

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

The time devoted by the editorial team and executive committee in bringing out each issue of Geohorizons with rich contents is indeed praiseworthy. In the new feature "From another angle" the author has looked into a very sensitive and important issue of syllabus of geophysics from many angles. The insight of the author into this problem of designing the syllabus for post graduate students of geophysics is itself a beginning of the solution of the problem. It is hoped that the article will alter the perception of the petroleum industry regarding apathy in the academic community towards revising the syllabus of the Master degree courses. The important question is how best and at how quickly will the syllabi be revised. The problems identified by Professor Bhattacharya provide half the solution. The concern shown by the SPG and the author will help nurture the young minds to tackle the advanced geophysical challenges.

The experts on the subject in the industry and institutes may deliberate the issue further during academia- industry interface in "Hyderabad-2008". Following points may be examined in detail to solve this problem.

1. It is right time to introduce the subject at a graduation level in universities/institutes across the country. Many new subjects have been introduced at Graduation or even 10 + 2 level in last two decades in Indian Institutes/universities. Introduction of the basics of geophysics right at graduation level will help in a more focused study at Master level. This broadening of the spectrum of the subject will also help in absorbing the swings in the demands of geophysicists by petroleum Industry which is beyond the control of petroleum industry itself. Recent applications of Geophysical techniques in diverse newly emerging fields demand their introduction at an early stage for overall development of all the science students.
2. The specialization of the subject at Master level may be on the basis of the techniques of geophysics and not on their applications. Some examples are: Seismology/Seismic Geophysics, Non- Seismic Geophysics /Potential fields Geophysics, Borehole Geophysics, Marine Geophysics, Near Surface Geophysics and Meteorology. The demarcation between these branches of Geophysics, at times, tends to be thin and hence some overlapping of these topics need to be allowed while designing syllabi.
3. Standardization of the syllabi across the country through University Grant Commission (UGC) also need to be explored.

The need of the hour is to make the periodical quarterly. To get more contributions from readers, good contributors may be rewarded with incentives like free registration and/or boarding during its biannual conference similar to sponsoring of the geophysicist by SPG India to attend SEG/EAGE conferences.

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