



SLP SOCIETY of LOSS PREVENTION news

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Joint SLP/IES course on Emergency Response Planning

In line with its strategy of making optimum use of scarce SHE resources, SLP held a joint ERP course with IES on January 19 and 20, 2006. The course, held at the York Hotel, attracted 41 attendees from a wide spectrum of industries – food manufacturing and processing, ship building/repair, electronic chip making, pharmaceutical manufacturing, construction, logistics/transportation and of course the petroleum and petro-chemical industries. Regulatory authorities also sent their representatives.

ERP is now more important than ever because of the current international situation. To reflect this reality, topics on security and business continuity were included. These topics were presented by two leading industry players, Mr Chris Bala on Security Considerations in Emergency Crisis Preparedness and Mr Nathaniel Forbes on Business Continuity Planning. From the participants' feedback, these two topics provided very useful information that could be promptly applied in their work places.

Major Teong How Hwa from the SCDF made a presentation on HazMat Security – Cooperate or Catastrophe. This provided an overview of the SCDF's capabilities in handling a hazardous material/chemical emergency. This is also a reflection of the current situation where a chemical attack is a probable scenario. Emergency Planners have many issues to worry about at present.

To cater to persons in the construction industry Prof. N Krishnamurthy talked about the Impact of Civil Engineering on Emergency Preparedness. He discussed several real life incidents eg. September 11 and the Hurricane Katrina, to illustrate the good civil engineering principles to be applied in emergency preparedness. The principles are not dissimilar to those used in any good emergency preparedness plan eg. hazard analysis, good design, training, drills, community relations and communications.

Two speakers from SLP, Richard Gillis and Ngiam Tong Yuen, spoke on the fundamentals of any good ER plan -- Hazard Identification and Assessment, Mitigation, Organization, Communication, Training, Support Facilities and Recovery. These are topics from SLP's Emergency Response Planning Guide. No emergency response plan can be complete without an adequate consideration of these factors.

Ong See Hee, SLP's VP, presented his experience and insights on Planning and Executing a Table Top Exercise for an ER Plan. Drills such as these serve to train and familiarize key staff of their roles and responsibilities in an emergency. The critique after such a drill is absolutely essential. The purpose of the critique is to identify the lessons learned. It is much better to identify a weakness during a drill than to find out during an emergency. See Hee emphasised the importance of sufficient planning and preparation in order to derive the maximum benefit of such an exercise/drill.

Feedback from the participants indicated that they considered the course to be useful for their work. Some participants felt that more examples from their industry would have been more useful to them. This comment is valid and not unexpected because of the many industries represented in the course. It is worthwhile noting however that the principles of ER planning are universally applicable. Being prepared is half the battle won!

By Ngiam Tong Yuen

Richard setting the course in the right direction by answering the question WHY?



Major Teong How Hwa presenting the national overview



Ong See Hee imparting his insights on the intricacies of a table top exercise



A hands-on experience of why Business Continuity Planning is necessary

