

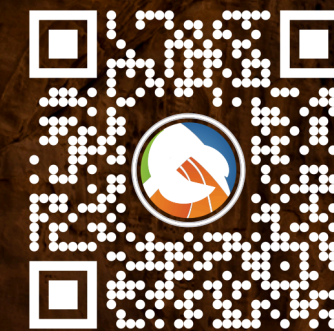
# THE OIL DROP

A DGS MAGAZINE

08

A Glimpse  
into DGS  
2023





BECOME A MEMBER!



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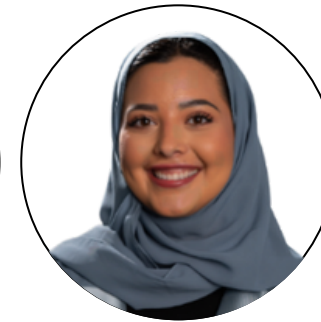
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# MEOS GEO SHOW



DGS made a significant impact at the MEOS GEO 2023 conference held in Bahrain, demonstrating its commitment to promoting geoscience in the region. The society's participation in the conference was marked by a series of successful activities and events.

One of the highlights of the conference was the visit of Saudi Aramco's Senior Vice President of Exploration Mr. Samer Al-Ashgar and members of Exploration Management, who showed support for the DGS team and encouraged them to continue their efforts. This visit added to the excitement and enthusiasm of the DGS team, highlighting the society's importance in the field of geoscience.

DGS and the Society of Exploration Geophysicists (SEG) co-hosted the SEG-DGS Challenge Bowl Competition, providing a platform for students in the region to showcase their talents and compete for a chance to participate in the SEG International Challenge Bowl at IMAGE 2023 conference in Houston, Texas later this year. This competition was a great opportunity for students to demonstrate their knowledge and skills in geoscience, while also promoting interest in the field among the younger generation.



The DGS booth offered visitors a chance to participate in a treasure hunt and live geo-trivia. These activities were well received, attracting participants from various international societies, universities, and companies. The booth also provided an opportunity for the DGS President and Executive Committee to showcase the society's mission and goals for 2023, encouraging visitors to join and become members of the society.

As a result of their successful participation, many visitors joined DGS as members of the society, expanding the Society's reach and impact. Overall, the DGS's participation in the MEOS GEO 2023 conference was a resounding success, reflecting the society's commitment to promoting geoscience in the region.





## Dinner Meetings: March Dinner

# WILL ACADEMIA MAKE THE LEAP?

by Dr. Muhammad Al-Saggaf

On March 14, 2023, DGS hosted the president of King Fahad University of Petroleum and Minerals (KFUPM), Dr. Muhammad Al-Saggaf, as a distinguished speaker for the DGS first 2023 dinner meeting. The event took place at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Al Khobar and was attended by more than 300 people. Inspired by the fourth industrial revolution and its disruptive trends in numerous fields, including but not limited to digitization, big data, hydrogen mobility, and robotics, Dr. Al-Saggaf's presentation titled "Will Academia Make the Leap?" was intriguing, engaging, and inspiring. He shed light on the critical aspects of academia and explored their relationship to expanding local and global economies, developing technologies, and advancing human societies, he referred to three keys to "making the Leap."

While navigating the role of academia in making the leap, Dr. Al-Saggaf emphasized the tremendous efforts recently deployed in KFUPM to align with the expansion and creation of future sectors that meet increasing business and technology demands. Among such efforts are 14 newly introduced programs, 40 concentrations, and 35 new master's degree programs. Dr. Al-Saggaf explained how the design of each of those programs was meticulous and done with economic needs in mind.

One aspect of academia's role that Dr. Al-Saggaf shared was the relationship between the needed investment and talent. It was highlighted that both investment and talent are required to make the necessary transformations and that one cannot replace the other. Furthermore, the type of talent being developed in academic programs is equally important with economy-creating talent being the most needed for creating future sectors. The attitude of academic institutions towards technology was another critical factor that Dr. Al-Saggaf highlighted, explaining that academia should be "tech leaping"; in other words, academic institutions need to be constantly inventing and pioneering new technologies.

