

What is unexpected

I came to Australia in the middle of the 1970s. In my home country, Japan, it was a time of economic growth through to the early 1990s. In this 20-year period, GDP per capita of Japan in terms of US dollars increased by nearly 10 times! This figure is rather inflated as the exchange rate between the Japanese Yen and US dollar tripled during this time, so actual growth in terms of the local currency is about three times. It is still a remarkable growth. For comparison, Australia's growth during the same period was about 1.4 times – this, I totally missed.

During this period, economic analysts and researchers in culture and politics studied the background economic success of Japan. This inspired the publication of books such as *Japan as Number One* (Ezra Vogel, 1979) and *The Enigma of Japanese Power: People and Politics in a Stateless Nation* (Karel van Wolferen, 1990). About that time, I read an interview article in a current affairs magazine that my mother had sent me every month. The person interviewed was a top businessman of either Sony or Honda – I forget which company. Back then, as now, these companies were known to be the most innovative and quickly growing in Japan. One particular phrase within the interview impacted me the most: 'If something could not be done, listing the reasons why it cannot be done is one thing and thinking how to make it possible is another'.

In life, we often hear 'excuses': 'I didn't have time', 'I didn't know that', 'I wasn't told', 'It was someone else's job', 'It was beyond our expectation', and so on. The 'beyond expectation' excuse is interesting and is often heard when a natural disaster

hits: one such example pertains to the size of an earthquake, tsunami, hurricane, typhoon and volcanic eruption. We heard this excuse for the scale of the tsunami that hit the Fukushima Nuclear Reactor. Perhaps the engineers were not clever enough to expect the unexpected. But is this excuse permissible for a technical person? This question always hits me in many aspects of life.

Although, the 'unexpected' is not always bad. The ASEG had a good year with an 'unexpectedly' large surplus from the Melbourne conference – thanks to all those involved. Due to our strong financial position, your Federal Executive decided to keep the membership fee at the same level as last year. In addition, you can save further with the early bird rate if you pay the subscription before the end of the year.

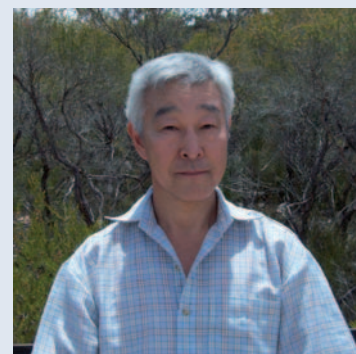
The first OzSTEP proved a success in every state branch around the country. Thanks to the lecturers, Dennis Cooke and Mike Asten, and Wendy Watkins for organising the courses. Preparations for next year are underway with dates to be announced in the near future.

Along with the ASEG's five-year strategic plan, we will form Specialist Groups. These are groups of members with common interests, and will communicate to members via newsletters, single-subject workshops and symposia. We hope these groups will grow strong as technical forums of the ASEG. Please contact Tania Dhu (nt-rep@aseg.org.au) to submit either suggestions or requests to form a group.

I attended the SEG Annual Meeting in Houston in September. As Houston

holds SEG's largest membership base, the conference turnout was very big with about 10000 delegates. After the difficulty of the big change of the executive structure a few years ago, the SEG now seems to be running smoothly, and the Council meeting didn't have serious issues beyond house-keeping amendments to the By-Laws. The ASEG and SEG had an executive meeting, which I attended with our past presidents Mike Asten and Dennis Cooke. We thanked the SEG for their help in publishing our e-Book on *Aeromagnetic Interpretation* (Isles and Rankin, 2013) and for inclusion of *Exploration Geophysics* in the SEG digital library. We also gave assurances to continue subsidising the SEG's Distinguished Lecturers, Honorary Lecturers and DISC to bring more locations than their budget allows.

On behalf of the ASEG Federal Executives, I wish you all a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and a safe holiday season.



Koya Suto
ASEG – President
president@aseg.org.au



Koya at the ASEG booth at the SEG Annual Meeting.



After the SEG-ASEG Executive Meeting: (front L-R) Chris Liner, Mike Asten, David Monk, Koya Suto, Don Steeples and Dennis Cooke; (back L-R) Terry Todd, Rhonda Jacobs, Steve Davis, Ted Bakamijian and Tom Smith.

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The ASEG extends a warm welcome to the seven new individual members approved by the Federal Executive on 31 October 2013 (see table).

