who were selected with input from their respective geoscience departments and Faculty Advisors. Invitees were students in their penultimate year of study who have shown commitment to AAPG chapter development during their tenure.. The two day summit was organized by AAPG AR Student Chapters Coordinator, Tunbosun Afolayan who gave lectures and talks on leadership, vision building and value creation. AAPG Programs Manager and members of AAPG AR leadership team based in Lagos were present at the summit.



AAPG AR executives in Nigeria in Group photo with Student Chapter representatives at the 2014 L-SCLS held jointly with NAPE.

Visiting Geoscientist Program (VGP)

Developed in 1974 by AAPG (VGP) up photo with Student Chapter represents the VGP program is designed to give students a chance to meet practicing geoscientists and to discuss geoscience career options. Speakers present a technical talk in their area of specialization as well as on career options, the best way to plan a geoscience career path, and use opportunity to discuss changes & challenges in the job market. More than 200 colleges and universities have participated in the program which continues to grow through the interest and efforts of AAPG and the geoscience industry.

In 2015, the VGP Committee expanded to include Coordinators for each Region besides AAPG Sections. AAPG now boasts of 153 Visiting Geoscientists globally. In the Africa Region in 2015, Dave Blanchard and Prof. Samuel Akande (Nigeria) were appointed coordinators overseeing the VGP affairs.

The program took off smoothly in January 2015, beginning in Kenya and Nigeria. Following restructuring and the recruitment of new members including YPs, the Africa Region now boasts of fifteen Visiting Geoscientists.

For FY 2016, VGP budgets have been approved that will provide funds for travel and associated items related to the program since travel distances and access can pose a challenge for VGP volunteers to reach universities. Requests for Visiting Geoscientists can be made [online](#).

VISITING GEOSCIENTIST	UNIVERSITY	DATE
Oliver Osciski	University of Nairobi, Kenya	Jan-15
George kakayor	University of Benin , Nigeria	Jan-15
Eduardo Berendson	University Agostinho Neto, Angola	May-15
Dr. Wasiu Odufisan	University of Nigeria, Nsukka	May-15
Dr. Wasiu Odufisan	Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Nigeria	May-15
Prof. Stuart Harker	University Mohamed V, Morocco	May-15



VGP Morocco- University Mohamed V. Lecturers and students in group photo with Visiting Geoscientist Prof. Stuart Harker of Circle Oil. May 2015.



VGP Nigeria – University of Nigeria, Nsukka. Visiting Geoscientist Dr. Wasiu Odufisan at a student lecture. May 2015

2015 Imperial Barrel Award (IBA)

Participation

The 2015 IBA program was widely publicized throughout the Africa Region via e-mail blasts & social media. 19 schools registered for the program. The leadership agreed to use the same datasets for the Regional competition for uniformity and fairness of judging. The dataset from Taranaki Basin, New Zealand was assigned. North Africa teams received their datasets on 2nd January 2015 while the Sub-Saharan Africa teams got theirs on 22nd January, 2015. There were no issues with downloads from the server. University of the Western Cape, South Africa sought and got the permission of the IBA committee through the IBA coordinator to work within the premises of their sponsor SASOL, South Africa.

The semi-finals of the competition were held in Cairo (North Africa semi-finals) and Lagos (Southern Africa semi-finals). Teams representing Tunisia and Algeria were unable to secure funding from their respective countries towards their participation in the competition. Their physical participation in the North Africa semi-finals was fully supported by the Africa Region.

List of participating schools

S/N	Section/Region	School
1	Africa-N	Faculty of Sciences of Tunis, Tunisia
2	Africa-N	Al Azhar University, Egypt
3	Africa-N	Faculty of Science, Bizerte, Tunisia

4	Africa-N	University of Boumerdes, Algeria
5	Africa-N	Helwan University, Egypt
6	Africa-N	Ain Shams University, Egypt
7	Africa-N	Mansoura University, Egypt
8	Africa-N	Cairo University, Egypt
9	Africa-N	El Minia University, Egypt
10	Africa-N	Tanta University, Egypt
11	Africa-N	Alexandria University, Egypt
12	Africa-S	University of Ibadan, Nigeria
13	Africa-S	University of Western Cape, South Africa
14	Africa-S	University of Nigeria, Nsukka
15	Africa-S	Makerere University, Uganda
16	Africa-S	University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria
17	Africa-S	Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Nigeria
18	Africa-S	University of Benin, Nigeria
19	Africa-S	University of Calabar, Nigeria