In addition to being the local academic hub for petroleum and other engineering disciplines, KFUPM has a newly aligned direction that maintains its legacy of graduating industry and business leaders, while simultaneously pushing the envelope to stay ahead of the curve. This is reflected in the University's intake of female students, which is among the highest in the world, and its competitive position in interdisciplinary programs besides engineering and sciences. Dr. Al-Saggaf left the audience with a resonating takeaway, i.e., "will academia make the leap? No, Academia will drive the leap."

Organized by the DGS Professional Development Committee, this successful gathering welcomed nearly 350 guests from several Saudi Aramco admin areas and departments, visitors from various sectors within the Kingdom, as well as current geosciences students of the College Preparatory Program (CPP). The event kicked off with a celebratory stand honoring our beloved country's first Flag Day, followed by opening remarks from DGS President Musab Al-Modrra. After that, Dr. Al-Saggaf walked the attendees through an incredibly enriching and engaging talk that explored KFUPM's strong position in unlocking local and global talent through the university's newly introduced and integrative graduate programs. The inspirational ideas shared by Dr. Al-Saggaf painted a clear picture of how academia is likely to not only take but drive the leap to expand economies, develop technologies, and advance human societies.





# JUNE DINNER MEETING

On June 13th, a significant event unfolded under the auspices of DGS—a dinner gathering with a clear mission: to shine a spotlight on the pivotal contributions made by the Saudi Geological Survey in the context of Saudi Arabia's ambitious Vision 2030. Orchestrated with precision, the event was a platform for meaningful discussions.

Drawing a crowd of around 200 attendees, the evening took the form of an engaging panel discussion, masterfully guided by Dr. Mohammed Al Duhaillan, the Director of the Exploration Resource Assessment Department. The panel was an assembly of luminaries, with Mr. Abdullah Al-Shamrani, CEO of the Saudi Geological Survey, Mr. Abdulrahman Alhawi, Vice President of Saudi Geological Survey for Initiatives and Strategic Projects; and, Dr. Abdullah Al-Nabhan, Senior Director of the Survey and Exploration Center at Saudi Geological Survey; sharing their insights.

The heart of the dialogue was dedicated to the Saudi Geological Survey's groundbreaking project—a comprehensive survey of the Arabian Shield to unearth substantial mineral deposits. This endeavor, acclaimed as the largest in the mining sector, is meticulously designed to fortify the third economic pillar of Saudi Arabia, as envisaged by Vision 2030.



Conversations spanned a wide spectrum, covering the indispensable role of the Saudi Geological Survey in realizing Vision 2030's objectives, the transformative influence of the initiative on specialized earth sciences, and the promising trajectory and aspirations shaping the realm of geology in Saudi Arabia.

The event was a convergence of minds aligned with a shared vision. The discussions transcended the surface, delving deep into the implications, opportunities, and challenges that come with steering a sector towards a brighter future. With the Saudi Geological Survey at the forefront of this discourse, the event highlighted the present efforts and offered a glimpse into the potential that lies ahead.

As the night unfolded, under the glow of shared perspectives and collaborative spirit, the dinner event cemented itself as a cornerstone in the ongoing narrative of Saudi Arabia's progressive journey. It underscored the significance of interdisciplinary collaboration and the pivotal role that organizations like DGS play in shaping the nation's trajectory. The gathering, illuminated by the insights of accomplished experts and visionaries, left a lasting impression—one that resonates far beyond the evening itself.



# OCTOBER DINNER MEETING

In October, the Dhahran Geosciences Society (DGS) hosted a professional meeting that left a lasting mark. The event featured a captivating presentation by Edward Wiarda, President of the European Association of Geoscientists and Engineers (EAGE). Wiarda's presentation, titled "Energy Transition: The Journey Ahead," explored key themes:

**Obstacles and Solutions:** Wiarda delved into the formidable challenges and barriers the energy industry faces in its transition to sustainable practices. He not only highlighted these hurdles but also offered potential solutions and strategies to navigate the path to sustainability. He emphasized the vast renewable energy resources in the Middle East, signaling the region's potential to become a global leader in sustainable energy practices.

**Role of the New Generation:** Central to Wiarda's talk was the crucial role that the younger generation plays in shaping the future of the energy sector. He emphasized the significance of young professionals in spearheading innovation, implementing sustainable practices, and steering the industry toward a more sustainable energy landscape.

