From the Editor's Desk

Dear Reader,

Greetings!

During the valedictory session of Hyderabad 2010 conference, Mahmoud Abdulbaqi, President, EAGE, said that he measured the success of a conference essentially by two criteria. First, technically, whether the conference had anything new to offer to him and second, whether, personally, he enjoyed the conference. He said that he gave full score to the conference on both the counts and that he, therefore, considered the conference grandly successful. For the benefit of the readers who missed out on the conference, we bring in this issue a selection of some top class papers. The selection cannot be exhaustive, naturally, and to that extent remains subjective, but I can assure you that you will find something to learn in each of the papers included here.

Imaging through the Deccan basalt on the west coast of India has remained a challenge for decades. "Imaging through the Deccan basalt - New Lessons from IndiaSPAN II" by Sujata Venkatraman et. al. shows the power of new technology in seeing through the Deccan basalt. For the first time, we have some new images for the deep water Juro-Cretaceous basin in this part of the world.

The paper "Reverse Time Migration and Amplitude Preservation" by Suhas Phadke is an eye-opener for all of us who desire fidelity of seismic amplitudes for reservoir characterization. Hitherto, we have implicitly come to trust Reverse Time Migration (RTM) for providing us with accurate amplitudes for qualitative and quantitative inversion of seismic data for use in reservoir characterization. Through a detailed analysis based on synthetic data generated using full elastic wave modeling, Phadke shows that amplitudes obtained from RTM based on scalar equation have significant errors. That should be a humbling lesson for the champions of RTM given its present state of the art.

"Advances in Electromagnetics for reservoir monitoring", a Key note paper by Kurt Strack, is an excellent summary of the state of the art in this field.

The paper "Enhanced Resolution, Imaging, and Interpretability: Dual- Sensor Towed Streamer" by Maz Farouki was adjudged as the Best Paper in Hyderabad 2010. The paper illustrates the advancement made in Marine Seismic in the recent years.

"An Unconventional Future for Seismic?" by Romain Souberyan et. al. is an overview of the present state of seismic prospecting. It is an incisive presentation of the strength and opportunities of this most powerful tool for hydrocarbon prospecting.

Depositional processes in nature are seldom random. Two stacks of sand-shale layers with similar average properties can yield different seismic response if layer arrangements are different. How do we parameterize this concept of arrangement of facies and how can we make use of it for seismic estimation of reservoir properties such as Net-to-gross sand distribution? The paper "Seismic Attributes and Property Estimation of thin Sub-Resolution Sand-Shale Reservoirs", by Piyapa Dejtrackulwong, et al shows one way to answer this question using wavelet-transform attributes in a frame work of Monte-Carlo simulations and Bayesian statistics for a thin sand-shale aggrading sequence.

To give you a flavor of the conference beyond its technical richness, we bring to you in the News column a brief picturesque account of the Hyderabad 2010 conference. For those who were there at the conference, this issue will invoke fond memories. For those who could not be present, it would be an inviting preview of things to come.

On a sad note, Geohorizons wishes to record the deep loss of Subir Raha who was the chief patron of SPG and, in that capacity, uplifted the geophysical activities in India. This issue contains his brief obituary.

C. H. Mehta