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AN EXTENSIVE VIRTUAL OUTREACH APPROACH BY SPE DHAKA UNIVERSITY CHAPTER FOR GEOSCIENCE EDUCATION AMIDST THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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INTRODUCTION

The Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) Dhaka University (DU) Chapter in Bangladesh commenced its journey on 1st October 2007.

From the beginning, it has always been students-centered and fixated to pique broader geoscience disciplined-based interests of the members and arrange several annual seminars, conferences, lecture programs, workshops, and general meetings.

Many of these webinars were led by distinguished geoscience professionals known domestically and globally.

REMOTE LEARNING

Engaging and inspiring students, particularly females, in practical and innovative thinking concerning the present energy crisis and exploring the world's energy sectors remain the central theme in its offerings.

The SPE DU Chapter organized a wide variety of events, emphasizing on technical knowledge regarding the exploration, development & production of petroleum, strengthening the students' professional, and improving soft skills.

The COVID-19 pandemic forced the SPE to shift the technical sessions, symposium, and quiz competition online. The SPE also conducted an awareness campaign for COVID-19 via social media.

GEOSCIENCE CONTENT DELIVERY

Notably, the SPE organized a webinar on the right mindsets in the new normal situation and stepped in to disseminate general geology-related essential contents to its members and invitees to reduce the learning loss due to the pandemic. Noticing the dwindling oil price because of COVID-19, this chapter arranged a timely virtual lecture program on the future of oil and gas. The SPE DU chapter effectively adjusted its whole operation concerning COVID-19 and the safety of its members.

Image 1 (left) : Enthusiastic participants are eager to resume field study. Sylhet, Bangladesh.
Image 2 (right): The outcrop behind is the stream-cut exposure of the Bhuvan formation (Surma group), which is the most important hydrocarbon reservoir of Bangladesh. Bhuvan formation is composed of alternating sandstone and shale with some calcareous bands; deposited in deltaic to shallow marine setting.

Image 3: Noshin Sharmili, former delegate of IPTC 2020 Education Week, shared her experience about IPTC and provided useful tips on preparing highly competitive application.

Image 4: SPE DU chapter organized an interactive SPE special online education program on the "Future of Oil & Gas Energy" along with CV writing competition. Dr. Ardan Nengkode, a member of the Editorial Committee for SPE International "Journal of Petroleum Technology" (JPT) led the webinar. Currently, he is working for Saudi Aramco, based in Dhahran.

Image 5: Encouraging webinar attendance highlights Dhaka University's full-fledged geoscience outreach activities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Image 5: SPE DU collaborated with SEG DU and jointly organized a workshop on E&P Software named "Geomodelling Jump Start: Software Experience." Tamanna Afroz (DU geology graduate), now a Senior Geologist at Schlumberger led the workshop.

Image 6: Tamanna Afroz is explaining about how to correlate well-to-well log data using Petrel.

Image 7: Tectonic framework of Bangladesh (source: Banglapedia).

PARTICIPATION IN FIELD EXCURSIONS AND OVERSEAS CONFERENCE

The Geological Excursion and Gas field Visit, Petromania, and Geo-modelling Jumpstart: Software Experience are the other signature events of SPE DU Chapter.

The former president of the SPE DU Chapter, Noshin Sharmili, attended the International Petroleum Technology Conference (IPTC) 2020 in Saudi Arabia and obtained the second position in the "Unlock the Reserve" competition.

Being motivated, the chapter hosted a pivotal session delivering the tips of a successful application for IPTC Education Week.

EXTERNAL RECOGNITION

The SPE DU Chapter and its executive members have received the AAPG Foundation L. Austin Weeks Undergraduate Grant in 2020 and 2021.

Furthermore, the SPE DU Chapter has been awarded the Student Chapter Excellence Award for 2021 and 2020.

This prestigious award is the second-highest honor a student chapter may receive and is awarded to only 20% of student chapters around the world.

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ABSTRACT

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