

Workshop on women empowerment



Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University Organized a National level workshop on Women Empowerment with theme “*A Journey towards self- discovery*” in association with the Society of Exploration Geophysicists (SEG), Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE), PetroTech Society, European Association of Geoscientists and Engineers (EAGE) in collaboration with Women Cell PDU on *28th April 2011*. This workshop was aimed to get the knowledge & experience from women professional from Oil& Gas sector to encourage, guide and boost the confidence of the students pursuing their studies in O&G stream.



It was a one day workshop that consisted of 3 technical sessions where in the lectures were delivered by Speakers from various Oil and Gas Industries across India. Women who have a work experience of more than 18years were a part of the workshop and helped students learn about the unknown aspects of the energy sector and how by a little effort its possible to be maintain a balance at work as well as home. The Workshop was inaugurated by the Director General PDU Prof. P.K Banik where he addressed the students regarding the theme and enlightening them with today’s scenario regarding the achievements of women professionals in energy sector. Later there was a brief Introduction of the Workshop given by Dr. Lalita Ledwani Convener, Women Cell PDU where she continued with the thought on origin of the workshop, Empowerment of young women professionals in E&P and the day’s agenda. Then following this was a keynote speech by Smt. Lakshmi Suresh- Manager India & Southwest Asia, Baker Hughes in which she eminently contributed her insights regarding the theme. She also expressed her thoughts on self awareness and its importance. She also told that how the attitude one possesses at workplace helps in maintaining the balance.



The technical session 1 was on the topic **Challenges and Prospective on Women Professionals in the Energy Industry** consisted of lecture sessions by 2 speakers: Dr. Kusumita Arora, Project leader at National Geophysical Research Institute, Hyderabad who was nominated by Society of Petroleum Geophysicists, INDIA and Smt. Gomati. M, Chief Engineer, Exploration and Development Directorate of ONGC Ltd. The chair of the session was Smt. Lakshmi Suresh. The points discussed were basically on the the challenges of managing personal career development aspirations with their essential role in nurturing family life. The technical session 2 was the extension of session 1 by two speakers: Smt. Manjusha Bhatnagar, HR of Mangalore refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd and Mrs.Dolly Rana, Chief Chemist of MEOR at IRS, ONGC where in, the chair person of the session was Dr. Lalita Ladewani. They emphasised that Energy

industry mainly demands constant improvement and devotion towards the job, which might make women in India to take a step back.



The technical session 3 on the topic **Work-Life Balance, Career Progression for Female Professionals: Myth or A Necessity**. The speakers of this session were Smt. Prabha Mujumdar, Chief Manager (Reservoir), IRS, ONGC and Ms. Devaki, Regional head (Western Region) & RJ, Red Fm. The chair of this session was Dr. Rita Banik. From this part of the discussion, the audience got to know about the on field experiences, which helps to improve careers and have a bright future. The only speaker from a non-technical background was RJ Devaki who shared her experience, enlightened the students with the basic rules of working in any organization. She helped them realize the importance of standing up for oneself and making a mark in the rat race going on in the world and how it can be achieved by constant hard work and continuous effort towards ones goal. She also addressed the gathering by saying “Whoever the person is a male or a female there should be a priority order for them and should act accordingly. Women in today’s competitive world should be outspoken about their views and should not take a back step whatever may be the situation. They need to be strong enough to overcome the hurdles and prove to the world that they are no less than their counterparts.”

This workshop served as a learning platform for students from the experiences, views and ideologies of the speakers. Hence, the workshop concluded on a positive note that the students got to realize how to deal with complex situations arising in their career, so that they could reach astounding heights.