Helwan University, Egypt and Faculty of Sciences, El Manah, Tunisia being winners of the North Africa semi-final competition held in Egypt, while University of the Western Cape, South Africa and Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Nigeria (winners of the Sub-saharan Africa semi-final competition) represented Southern Africa. Thus, these four schools made it to the finals.

The final competition of the 2015 AAPG Africa Region Imperial Barrel Award program took place in Lagos on Tuesday 23rd March, 2015. It was keenly contested. University of the Western Cape, South Africa emerged in first position, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka came second and the University of Tunis, El Manah, Tunisia was third. Certificates of participation were issued to all the participants. Medals were given to teams in first, second and third place. Subsequently, University of the Western Cape, South Africa represented the Africa Region at the global IBA competition in Denver in May 2015.

Consultants/Mentors/Sponsors

Industry professionals from Shell Nigeria volunteered as consultants to the schools in Sub-Saharan Africa. Certificates of appreciation were given to the various sponsors and their names/emblems were conspicuously displayed within the venue of the competition in Lagos.

Conclusions

The IBA program is contributing immensely to the development of postgraduate geosciences training in Africa Region. The following key objectives of the competition were achieved in the Region in 2015:

- The program created the opportunity for students to acquire robust technical, leadership and presentation skills.
- The events created a conducive environment for healthy interaction, networking and exchange of ideas among students and industry professionals.
- Participating schools keep the dataset and software (for sometime) to continue to train postgraduate geosciences' students.
- Some schools used the opportunity to upgrade or even get new hardware.
- The program enriched the ability of the participants to work in teams.



Group photo of the winning team – University of Western Cape, South Africa in group photo with Vice President, AAPG Africa Region.

2015 AAPG - AFRICA REGION IBA BUDGET

2015 AAPG - AFRICA REGION IBA SPONSORSHIP					
S/N	COMPANY	PLEDGE	AMOUNT PAID (NAIRA)	EXPECTED AMOUNT \$	AMOUNT PAID (\$)
1	EXXONMOBIL GLOBAL			\$10,000	\$10,000
2	DANAGAS EGYPT			\$1,250	\$1,250
3	SHELL GLOBAL			\$15,000	\$15,000
4	STONER ENGINEERING, COLORADO			\$350	\$350
	GLOBAL TOTAL (TULSA)			\$26,600	\$26,600
5	CHEVRON NIGERIA		NGN 4,187,500		\$25,000
6	EMR		NGN 150,000		\$714
7	ADEBAYO AKINPELU		NGN 500,000		\$2,381
8	ENGR. COLLINS AKINKUGBE		NGN 50,000		\$238
9	2014 IBA BALANCE				\$44,000
	NIGERIA TOTAL - Raised in 2015				\$28,333
	NIGERIA TOTAL (Held with NAPE)				\$72,333
1	TOTAL INCOME				\$98,933
2	TOTAL EXPENDITURE				\$55,267
3	TOTAL BALANCE				\$43,666
	BALANCE IN TULSA				\$10,950
	BALANCE IN NIGERIA				\$42,245

2014 IBA EXPENDITURE					
S/N	Vendor	Services	Amount (NGN)	Amount (USD)	
1	FLIGHT TICKETS - TULSA			\$15,650	
2	NIGERIA IBA COST	All related expenses	NGN 4,176,831	\$28,636	
3	EGYPT IBA			\$9,529	
4	AAPG BOOK PRIZE			\$1,452	
	GRAND TOTAL			\$55,267	

AAPG AR YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Young Professionals activities have grown to levels of significant advantage in the region; with recorded increase in participation of YPs in more companies and countries. The following are the highlights for 2015:

AAPG-NAPE YP at 2014 NAPE conference

At the YP booth during the conference exhibition, new members joined the NAPE-AAPG Young Professionals group. Geology games, quizzes and competitions were organized from the booth for students and prizes were given to winners of several geoscience quizzes and competitions. Technical sessions delivered by industry professionals were facilitated by the YPs at their booth. Career mentoring sessions were driven by YP volunteers and presenters included representatives from Shell, Exxon Mobil, Chevron, NAOC and Niger Delta E & P.

