

INTERSOCIETY COOPERATION

SPE places great importance on establishing and maintaining good, healthy relationships with other professional societies active in the petroleum industry. Why? To give our members easier access to a broad range of technology, to expose SPE to potential members, and to avoid wasteful competition and enhance effectiveness of volunteer resources.

As an SPE leader, you are encouraged to develop and maintain active contacts with local societies or chapters active within your section boundaries, and to be on the lookout for mutually beneficial joint initiatives.

Caution should be used to ensure that SPE organizational units are not committing SPE to arrangements that have not been approved by its board of directors. Refer to the SPE Logo and Name Use Policy for information on approvals that are required. It is strongly suggested that your regional director be consulted as to plans for intersociety initiatives before they are implemented. After a decision is made to move forward with a joint initiative, your regional director should be kept apprised of progress.

All SPE sections are asked to include in their annual report a description of their activities and relationships with other local professional societies. Specifically, sections are asked to provide the following information:

- Describe your relationships with other professional societies (national or international) that are active in petroleum engineering or related areas. Describe any joint activities and initiatives.
- Do you see ways to change your relationships with other societies to improve the benefits to members? Can SPE assist in any way?

COOPERATION BETWEEN SOCIETIES

Professional societies in areas related to petroleum engineering can be roughly categorized into three groups:

- Large internationally oriented societies, such as the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, the Society of Exploration Geophysicists, the European Association of Geoscientists and Engineers, and the Society of Professional Well Log Analysts
- Local technically based societies in related disciplines that are sometimes affiliated to larger international organizations, such as the Indonesian Association of Geophysicists, the Petroleum Exploration Society of Australia, the Geological Society of Trinidad & Tobago, and the Dutch Petrophysical Society
- National petroleum engineering societies or sections of national mining and resources societies, such as the Indonesian Petroleum Association, the Argentine Institute of Petroleum & Gas, and the Norwegian Petroleum Society

WAYS TO IMPROVE COOPERATION

Because of cultural diversity, initiatives to improve cooperation with other societies are likely to be based on specific local needs and tailored to meet them. A “one-size-fits-all” policy will not be successful. However, the following few guidelines have been prepared, based on the experience of various sections.

- Amongst other appropriately qualified SPE members, consider those members who are strongly involved with local societies as candidates for SPE positions. It is desirable that section boards, conference organizing committees, the SPE board, and other SPE committees should contain a healthy proportion of people with active links with other societies.
- SPE staff has experience in organizing joint activities with other societies. The staff in our various offices will be happy to give you advice on how to set up activities with particular societies and the nature of the contacts with them.
- Your regional director will also be able to offer advice and help on how to establish cooperation, or to help you in discussions with other societies.
- In setting up joint activities with other societies, it is important to establish from the start the responsibility of each society, including financial responsibility. In particular, distinguish between situations in which SPE is merely endorsing or sponsoring an activity from those in which it has joint responsibility.
- If you have no experience of cooperating with other societies, simple joint meetings or joint social events with limited financial implication are a good way to start.
- If you plan to cooperate on larger meetings, remember that different societies have different traditions. For example, there are different ways of handling written proceedings. Do not overlook such issues in the early stages of setting up a joint meeting. The SPE Meetings Policy outlines specific requirements for organizing a joint conference. Additionally, you are highly encouraged to work with SPE office staff to appropriately plan and execute a joint conference or workshop.
- If a section is jointly responsible with another society for organizing an activity, the SPE logo can be used prominently. If the SPE section is endorsing or sponsoring another organization’s activity, the logo should appear less prominently, in such a way that makes clear that SPE is not fully responsible for the event. Refer to the SPE Logo and Name Use Policy and the SPE Graphics Standard Guide for information on approvals required and appearance of the SPE logo.
- Make sure that the SPE name and logo are protected. It is a valuable trademark of the society. Refer to the Policy on the Use of the SPE Name and Logo before moving forward with plans for a joint meeting or workshop.

REFERENCES

- Policy on the Use of the SPE Name and Logo
- Meeting Request Form