



Director's Corner

For the academic year 2010 (September 2009-August 31, 2010) the Center will graduate six PhD students and 1 Masters student (see page 6). Since 1999, the Center has graduated 24 PhDs and 25 Masters. For every graduating class, we hold a luncheon in their honor. As I do with all the students in the Center, up until the last moment, I try to give them some parting advice. One of the core concepts I try to impart on these students is that they should always remember to take care of their *virtual resumé*. So, the natural question asked is — What is a virtual resumé?

It is your reputation, credibility and integrity. Your virtual resumé precedes you wherever you go. You should take what you have learned with you to add to your virtual resumé so that your name will speak for itself in the best way possible. Next, you should not look at an event as a problem, nor as a challenge. Every event in your life should be viewed as an opportunity. I have a slight variation of a common saying, “There are those who just watch things happen, there are those who are part of things that happen, and then there are those who **make things happen.**” Try to be the ones who make things happen. Have integrity in everything you do and above all respect everyone no matter who they are. We live in a global world and in order to lead and make things happen, we must respect

everyone's point of view and perspective, and we must also learn to listen first before expecting others to listen. These things will create a positive reputation and add to your virtual resumé .

There are several current issues unfolding in front of all of us in the news every day. Some are blips on the radar screen and others will change how we do business and live our lives. We plan the Center's activities with the involvement of the Steering Committee (SC) members to be proactive. For 2010, the Center developed several areas of focus: Consortium membership, Specialized Continuing Education training, International Symposium schedule, development of distance learning programs, fostering relationships with our industry and government contacts, and faculty recruitment.

In developing strategies for all of these issues through meetings with our current SC members, a need to expand and diversify our initiatives related to education, research and service for the offshore, upstream, and exploration and production industry was identified. As a result of that, we have undertaken new programs in continuing education and research targeted to these industry sectors. For more information on these initiatives, please visit our website.

M. Sam Mannan

Summer, 2010