Mock Interview Session were delivered by staff of Exxon Mobil and facilitated by the YPs. A lecture on Recruitment Processes, Financial Aid and Scholarships was also delivered with support from Shell and Transocean oil companies operating in Nigeria.

Networking sessions at the conference included Meet and Greet sessions, cocktails and a freestyle mentoring Session.



Snapshot of the BEC competition at 2014 NAPE conference organized by the AAPG-NAPE YPs.



Career talk delivered by Dr. Fatona (NigerDelta petroleum) to a joint student-YP audience at the YP booth – 2014 NAPE conference.

The Exciting World of Geology

The Exciting World of Geology initiative was designed by NAPE/AAPG Young Professionals as a geoscience outreach program targeted at high school students particularly across the African Region. The objective is to create early awareness and encourage possible interest in pursuing a career in the geosciences.

The outreach initiative started out with educating student leaders who attended the L-SCLS training, & at the YP booth sessions during the 2013 NAPE conference in Lagos, Nigeria on the need to introduce the exciting world of geology to secondary schools across Africa. Each student chapter was given three (3) CDs entitled “Exciting world of Geology” containing presentations and ten (10) geoscience video clips. The student chapters were then charged to have career talks in 5-10 secondary schools in their vicinity within one year.

Since the 2013 NAPE conference, the Exciting World has been introduced to students, YPs, lecturers and industry professionals using several platforms. Since 2013 the YP group has successfully given geoscience career talks in close to twenty high schools in Nigeria and Africa. The group has also used the IBA and other meetings as platforms to share knowledge about their activities with geoscience professionals.



Exciting World of Geology Outreach – Uganda, 2014.



2015 Outreach to Holy Rosary Girls School, Port Harcourt, Nigeria. Eudorah Audu & Doyin Orekoya (NAPE-AAPG YPs) June 2015.

Africa Region YPs in Egypt

The Egypt YP team launched a series of educational and networking programs for the students and YP communities which have become annual events with visible increase in participation over the years. These programs include Discover Egypt, the IBA Simulation & the Gain n Give Program .

In July 2014, Egypt YPs gathered for a restructuring of the group's management and programs including the IBA simulation. 2014 witnessed the fifth IBA simulation event in Cairo, Egypt organized by the AAPG Egypt YP group led by Ola Adly. Several student teams from universities across the country participated in the competition in preparation for the IBA competition.

New AR YP Chapters

In 2015, two new YP groups were established in the Africa Region. They are:

- AAPG YP group – Western Cape, South Africa – led by Dr. Mimonitu Opuwari (FA, University of Western Cape)
- AAPG YP group – Tunis, Tunisia – led by Mohammed Nejmaoui (Graduate of Faculty of Science, Tunis).

South Africa

The Region has encouraged and benefited from the yearly appearance of graduate students at the IBA competition. With South Africa representing the region at the global event in 2014, the Region used the opportunity to engage University of Western Cape Faculty Advisor in the establishment of a young professionals' chapter of AAPG in Western Cape.

The plan to start the first AAPG student chapter & YP group in South Africa commenced in April 2014 during the AAPG ACE meeting in Houston Texas with a mandate from the Africa Region leadership to promote AAPG activities and establish chapters in South Africa. The AAPG student chapter and YP group was established on 28th July 2014 in the Earth Science department University of the Western Cape with twenty six (26) registered members in attendance. The meeting discussed the purpose and benefits of belonging to the world largest geology association.

Since chapter inauguration, membership of the UWC AAPG student & Young Professionals chapter has grown astronomically from initial 26 recorded on 28th July to 57 members on 16th September 2014. The formal presentation of the student chapter executives and introduction of the young professionals group was held on the 16th September 2014 at the University of the Western Cape.



