

## SPE Student Chapter visit to Milan

Dear SPE members,

Despite the fact that the summer seems to have passed a while ago, we would not want to withhold you from a report about the Amsterdam and Utrecht SPE Student Chapter visit to Milan, which took place at the end of August. The main objective of the SPE Student Chapters is bringing students closer together with the international oil and gas industry. A perfect example regarding this objective is the annual excursion, or SPExcursion, which is organised by the mostly geology and geophysics oriented SPE Student Chapters Amsterdam and Utrecht. Throughout the last years excursions have been organised to Romania, Croatia and Hungary. The destination this year: the beautiful country of Italy! The typical geological setting of northern Italy makes this excursion ideal for geologists. A delegation of students from the SPE Student Chapters Amsterdam and Utrecht participated in the SPExcursion to Milan from the 28th to 31st of August.

The five-day excursion proceeded according to a full program, thereby combining company visits, science and culture. The day of arrival was filled with cultural aspects of Milan. After a typical Italian lunch the Duomo was visited, wherefrom we headed on to the Expo. The 2015 Universal World Exposition is hosted by the city of Milan under the theme: Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life. The theme thereby embraces innovation, technology and culture, related to food and diet. The universal approach of the Expo 2015 directly related to the love of travelling and experiencing new cultures of most geologists. During our second day in Milan we were very kindly received at Geolog, an oilfield service company dedicated to surface logging. The full-day program consisted of informative sessions considering the company, the upstream oil industry and case studies as well as visits to the surface logging units and the laboratories involved. During the weekend a meeting was arranged with professor Andrea Zanchi of the University of Milano-Bicocca for a geological excursion in the southern Alps, which mostly focused on the contact between the Permian cover and the basement rocks. The geological excursion was very informative and, after climbing 1000 metres in altitude, the view was magnificent. Since the southern part of the Alps is characterized by large subalpine lakes, Lago Maggiore was visited as well. On our last day in Milan a company visit to Eni was arranged, where an elated atmosphere reflected the enormous offshore Egypt discovery that was press released just the day before our visit. The main objective of this visit was to get an overview

of the Eni upstream laboratories. The geology, geochemistry, drilling and production chemistry laboratories were very much compelling to the geology-oriented students.

After the laboratory visits a very interesting interactive session was organized together with the SPE Italian Section. A presentation about the SPE Italian Section and the associated activities was given firstly, whereafter the SPE Student Chapter Utrecht presented the activities and core values of the SPE Netherlands Section. During the interactive session some differences between the SPE Italian and SPE Netherlands Sections emerged. One of the largest differences was that not all students and industry professionals were able to attend all events organised by the SPE Italian Section due to the travel distance, which is not evidently applicable to the Netherlands. The possibility to participate in certain lectures online in webinars is hence a very good solution to overcome this problem. One of the takeaway points for the SPE Student Chapters was the opportunity for Italian students to present their work and promote themselves for a panel of industry experts during certain events of the SPE Italian Section, which may be a welcome addition to the activities and networking opportunities the SPE Netherlands Section already organises for students. Concluding, the SPExcursion to Milan was a great opportunity for the SPE Italian and Netherlands Sections to share knowledge and exchange ideas for the future. Sharing and communicating knowledge is one of the most important aspects within the petroleum industry, but can be instructive for the SPE as well.

On behalf of the Amsterdam and Utrecht Student Chapters,

Faye Fekkes

President SPE Student Chapter Utrecht ■

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