

# EDITORIALS

From the Chairman

## CREATING A SAFETY CULTURE

**THERE IS NO** question that the drilling industry is committed to safety, and many are working hard to integrate the total avoidance of incidents into all operations. It is incumbent upon all managers and supervisors, starting with the most senior executives, to make the continuous focus on safety so simple and straightforward that belief in and unflinching diligence toward an injury-free workplace becomes a core belief of everyone in the drilling industry.

Enhancing industry safety is one of the cornerstones of



C Stedman Garber Jr, Chairman

IADC's mission. Over the last year, for example, we have developed industry guidelines on cargo handling in the Gulf of Mexico, work that accounts for a disproportionately high share of offshore accidents. In the North Sea, IADC has launched important initiatives in many areas, including improving or avoiding man-riding, recruit training and holding

safety workshops. Our IADC Accident Statistics Program has for 40 years stood as the definitive source for drilling safety statistics.

## PUT PEOPLE BEFORE SYSTEMS

While the focus on safety is extensive, we must beware of becoming over-reliant on systems and paper. However well-intended, systems can never substitute for people with a core belief that we can achieve an injury-free workplace. We must recognize that a universal belief that the drilling industry can be injury free represents a huge cultural change and effecting this sort of cultural change within an entire industry across the globe is a monumental challenge.

However, it's a challenge we can overcome by putting people before systems or rules or paper. Systems, rules and paper are valuable tools. But they are secondary to the importance of people's *attitudes* in a strong safety culture.

Creating a strong and vital safety culture within our industry is an absolute imperative, and I look forward to the day when everyone in our business shares in the success of working within such a culture. To get there requires leadership at all levels, personal accountability at all levels and management taking the responsibility to provide straightforward approaches that will gain everyone's absolute commitment. We must expose every man-

ager, supervisor and crewmember to useful and appropriate safety training as a way to build powerful safety teams.

We must commit to providing the resources and manpower needed to maintain a safety culture rooted in the belief that there is no such thing as an "unavoidable" accident, that safety is a condition of employment; and that safety is a choice, not a chance. ■

From the President

## SEE NO EVIL, HEAR NO EVIL

**ON THE NORTHERN** coast of a prosperous North Sea nation are formations containing natural gas, from which clean burning fuel is produced. The natural gas powers electrical generation stations. It is piped into homes for cooking and heating. It is compressed into cylinders to provide alternative fuel for automobiles. These are generally seen as good things.

The only problem is that to tap into this energy source requires that a drilling rig first spend 30 to 45 days on a land based location. The "green" movement of this quaint principality has been hugely successful in taking the operator and contractors in the region to court to delay drilling programs, even preventing them completely in some cases. Ever aware of their social responsibilities, the energy companies have been very solicitous toward the local population's enjoyment of their coastal beauty and serene, quiet way of life. To drill their latest well, for example, they have built a wall around the entire drilling location.



Lee Hunt, President

Yes, a wall as tall as the derrick was erected around the perimeter of the site! The material used was translucent, to allow the passage of light so that no villagers would have a dark shadow cast upon their fields or pastures. It was sound absorbent, so that the outside noise level did not exceed 40 decibels. This, by the way, is lower than the noise produced by trucks and autos on a nearby road. In fact, it's quieter than the ambient readings produced by breaking waves in a heavy surf at a nearby "clothing optional" beach. So far, not one naturalist has stood up in naked protest against the noisy surf.

Hopefully, they won't come wandering around the rig, either, looking for a quiet place to throw down their towels to bask in skin-cancer producing ultra-violet rays of sunshine. No telling what kind of regulation that would require! ■