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**РЕГИОНАЛЬНЫЙ СТУДЕНЧЕСКИЙ САММИТ КАК ПЛОЩАДКА  
ДЛЯ МЕЖДУНАРОДНОЙ ПРОФЕССИОНАЛЬНОЙ  
КОММУНИКАЦИИ  
REGIONAL STUDENT DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT AS  
INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION PLATFORM**

*АННОТАЦИЯ. В настоящей статье рассмотрены основные цели и задачи Международного общества инженеров-нефтяников (SPE). В результате участия авторов в Региональном Студенческом Саммите Международного общества инженеров-нефтяников SPE по России и Каспийскому региону в 2015 г. проанализированы особенности организации Саммита, способствующие международному профессиональному взаимодействию участников.*

*ABSTRACT. The mission and the main goals of the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) are considered in this article. As a result of the authors' participation in SPE Regional Student Development Summit in 2015, the features of Summit organization promoting international professional communication of participants are analyzed.*

*КЛЮЧЕВЫЕ СЛОВА: Общество инженеров-нефтяников (SPE), Российско-Каспийский регион, студенческий саммит, международная профессиональная коммуникация.*

*KEY WORDS: Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE), Russia and Caspian region, student summit, international professional communication.*

## **Introduction**

Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) is the largest international organization serving managers, engineers, scientists and other professionals in the upstream segment of the oil and gas industry. The mission of SPE is to collect, disseminate, and exchange actual technical information concerning the exploration and production of oil and gas, and related technologies for the public benefit; and to provide opportunities for professionals to enhance their technical and professional competence. SPE is represented in 147 countries by more than 143,000 members participating in 199 sections and 337 university chapters. There are more than 50,000 SPE student members [1].

On 3-5 November 2015 SPE held the second Regional Student Development Summit along with the SPE Annual Caspian Technical Conference and Exhibition. 55 Students from 21 universities of 4 countries (Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Russia & Uzbekistan) attended Summit, fig.1.

The last Summit was devoted to individual social and professional development. Summit sessions included soft skills courses such as “Interview skills”, “How to write an SPE paper”, and panel sessions. In addition, there were technical sessions about issues facing the Caspian.

The aim of the Regional Student Development Summit was to enable students to gain a better understanding of the oil and gas industry in the Caspian region as well as network with peers, share ideas, meet with major industry figures and employers, and also work together on joint technical projects in international teams [2].



Fig.1. Participants of the Summit in the final meeting.

### **Student summit as international communication platform**

Student summit is a unique technical event, promoting platform for open communication between students and professionals of Russia, Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan leading universities and petroleum companies such as SOCAR, BP, ExxonMobil, Schlumberger, Halliburton, Baker Hughes, ERM and others. This form allows representatives of student chapters to cooperate between each other, to gain new practices and to share knowledge.

Student summit in Baku consisted of technical and soft-skills sessions devoted to wide range of challenges facing the Caspian and professional development of students. There were also 3 field trips to main oil and gas exploration and production objects such as BP Advanced Fluids Facility attended by the authors.

English was the official language of the Summit so all sessions and presentations as personal communications were in English.

### **Technical and soft-skills sessions**

Most of sessions were held in interaction form which provided involvement of every participant to the open discussion.

Technical sessions were devoted to specific features of Russian, Kazakhstani and Azerbaijani oil and gas industry, their actual scientific and research tasks and state programs, the main problem of their region [3].

Soft skills sessions were devoted to development of personal skills and professional competences. Students and professional specialist from oil and gas companies discussed career opportunities and outcomes, the main role of the SPE. Gregory King from ExxonMobil gave an overview of how to write SPE paper and how to present a paper, gave some points and comments about this. Giovanni Paccaloni, 2005 SPE President, kept our focus on intrinsic motivation on personal and professional growth, outstanding professional results, gave a connection between levels of expertise, skills and challenges.

### **Project activities of international student groups**

Student community of the Summit was divided to 8 groups for solution of multidisciplinary objectives. Each international group was made up of 6 to 7 students. Students prepared to demonstrate their presentations all of which connect with issues and actual problems of oil and gas industry. Three weeks before the Summit, students were assigned a group, so working in-group was online and in situ. Thus, students gave presentations on variety topics:

1. Caspian Sea and Its Environmental Challenges;
2. New Technology: Key to Unlocking the Caspian Sea's Treasure;
3. Advantages and Disadvantages of the Caspian Sea's Geology;
4. Caspian Sea Boundary and International Policy;
5. Transportation Options for the Caspian Sea Oil Export;
6. Serving Society through Industry;
7. Gender and Diversity in the Energy Industry;
8. Knowledge Sharing: Connecting Generations in the Oil and Gas Industry.

Students were in touch with high priority problems in region, learned problems in detail, saw research from another point of view and demonstrated their creative skills. The winning group was number 8 and was announced and recognized on the final day.

### **Conclusions**

1. International Society of Petroleum Engineers SPE is a great society connected with actual problems of oil and gas industry. SPE helps to develop professional competencies of students and oil and gas specialists, to get more knowledge and to study oil and gas researching in detail, to communicate with professional persons from different countries.

2. The Regional Student Summit is a way to develop professional and soft skills. It is a great opportunity to communicate with other students and SPE Student Chapter, to set new goals, to open new professional horizons and to improve English skills.

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