**Collaboration:** Wiarda placed a spotlight on the importance of collaboration in addressing the intricate challenges within the energy sector. He emphasized the value of working closely with organizations like Aramco and other geoscience societies to foster knowledge sharing, stimulate innovation, and collectively advance the goals of the energy transition.



The event was a tremendous success, thanks to the concerted efforts of all attendees and the unwavering dedication of the Professional Development Committee. This gathering offered a valuable platform for professionals in the geosciences field to gain profound insights into the critical issues pertaining to energy transition and sustainability. Edward Wiarda's presentation shed light on the industry's challenges and opportunities, inspiring attendees to actively engage in shaping a more sustainable and innovative energy landscape for the future.

Much like previous events, this gathering highlighted the pivotal role organizations like DGS play in shaping Saudi Arabia's journey toward progress and sustainability. The event was illuminated by the wisdom and expertise of accomplished professionals and visionaries, creating a lasting impact that goes beyond the evening.



## Luncheon Meetings:

## JUNE LUNCHEON

In June 2023, the Dhahran Geoscience Society (DGS) organized a technical event focused on Multidisciplinary Research Applications for Understanding the Geological Complexities of Unconventional Reservoirs. The gathering brought together industry experts, researchers, and students to discuss advancements in this critical field within the oil and gas sector.

The event featured a keynote presentation by Dr. Korhan Ayranci from King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals (KFUPM), a leading expert in unconventional reservoirs. Dr. Ayranci provided a comprehensive overview of the geological intricacies associated with these reservoirs, offering valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities they present.

Among the distinguished attendees were Samer Ashgar, Senior Vice President of Exploration, and Hafiz Shammery, Vice President of Exploration. Their presence underscored the significance of the topic and the industry's commitment to advancing research in unconventional reservoirs.

With an audience of 150 industry professionals, researchers, and students, the event fostered meaningful discussions and knowledge exchange. Attendees actively engaged with Dr. Ayranci's presentation, gaining a deeper understanding of the evolving landscape of unconventional reservoir exploration and development.

This successful event highlighted the importance of ongoing research and interdisciplinary collaboration in tackling the complexities of unconventional reservoirs. As the energy industry continues to adapt to new challenges, such initiatives play a crucial role in shaping the future of exploration and resource development.

## SEPTEMBER LUNCHEON

On September 21st, DGS hosted Chief Operating Officer and Co-Founder of Reykjavik Geothermal, Gunnar Orn Gunnarsson. Mr. Gunnarsson holds over 40 years of experience in the manufacturing and energy industries and is a board member of several portfolio companies including some of the world's leading geothermal development projects. He is the former CEO of Iceland's venture capital fund, and a board member of many small and medium sized companies. Mr. Gunnarsson's talk, titled 'Geothermal Development at a Global Scale' took place at the Plaza Conference Center, where over 100 geoscience and engineering professionals gathered to listen to his great insights on global geothermal advancements, including case studies from Iceland, Turkey, and the United States.

The need for cleaner and more sustainable energy positions geothermal resources at the forefront of future exploration endeavors, motivated by this notion, Mr. Gunnarsson's presentation served as a high-level overview of key concepts related to project development phases, the advantages of geothermal energy, the surface development work needed prior to drilling wells, and a comparison between geothermal drilling and oil and gas drilling. The talk started with a brief description of geothermal energy and an illustration of where it is globally found based on geological setting. Following that, Mr. Gunnarsson emphasized the significance of geothermal energy by highlighting its advantages against the challenges faced by renewables, such as geothermal's low cost and its small geographic footprint. As for the essential groundwork required prior to drilling wells, geological, geochemical, and geophysical studies were emphasized as the main subjects of investigation that can set the stage for a successful geothermal well.

Mr. Gunnarsson's comparison between geothermal and oil and gas drilling demonstrated the opportunities that lie ahead with the similarities between the two leveraging transferable knowledge, and excitingly paving the way for a smooth energy transition. Applications of geothermal energy at different temperatures were showcased to bring diverse and multifaceted benefits to sustainability and a green future. Attendees had the opportunity to learn about the latest innovations in geothermal technology, such as enhanced geothermal systems and binary cycle power plants which are pushing the boundaries of geothermal energy production.

