A proficiency course was organized at Keshav De Malaviya Institute of Petroleum Exploration, ONGC, Dehradun between 24th and 28th September, 2007. Attended by thirty participants, the course was jointly conducted by Petrotech Society, New Delhi and ONGC, Dehradun. The participants hailed from the IITs of Mumbai, Roorkee and Kharagpur; UPES, Dehradun; BHU, Varanasi; ISM, Dhanbad; VJTI, Mumbai; Usmania University; GAIL; HPCL; Oil India Limited and BSIP, Lucknow. The course offered a unique opportunity to get the participants acquainted with different aspects of studies and technologies involved in hydrocarbon exploration. The proficiency course was organized combining the lectures on different themes related with upstream hydrocarbon exploration with the practical demonstration in various laboratories.

The course started with Inaugural Session at 1000 hrs on 24th September. Mr J.L. Raina, Secretary General and CEO, Petrotech Society delivered the Welcome Address. Objectives of the course were outlined by Mr Kuldeep Chandra, Former Executive Director (R & D), ONGC. Structure and outline of the programme was briefed by Dr Anil Bhandari, General Manager (Geology), KDMIPE, ONGC. Mr Jokhan Ram, Executive Director-Chief, KDMIPE, ONGC, addressed the participants explaining about the aims and objectives of the course. In the Inaugural Address, Mr D.K. Pande, Director (Exploration), ONGC strongly emphasized the need of a close interaction between the researchers and the oil industry personnel. The Inaugural Session ended with a vote of thanks by Mr G Sarpal, Secretary, Petrotech Society.

The Proficiency Course was divided into Five Technical Sessions, four sessions devoted to visits to different laboratories of ONGC and the Valedictory Session. In the First Technical Session which started at 1130 hrs on 24th September, Mr Jokhan Ram very vividly explained all aspect of studies that play vital role in exploration of oil. Dr R.V. Marathe, GGM-Head, IRS, ONGC gave a talk on national and global scenarios pertaining to development of Oil and Natural Gas fields, reservoir management and recovery maximization. Mr V.K. Jain, GGM-Head, IDT, ONGC, in his well-illustrated lecture, gave valuable information about drilling and oil cementation practices in oil industry.

The Second Technical Session started at 0930 hrs on 25th September. The first lecture in this session was delivered by Mr B.D. Singh, DGM (Production), Ahmedabad Asset, ONGC. He gave a very lucid account of onshore and offshore production practices adopted in oil and natural gas exploration. The first session devoted to the visit to different laboratories was conducted on the same day between 1130 and 1730 hrs. During this period the participants were taken to the Geology, Geophysics, Geochemistry and Palynology divisions of KDMIPE. Visits to these laboratories were very useful as it provided a chance to the participants to understand the fundamentals of these disciplines.

The Third Technical Session commenced at 0930 hrs on 26th September with the lecture of Mr P.K. Chandra, former Member, Exploration, ONGC. Mr Chandra stressed the need of right attitude and aptitude amongst the scholars working in different Academic institutions and the proper grooming of geologists and petroleum engineers so as to make them more suitable for working in modern petroleum industries. Mr P.K. Bhowmik, GGM Basin Studies, ONGC gave a talk on thrust areas of explorations and geological challenges for assuring efficient exploration effort in sedimentary basins of India. Developments in field of Petroleum Geochemistry and its potential in oil exploration were highlighted by Mr Kuldeep Chandra, Former Executive Director (R & D), KDMIPE. Mr Chandra apprised the participants of the latest research trends in the study of Petroleum Geochemistry. Mr Aditya Kumar, DGM Reservoir, KDMIPE, ONGC delivered a talk on modern developments in reservoir engineering. Technical details of Surface Geophysical Data Acquisition and its application in oil exploration were
provided by A.G Pramanik, Former Executive Director-Chief, Geophysical Services, ONGC. Mr S.K. Das, Executive Director-Head, GEOPIC educated the participants about seismic data processing and computing. He also dealt with its potential use in India. Recent advances in biostratigraphic studies in different Indian basins and their application in petroleum exploration were discussed by Dr Anil Bhandari, GM Geology-Head-ERG. Modern techniques employed in well-logging and its potential use in India were elaborated by Mr P.P. Verma, GM Well-logging, KDMIPE, ONGC. Significant points related with the exploration, economics and principles of exploration planning in national context were explained in detail by Mr Surendra Sahai, Former GM and Head, Basin Studies and Exploration, KDMIPE, ONGC. With this lecture the third technical session came to an end.

The second session devoted to the laboratory visits was conducted from 1430 to 1730 hrs on 26th September. During this session participants visited the GEOPIC. Third session of laboratory visit was conducted on 27th September between 0930 and 1300 hrs. During this period participants visited various laboratories of the KDMIPE and the Institute of Drilling Technology. This session was very educative as it provided the participants a good insight in to the working and facilities available in these institutes.

Theme of the Fourth Technical Session was “International learning on Geoscientific and Engineering aspects of Petroleum Exploration”. It was conducted between 1400 and 1700 hrs on 27th September. First lecture in this session was given by Mr Pramod Seth, Executive Director-Chief, PMBC, ONGC. In his talk Mr Seth discussed about the thrust areas of modern aspects of engineering education imparted to B. Tech. and M. Tech. students. The second lecture of this session was delivered by Mr V.K. Jain, GGM-Head IDT; Mr Kuldeep Chandra, Former ED (R & D), ONGC; Mr J.L. Raina, Secretary General and CEO, Petrotech. It was a very well conducted session and it provided an opportunity to the participants to express their views concerning the proficiency course. Expressing their complacency over the successful completion of the course, participants laid emphasis on usefulness of such courses. I attended this course as a nominated participant from BSIP. I thankfully acknowledge my nomination.

S.K.M. Tripathi