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To commence, I wish to congratulate the former editor of *Preview* Ann-Marie Anderson-Mayes in receiving an award in recognition of her fine services to the ASEG (see p. 12). In true professional conduct, she did so with understated modesty.

On another matter, do make the most of the opportunity to hear SEG Distinguished Instructor (DISC) for 2013, David Johnston, presenting the practical applications of time-lapse (4D) seismic technology. The SEG DISC programme in general should not be taken for granted as it comes to us at significant expense to the SEG. By showing an active interest in the SEG DISC we can help ensure that this valuable programme is not discontinued through under patronage.

On Thursday 16 May I had the pleasure of meeting Koya Suto, our newly elected ASEG president, for the first time. I did so at our Victorian Branch meeting where he delivered his final technical talk in a tour entitled 'Multichannel analysis of surface wave (MASW): a tool for investigation of ground competence'. For those of you who have not yet had the privilege of meeting Koya I encourage you to seek out an opportunity to do so. His infinitely polite and amiable personality makes him quite approachable, but also you will enjoy his proactive leadership style. To me, Koya comes across as an extremely resourceful and capable man who can unite the practical with theoretical to produce solid outcomes. My statement is both literal and metaphorical. In casual conversation after the talk, Koya explained to me how he cobbled together, or rather handcrafted, his seismic survey equipment from mostly off-the-shelf parts obtained largely from DIY stores. This included his electromechanical drop weight seismic source and the receiver tow line made by carefully stitching each geophone to the tow ribbon – I admire his ingenuity! Yet, he applied this same philosophy as his expounded his

aspirations for the ASEG in the meeting that followed. Among the charts, mission statements and strategic plans I could see immediately that Koya is seeking to identify and gather the available resources within the society, alongside consultation, to foster mechanisms that will yield viable outcomes. This quality is captured succinctly in his unusual alternating portrait within his President's Piece that features a 'magic mirror'; to paraphrase Koya – he is a geophysicist, so although you may see him in a suit at meetings and conferences his presence is backed up by his work in the field.

After the meeting I came home with four distinct points for reflection, which I would like to share with you my fellow ASEG members:

**Education** – Is the teaching of geoscience merely strategic so as to create the next generation of geophysicists; or perhaps provide an interesting training ground for students to apply skills acquired in other subjects; or even more to enhance the understanding of geoscience within the general community?

**Membership** – How do we perceive the ASEG and our individual roles within it? Is it merely a place where we can gather our expertise within a welcoming social environment to benefit members or something greater?

**Application** – My favourite point to ponder. As a game, place the resource industry aside and try to compile a long list of geophysical applications that are either currently in place or novel. Now, map out a line of research to advance each application and consider the possible outcomes whether they are practical or theoretical.

**Society** – Finally, what is our role as geoscientists within society? Is it acceptable to be insular and focus only on our careers or should we exercise greater stewardship? In a sense we come full circle on reconsideration of education. For education empowers people and creates an inclusive society, which in turn permits informed and fruitful debates to flourish – particularly on contentious issues such as resource exploration and management. This surely is to the benefit of all.

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