Name	Organisation	Country	Member Grade
Alexandra Bennet	Beach Energy	Australia	Active
Okan Evans	–	Australia	Student
Julie Ellen Fun	–	Australia	Student
Rie Kamei	CPG	Australia	Active
Sonny Hock Beng Lim	Beach Energy	Australia	Active
Ian Moffat	Archaemetry Pty Ltd	Australia	Active (upgrade)
Christopher Semeniuk	Schlumberger	Australia	Active

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Australian Capital Territory

The ACT Branch has been quiet the past few months. We have been preparing for our OzSTEP courses to be run in late November. They are proving to be very popular and we hope we can accommodate all interested participants.

We had a very interesting technical meeting in October: Jingbo Wang of Geoscience Australia presented some of her previous PhD research and ideas for future research in the area of using seismic monitoring for fracking in the coal seam gas and geothermal industries. The talk created some debate in the audience and we all agreed that there was potential for geophysical applications to assist more in this contentious area.

Carina Kemp

New South Wales

In September, ASEG President Koya Suto gave a talk on the 'Multichannel analysis of surface wave technique', discussing applications and showing many examples of its use.

In October, we held our student night and the following students spoke. All talks were well presented and much discussion followed over beers and wine:

- Gareth Davies: 'Rapid 2D and 3D modelling of coastal groundwater salinity using integrated geophysical techniques' (UNSW).
- Morgan Evans: 'Kick-starting the thermal conductivity database for geothermal exploration' (Macquarie University).
- Amy I'Anson: 'Coal seam gas in the Galilee Basin, Queensland' (Sydney University).
- Cameron Perks: 'Describing the Dimboola structural subzone basement-rocks beneath EL5291' (Macquarie University).
- Nicky Wright: 'Revised reconstructions of the Late Cretaceous to recent history of the Pacific basin' (Sydney University).

An invitation to attend NSW Branch meetings is extended to interstate and international visitors who happen to be in town at that time. Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month from 5:30 pm at the Rugby Club in the Sydney CBD. Meeting notices, addresses and relevant contact details can be found at the NSW Branch website.

Mark Lackie

Queensland

The Brisbane Branch recently enjoyed a visit by SEG HL Valentina Socco. We have been lucky enough to secure a number of visits from SEG presenters this year and hope to continue this in 2014. To finish the year we are looking forward to Randal Taylor and Stewart Fletcher presenting their conference presentations to the Qld Branch on 5 December.

The Brisbane Branch is always on the lookout for presenters at present to fill our Technical programme. We would like to invite anybody willing to present to please contact the Queensland ASEG Branch president, Fiona Duncan (qldpresident@aseg.org.au), and extend this invitation to those passing through Brisbane.

Fiona Duncan

South Australia/Northern Territory

In September, the SA/NT Branch hosted the annual Industry Night. This year focussed on unconventional resources and the speakers were from Beach Energy, Santos, Petrofrontier and DMITRE. This was a very successful evening and had our largest audience turnout for the year. In October, Dr Dennis Cooke presented his OzSTEP short course 'Interpreting seismic amplitudes'. This was also highly successful with participants from industry, academia and students.

Our final events for this year include the SEG lecture to be presented by Valentina Socco, titled 'Surface wave analysis for near-surface characterisation: introduction, theme and variations'. Also coming up

this month, the annual Student Night will be held on 26 November, the speaker will include the SA scholarship winners, Joshua Sage and Dennis Conway, and other high-achieving students.

Everyone is invited to our upcoming events and for further details please check out the ASEG website www.aseg.org.au or contact sa-ntpresident@aseg.org.au. Also, if you have a presentation that you would be interested in giving to the SA Branch in 2014 please feel free to contact us.

The ASEG wine offer has closed for this year and orders should be delivered just in time for Christmas. Also a special thanks to the SA/NT committee for all your help and I have really enjoyed being the president this year.

Wishing everyone a very happy holiday season.

Erin Shirley

Victoria

On Wednesday 30 October 2013 the ASEG Victoria Branch hosted the ASEG OzSTEP one-day courses, 'Interpreting seismic amplitudes' by Dennis Cooke and 'Introduction to geophysics for explorationists' by Michael Asten at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Melbourne's CBD. The courses were very well received by the participants. Regrettably we did not have as many participants to the courses as we would have liked. The low participation rate is perhaps a result of the glut of geophysical courses having been offered in Melbourne over the past three months: 20 alone during August at



2013 SEG HL – Valentina Socco presents at a Queensland Branch technical meeting.

the ASEG-PESA 2013 conference, and perhaps also an indication of the current state of the minerals exploration industry.

