

**PIPE Annual Meeting**  
Calgary, AB  
28 September, 2008

*Summary of proceedings*

**Introductions**

John Tiratsoo (JT) and BJ Lowe (BJL) welcomed all present to the meeting. The arrival in Calgary of the PIPE's business- and membership-development manager, Dan Lentell, had been delayed, but he arrived during the meeting, and was appropriately introduced.

**Members in attendance**

25 members were present at the meeting, including the following Board members:

Dr Gerhard Knauf  
Ted Metcalfe  
Dr Alan Murray  
Dr Nobuhisa Suzuki  
Karim Sylla  
Dr Chris Tam  
Prof Sviatoslav Timashev

**Overview**

John Tiratsoo gave Dan Lentell's presentation outlining the objectives of PIPE, benefits of membership, and ongoing activities. This included details of:

- Liaison with academic programmes at Newcastle University, PUC-Rio, and the University of Calgary
- Geographic distribution of members
- Promoting pipeline engineering as a discipline
- Average experience of membership (14 years)
- Number of members at 243 paid + 45 non-paid = 288

**Activities and developments since the founding of PIPE in May 2007**

JT explained the origin of the idea for PIPE and how it was necessary to take some actions prior to the formation of a governing body, i.e. the Board. These actions and the Board nominees were summarized by JT and approved by those in attendance.

It was agreed that a five-member Executive Committee of the board should be formed for the purpose of expediting decisions and routine matters arising.

JT gave a report on the new website features, which will include:

- Database of members
- Jobs postings
- Members forum

**Financial and administrative review**

The PIPE's fiscal year was established to be from 1 September through 31 August, with its first year covering May, 2007, through August, 2008.

JT distributed a summary of finances to date. This showed an income of £23,572.84 against expenses of £35,820.01, leaving a negative balance of £12,247.17 which has been subsidized by

Scientific Surveys Ltd. It was agreed that John Tiratsoo and BJ Lowe (BJ) should continue as the secretariat with the current modus operandi, for the time being.

It was agreed that a corporation would be formed, according to UK laws and models, for the purpose of carrying out the day-to-day business of PIPE.

## **The future**

Members all felt there is great potential for PIPE to promote pipelines and pipeline engineering in general. Alan Murray pointed out that the PSD is only 1000 in an overall ASME membership of 130,000, and so its voice is barely heard.

BJ suggested future member benefits could include discounts for publications, and possibly access to software applications. JT mentioned that Dr Roger King and others may be willing to provide some simple calculation routines, spreadsheet applications, etc.

Gerhard Knauf proposed that the PIPE website feature a blog site where members could share ideas about training needs, technical needs, etc. He suggested that this is more useful than a forum, since experts are not typically motivated to reply to questions floated to everyone and thus to no one in particular.

### *Training and education, certification*

Much of the meeting was devoted to a discussion of this issue, and Ted Metcalfe was particularly helpful in sharing his experience in Australia, where the APIA found it to be a non-starter. John Tiratsoo pointed out that in the UK and Europe, organizations can't be considered for this process until they have been around for at least five years and have at least 1000 members.

It was agreed that PIPE should eventually audit training courses with a view to providing an internationally-recognized certification similar to what NACE and ASME offer, but that this must be a long-term objective.

Guy Desjardins pointed to the Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists of Alberta (APEGGA) as a model of what PIPE might become. It was learned later that this is actually a provincial licensing authority, however, and that the analogy is not really valid. Still, it was agreed that PIPE should contact APEGGA and other related professional groups about gaining recognition as a "sister" organization.

Chris Tam raised the issue of whether PIPE should be a more "open" special-interest group like MTS or SUT, where members share an interest in a particular slice of industry, in order to attract as many members as possible. Karim Sylla and Gerhard Knauf suggested that Corporate Memberships should be offered and promoted. These ideas were considered attractive on one level, but at odds with the fundamental mission of PIPE as a credentialing organization requiring eligibility criteria for membership.

It was agreed that this paradox presents a significant challenge to growth and that an effort should be made to address it.

The meeting was adjourned, and members then met informally for another hour.