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OB Safety Analysis

WHAT IS JSA?

JSA is a systematic method to ensure that jobs are carried out safely by,

- Identifying the **HAZARDS** associated with each job step, and
- Developing **SOLUTIONS** to each hazard that either **ELIMINATE** it or **CONTROL** it

Left to right:

- 1) Ms Lam Kit Wing ably registering a participant at JSA 1
- 2) The Dynamic Duo, John Lockwood and Tan Kian Hock combining seamlessly at JSA 2
- 3) The flip charts on the wall testify to the high participation level during the workshop sessions
- 4) John Lockwood hard at work

SLP and the Singapore Chapter of the Institution of Chemical Engineers held two courses on Job Safety Analysis (JSA) this year. This is the first time that SLP and I Chem E are collaborating to hold training courses on a Safety, Health and Environment (SHE) subject. Both our groups have a common interest in promoting the science and practice of safety, health and the environment. In fact our connection goes even further. The instructor for both the courses was John Lockwood, a prominent consultant in the SHE area and a senior member of both SLP and I Chem E.

The first one-day course was held on May 18 at the Riverview Copthorne for just over 100 participants. The response was so overwhelming-- we had more than 20 people on the waiting list -- that a decision was taken to conduct a second course. Learning from the first course, we restricted the number of participants to a maximum of 40 for the second round. This was held at the Jurong Country Club on October 5.

John was ably supported by his colleagues from International Refinery Services, Clarence Liew and Thia Cheong Meng, for the first course. His co-instructor for the second course was Tan Kian Hock, a member of I Chem E, and an SHE consultant with more than 30 years experience in the petroleum refining industry.

JSA is attracting much attention nowadays. Reflecting this trend, the participants for the two courses came from a very wide spectrum of industries. As expected, the petroleum, petro-chemical, chemical and pharmaceutical manufacturing industries were well represented. Participants also came from food manufacturers, ship yards, equipment suppliers, logistics service providers, construction firms and even people from the regulatory authority. Because of this wide representation, the selection of case studies for the workshop section of the program presented a challenge. It was difficult to satisfy everybody.

The course was a mixture of lectures to provide the theoretical principles and working sessions to provide practice for the participants. Cases were taken from different work situations eg. working in confined spaces and electrical sub-stations. No course on JSA would be complete without a consideration of Risk Analysis/Assessment. Participants were thus introduced to a simple to use qualitative method of doing this. Participants were also updated on the requirements of the soon to be implemented OSH Act.

Participants were provided with check lists and standard worksheets to do JSA. Thus they could immediately apply the JSA techniques on their return to their work places.

The two courses were judged to be very useful by the participants. As mentioned earlier, participants wanted more examples from their own industry. This is not unexpected in view of the many different industries represented at the course.

SLP and its partners will present more such courses in the future. It is now a Singapore national goal to reduce serious work accidents by 50 %. This goal is achievable. SHE practitioners know how to do it! Let's go!

By Ngiam Tong Yuen

