

expressed the importance of relatively small, well-defined, gas hydrate accumulations in the 1 to 5 trillion cubic feet (TCF) range that can be drilled, tested, and possibly produced. Marlan Downey challenged the audience to "think bigger" and view gas hydrate production as a potential paradigm shift of global importance (Collett and Johnson, 2004). The conference participants concluded that a key goal of industry should be to document that commercial rates of gas production from hydrates are possible, and we need more dedicated and expanded field production testing to assess the ultimate resource potential of natural gas hydrates, besides the documentation of case histories of actual gas hydrate-induced drilling and completion problems.

However, the Conference provided a wealth of scientific information to resource managers, planners and scientific community, which could contribute to the development and evaluation of natural gas hydrates resource potential in marine as well as in Permafrost environments. Finally, it has been felt that one can take the present understanding forward as a viable testing concept through pilot study, under certain conditions.

From the presentations at the conference as well as the inspiring discussions among the participants, the Conveners prepared a write up (pl. see [http://www.netl.doe.gov/scngo/natural\\_gas\\_hydrates](http://www.netl.doe.gov/scngo/natural_gas_hydrates), for details), which outlines the

importance of gas hydrates as an unconventional resource, and presents recommendations for future research and technology development for gas hydrate exploration and exploitation from the world oceans, besides the permafrost environment, in the near future

The abstracts published in the Conference proceedings volume are available on the AAPG website <<http://www.aapg.org>> under the Education/Hedberg section. A review of this Hedberg Conference was published in the Fall Issue of DOE Methane Hydrates Newsletter- Fire In the Ice, available on the above website.

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### DISCUSSION GROUP ON EARTH SCIENCE EDUCATION IN INDIA

As of now there is no common forum for articulation to those interested in Earth Science Education in India. Many teachers, geoscientists and professional geologists have been doing their bit in isolation to improve Earth Science education. Often, their ideas and activities have not received the attention they deserve.

This group has been started to form a circle of all those who have an interest and commitment to Earth Science education at the school/college/university level and popularization of Earth Sciences among children and common man in India. Through this group, one can share ideas, experiences, reports and activities, information on

forthcoming meetings / seminar / symposia in Earth Science education.

Interested scientists and teachers can join the group by sending a message to [Earth\\_Sci\\_Edn\\_India-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:Earth_Sci_Edn_India-subscribe@yahoo.com). The group's website is [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Earth\\_Sci\\_Edn\\_India/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Earth_Sci_Edn_India/)

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