The case studies featured in the talk included some of the most notable geothermal success stories, which highlighted the potential of this green energy source in reducing carbon emissions, increasing energy security, and promoting sustainable development.

The event concluded with insightful questions from the audience that were met by enriching understandings stemming from Mr. Gunnarsson's vast experience and deep knowledge of the domain.





# DGS IN NUMBERS

Igniting Interest: DGS and Social Media's Role in Fueling Gulf Area's Geoscience and Oil & Gas Industry Social media has emerged as a powerful tool to ignite interest and amplify engagement in specific industries. In this article, we explore the significance of social media, including LinkedIn, Instagram, and the social media channels of the Dhahran Geoscience Society (DGS), in fueling interest within the Gulf area's geoscience and oil & gas sector. DGS utilizes social media platforms such as LinkedIn and Instagram to enable focused outreach, connecting individuals in the Gulf area with a keen interest in geoscience and the oil & gas industry.

DGS's social media channels provide tailored content, networking opportunities, and updates specific to the region. Through its social media presence, DGS shares valuable insights, research findings, geoscience news, and technical articles related to the Gulf area's geology and oil & gas sector.

This facilitates the exchange of knowledge, promotes learning, and encourages collaboration among geoscience professionals, experts, and enthusiasts. DGS utilizes its social media platforms to promote and host virtual events, webinars, workshops, and conferences focused on geoscience and the oil & gas industry in the Gulf area.

These events bring together industry leaders, researchers, and professionals, providing a platform for sharing expertise, discussing advancements, and fostering professional growth. DGS's social media channels serve as a platform for highlighting conferences, internships, scholarships, and research positions within the geoscience and oil & gas sector in the Gulf area. These platforms help connect aspiring individuals with potential career prospects and educational avenues, contributing to the development of a skilled workforce.

Social media, including platforms such as LinkedIn, Instagram, and X are utilized by DGS as they play a vital role in fueling interest and engagement within the Gulf area's geoscience and oil & gas industry.

By leveraging targeted engagement, knowledge sharing, virtual events, and showcasing opportunities, DGS's social media presence empowers professionals, enthusiasts, and aspiring talent to thrive in this dynamic sector, fostering a vibrant geoscience community within the Gulf region.



## DGS in Numbers



In 2023, the Dhahran Geoscience Society (DGS) has successfully delivered 32 events through 4 main platforms: Professional Development, Technical Exchange, Public Outreach, and Field Trips in addition to 3 themes: Digitalization, Sustainability, and Energy Advancement. All of these provided a platform for industry professionals, researchers, and students to come together and exchange insights, expertise, and innovative ideas.



Social Media Interactions

1500



Participants

2500



Volunteering Opportunities

+ 500



Diamond Sponsor



Gold Sponsors



### Rock Climbing

In a heartwarming display of compassion and community spirit, the Dhahran Geoscience Society (DGS) recently partnered with an orphanage organization and Dyno Indoor Climbing Center to create a memorable day for thirty-five children in need. It wasn't just about climbing walls—it was about helping these young hearts scale new heights of hope and possibility.

The highlight of the event was undoubtedly the radiant smiles on the children's faces. For them, it wasn't just a day of climbing; it was an opportunity to dream big and discover the endless potential life has to offer.

This special day symbolized hope, support, and a brighter future for these children. It stood as a testament to the profound impact of community, collaboration, and compassion, inspiring the children's dreams and aspirations.



### PMU Student Visit to BGP

The Dhahran Geoscience Society (DGS) organized a successful event on May 4th, 2023, which involved a visit to the BGP Town base camp in Dhahran. The event was designed for engineering students from Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd University (PMU) and aimed to provide them with insights into seismic acquisition. During the visit, students had the opportunity to observe a live demonstration of seismic equipment, including the seismic vibrator and geophones.

The feedback from the students was overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the event's value in providing informative and engaging experiences. Such events play a crucial role in inspiring and educating the next generation of geoscientists while fostering a sense of community within the field.

DGS expressed its gratitude to BGP for hosting the event and for their contributions to the geoscience community.





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