Nevertheless, a large anomaly of geophysicists turned up on the evening of Wednesday 30 October 2013 for the 'Annual ASEG Victoria Branch Student Night'. Five representatives of the next generation of exploration geophysicists from Melbourne University, Monash University and RMIT showcased their Honours and PhD projects: Joseph Hamad from RMIT first presented 'Compact EM transmitter coil design', Thomas Carmichael from Monash University followed with 'Using variography of structural measurements to characterise folding events', then Janenie Mohgan, University of Melbourne, discussed 'The potential of ground penetrating radar in bauxite exploration', after which Wang Liang from RMIT introduced 'Characterising laboratory EM noise' and finally Sheree Armistead, Monash University, talked us through 'Geophysical applications for IOCG exploration over the Benagerie Ridge Magnetic Complex, Curnamona Province, South Australia'. The four

judges, Paul St John, Seda Rouxel, Matt Zengerer and Craig Smith, had some difficulties selecting the winner in a field of strong performers. However, after due consideration first prize went to Sheree Armistead with Wang Liang and Janenie Mohgan each receiving runner-up prizes. A big 'thank you' goes out to all the students, who each did a tremendous job, and who all had put a lot of effort into their presentations.

On Wednesday 13 November 2013 at the Kelvin Club Theo Aravanis from Rio Tinto Exploration will be presenting an introduction to the work of the Ground Geophysical Survey Safety Association (GGSSA).

On Wednesday 11 December 2013 it will again be time for our Annual ASEG-PESA-SPE Societies Christmas Lunch at the Victoria Hotel. This year Steve Henzell (SPE President) will be speaking about the history of oil in Victoria.

After that it will be time to put the geophysical pursuits aside for a while and focus on family and friends over the holidays. First meeting in the New Year will be the joint ASEG-PESA-SPE

Summer Social Function to be held in early February. Entry will be free for paid-up members. On behalf of the ASEG Victoria Branch I wish you all the best for 2014.


Asbjorn Norlund Christensen

Western Australia

Please refer to the ASEG national calendar below and the ASEG website for upcoming meetings and events. To ensure that you never miss out, do sign-up to the WA mailing list at <http://eepurl.com/nleOD> or follow the QR link below to receive notifications and online registration details for WA news and events.





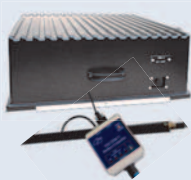
Anne Tomlinson



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ASEG national calendar: technical meetings, courses and events

Date	Event	Presenter	Time	Venue
2014				
12 Feb	'Looking for granitoid and graphite to find copper in Zambia'	Chris Wijns, First Quantum Minerals	1730–1900	City West, West Perth
9 Apr	'New logging and sensing technologies for mineral exploration'	Brett Harris, Curtin University	1730–1900	City West, West Perth
9 Jul	'Frequency-domain full waveform inversion: applications to marine and land seismic experiment'	Rie Kamei, UWA	1730–1900	City West, West Perth
13 Aug	Humanitarian geophysics	Jeff Shragge, UWA	1730–1900	City West, West Perth
13 Nov	Honours and Masters Students Research Presentations	Various	1730–1930	City West, West Perth
10 Dec	AGM and Christmas Party		1730–2030	TBA
2014 SEG Pacific South Honorary Lecturer: 'Marine Seismic Acquisition: Expanding the possibilities!' Presented by Sandeep K. Chandola, PETRONAS, Carigali, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. http://www.seg.org/education/lectures-courses/honorary-lecturers/2014				
Date	State Branch	–	Time	Venue
12 Mar	WA: Perth		1730–1900	City West, West Perth
13 Mar	SA: Adelaide		TBA	TBA
14 Mar	VIC: Melbourne		1800	The Kelvin Club
17 Mar	ACT: Canberra		TBA	TBA
18 Mar	QLD: Brisbane		TBA	TBA
19 Mar	NSW: Sydney		TBA	TBA
14 Apr	TAS: Hobart		TBA	TBA

TBA, to be advised.

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