AAPG Student Chapter & Young Professionals members in group photo following the inauguration ceremony in Western Cape. September 2014.



Field trip coordinated by AAPG Tunisia YPs – February 2015

ANGOLA CHAPTER

AAPG Angola Chapter April technical seminar

Since its inauguration in late 2013, the AAPG Angola group has been providing opportunities for geoscientists to gather and discuss technical issues and solutions. With companies looking to grow reserves in Angola, exploration is moving further offshore into increasingly deeper water in the Congo Basin. AAPG's Angola Chapter has also been amongst the drivers assisting in the provision of the much needed technology transfer within Angola's scientific community.

In April 2015, AAPG Angola Chapter held her second quarterly seminar at the AAA building in Luanda. The event organized by AAPG Angola Chapter Board saw attendance from upstream geoscientists as well as students. Speaker Eivind Fromyr delivered the lecture on Geostreamers which was sponsored by PGS in Angola. The Angola chapter had regular quarterly seminars in original plans to keep the Chapter active and providing value to geoscientists and AAPG members in the country. This plan has so far been limited by a lack of sponsorship and funding for events from the upstream industry.

In recent efforts to improve its position in the country, the Angola Chapter has been seeking additional volunteers from industry who would be able to assist the chapter in obtaining much needed sponsorship and support from industry.

As Angola continues aggressive exploration and production growth plans, AAPG's Angola chapter will continue to work towards providing mentoring, training, certification and technical network platforms for the numerous professional members within Angola.



AAPG Angola technical meeting sponsored by PGS. April 2015.

AFFILIATIONS

AAPG & NAPE - A unique milestone in affiliation



The Nigerian Association of Petroleum Explorationists, NAPE officially became an affiliate of AAPG in 1994. Since 1994, the twenty years of affiliation of both associations has been of mutual benefit to both societies and has witnessed several landmark collaborations such as the Field Immersive Program, AAPG/NAPE YP events, student chapters collaborations, donations of journals and books to tertiary institutions, regional conferences (DOWAC), distinguish lecturer program, technical and professional

seminars / exchanges, membership drives, amongst many others, and in 2013 the AAPG Africa Region office was established with very significant support from NAPE.

The 32nd annual international conference of the Nigerian Association of Petroleum Explorationists, NAPE took place at the Eko Hotel & convention Centre, Lagos from 9th – 13th November 2014. The conference themed “The future of hydrocarbon exploration- *“Drilling Deeper & Searching Wider”*” had ~850 attendees from the Nigerian upstream industry. The 20th year of affiliation of NAPE with AAPG was marked during the opening ceremony of this year’s NAPE conference, with a speech delivered on behalf of Randi Martinsen (AAPG President) & David Blanchard (President, AAPG Africa Region) by Mr. Nosa Omorodion (Africa Region representative on the AAPG Advisory Council).

AAPG Africa Region was well represented by Africa Region’s Vice President, Mr. Femi Esan, Immediate Past President, Mr. Gilbert Odior, Programs Coordinators Mrs. Tunbosun Afolayan (student chapters), Mr. Adelola Adesida (IBA) and Programs Manager, Delia Kuye.



2014 NAPE conference. Mr. Nosa Omorodion delivering a speech on behalf of AAPG

Rekindling ties with GSSA

Besides NAPE, AAPG Africa Region has five existing affiliates in the Region. These are: The Egyptian Petroleum Exploration Society (EPEX), Ghana Institution of Geoscientists (GhIG), Moroccan Association of Petroleum Geologists MAPG), Geological Society of South Africa (GSSA) & the Earth Science Society of Libya (ESSL).

In late 2014 the Africa Region reached out to GSSA with a letter stating interest in rekindling the affiliation with this affiliated society following a hiatus of a numbers of years in working relations with this society. This effort was facilitated with support from Mr. Kaushalendra Trivedi – AAPG AR delegate for South Africa.

A response was received from GSSA in a letter sent via email to AAPG Executive Director, in which GSSA re-affirmed commitment towards support and collaboration with the AAPG.

EVENTS

2015 Short course on Sequence Stratigraphy

AAPG Africa Region leadership outlined in the 2014-2015 business plan action items related with the promotion and enhancement of geoscience education in schools across the region, with funding from industry. In Nigeria, this section of the business plan for 2015 was realized through the successful execution of a short course on Sequence Stratigraphy in Lagos in June 29- July 3, 2015 in collaboration and with full financial sponsorship from ExxonMobil Nigeria.

AAPG-AR in Nigeria developed a short course proposal on Sequence Stratigraphy – Concepts, Principles & Applications in September 2014 and approached a number of senior Nigerian oil Industry leaders for support and sponsorship of our proposal. Mr. Andrew Ejayeriese, General Manager, Exploration, Esso Exploration and Production Nigeria Limited (EEPNL) responded positive to our proposal being in line with the company's vision of enhancing geoscience education in Nigeria while also providing the much needed financial support for AAPG AR activities in Nigeria.

The short course commenced on Monday 29th June and ended on Friday 3rd July at Dover Hotel, Lekki, Lagos. All lectures were delivered by AAPG course instructor Dr. Gary Hampson, and supported by Dr. Wasiu Odufisan from ExxonMobil. Course sessions ran from 8:00 am – 4:00 pm with scheduled times for tea and lunch breaks. Lectures were delivered through Microsoft PowerPoint presentations with sufficient examples and exercises, and review of solutions to the exercises with full class participation. There was good participation, engagement, interaction and response from the participants most of whom demonstrated good teamwork and collaboration.

A networking cocktail was organized on Thursday, July 2 on the directive of AAPG-AR leadership in Nigeria. This was to provide avenue for the course participants to engage and build relationship and to provide an environment to share learning beyond the training session. Our final appreciation goes to Mr. Andrew Ejayeriese who made himself accessible and very willing to allow AAPG-AR aligns its program

with ExxonMobil in supporting capability enhancement of Geoscience education in Nigeria. He promised to continue to support future ExxonMobil/AAPG collaboration of organizing short courses in Nigeria.



Lecturers, AAPG officials & ExxonMobil representatives in group photo with Dr. Hampson. GM Exploration ExxonMobil (Centre) at the closing ceremony of the 2015 Short course on Sequence Stratigraphy, Lagos. June 2015.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- APPEX Regional – Nice, France (November 2015)
- GTW – Sharm EL Sheikh, Egypt (18-19 March 2016)
- GTW – Lagos, Nigeria (May 2016)
- Short Course (Lagos) -Sequence Stratigraphy: Concepts, Principles & Applications (February 2016)
- Short Course (Lagos): Structural Geology (June 2016).

AAPG-AR 2013-2015 STRATEGIC GOALS AND ACTION ITEMS

Purpose

The purpose of the AAPG Africa Region is to promote and encourage geoscientists in Africa to become AAPG members and fully utilize the many benefits provided by the Association for the enhancement of their professional skills and development of the petroleum industry in Africa.

Current Reality

There are over 50 countries in the Region speaking a variety of languages including English, French, Portuguese, and Arabic. With some of these countries still developing, the necessary communication and infrastructure to build a stable network is not readily available, making it difficult for effective networking amongst countries in the Region. Furthermore, in Africa, low salaries and problems with foreign exchange and money transfer not only pose great challenges to AAPG members in honouring membership dues, but also to the planning and organization of Region events, conferences and meetings.

Security concerns in some countries have resulted in restrictive corporate travel policies that have hindered the deployment of AAPG events in some key locations in recent times.

Competition

In recent times there have been a number of private companies running upstream events but the leading competitor to AAPG as regards technical events delivery in Africa remains the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE). The Region has been largely underserved in terms of technical events delivery. The key focus of the AR in the year will be the delivery of technical events as stand-alone or in partnership with sister societies in countries within the Region having stable political climate and safety.

Strategic Plan

The overarching strategy is to expand and develop a regional presence and provide local marketing and distribution of AAPG conferences, products, and services which must make the AR self-sufficient within a two to three year time period. Key focus of the Region for the year will be on increased delivery of AAPG events and conferences across the Region.

2016 Goals and Action Items

Membership drive

- Improve members' awareness of the online member's profile and increase the number of membership payments made online using local credit and debit cards.
- To continuously employ the strategy of contacting members at risk of being Suspended or recently Suspended for non-dues payment, and providing instructions on steps for reinstatement.
- Continue the use of personalized letter from Africa Region Leadership encouraging colleagues to pay outstanding AAPG dues in order to retain membership.

- All members of the Region leadership team to continue to take responsibility of analyzing AAPG membership database to identify co-workers within their company eligible for upgrade from Associate to full Member status.
- Continue the annual All-Africa Region Membership Meeting during ACE to discuss membership and other issues impacting on the Region.
- Continually encourage corporate sponsorship for AAPG members in upstream companies across the Region.
- To continue the drive for transfer from Associate to Member.
- Improve student membership figures through continuous enlightenment of membership benefits & creating better awareness of the need for existing student members to renew online membership through more improved communication with student chapters.
- Encourage Members to become Certified Petroleum Geologists (CPG) and to join the Division of Professional Affairs (DPA). Becoming CPG provides members with the “gold standard” of petroleum professionals.

Programs

Students

- To host AR faculty advisors and student executives in interactive sessions to secure their continued cooperation and support
- Involving Faculty Advisor to identify specific and most pressing gaps of their student chapters and working with student chapters towards providing solutions to their challenges.
- To form a team that will source for industry support especially for teaching aids and professional availability, and key into schools Geoscience week program to deliver lectures, field trips, short courses, workshops or mentoring activities.
- Adapting the L-SCLS initiative for effective implementation in the various African countries.
- To work towards increasing diversity of AAPG student chapters across the Africa Region and create new chapters in areas which are underserved especially East Africa.
- To work towards increasing YP and student interaction through the active involvement of YPs in student initiatives.
- Improve student access to educational support by ensuring enhanced VGP coverage in more AAPG student chapters across the Region and improving student chapter access to educational materials through the Publications Pipeline.
- The Africa Region will work towards improving student membership figures in 2016 by more effectively engaging student chapter faculty advisors and the geoscience departments in the selection of chapter executives.
- Remind existing students, faculty, young professionals and members that the annual student membership dues are paid for by Chevron if the person does not wish or can not to pay the \$10.

IBA

- Rotate the location of the Regional IBA finals to broaden the base of participating companies, members, and universities.
- Encourage participation from more African Countries to increase country diversity of participating teams especially in East Africa.

- Increase the sponsorship base using AAPG AR network by working towards getting 2-5 year sponsorship commitments from companies.

Young Professionals

- Increase membership of YP in the Africa Region by encouragement and sponsorship of Student members to move to Associate members as soon as they are qualified or directly to member status if they are graduate students or have work experience.
- Facilitation of up to four YP event/receptions in key countries in the region in the financial year to promote networking, cohesion and knowledge sharing amongst YPs.
- To continue to reach out and inform current Student members about the Student-YP Bridge, whereby AAPG membership dues are \$10 USD per year for the two-year period immediately following university graduation.
- Encourage YP representatives in North & Southern Africa to actively scout for potential YP membership from affiliated societies to join AAPG AR YP network.

Distinguished Lectures & Visiting Geoscientist Program

- To raise member satisfaction by ensuring the effective deployment of the DLP in the Africa Region in 2015-2016.
- Utilize all of the allocated budget to maximize the number of students and young professional reached.

Events

- To deliver a world class geoscience technical event (Africa E&P conference) in Africa at least every two years in partnership with sister societies for the purpose of increasing value delivered to our membership across the entire continent and raising critical funding required for effective running of the Region.
- Developing smaller scale events – including GTW's, short courses, and field trips tailored to suit the needs of the local geoscience community and AAPG membership.
- To increase the number of networking and social events across the Region.

Region Leadership Development and communication

- To continue to promote a cohesive, diverse and effective Region leadership team - through nomination / appointment of suitable candidates and improvement on region communication.
- Ensuring inclusion of members by improvement on Region communication.

David C. Blanchard
President, AAPG Africa Region