



## President's Message

2006 saw many initiatives and changes in the safety, health and environment arena. These were driven by our own local regulatory agencies, professional institutions and international organizations.

In Singapore, the enactment of the Workplace Safety & Health Act, which replaced the more than 30 years old Factories Act, impacted industries in varying degrees depending on the maturity of their occupational safety and health and accident prevention program. Senior managements are now expected to raise their commitment to protecting the safety and health of their employees and members of the public even as they strive to earn a fair return for their shareholders. Singapore has to attain first world standards in safety, health and environmental protection as we journey along the road to a first world economy.

Although Risk Management, in particular Risk Assessments, is familiar to the oil, chemical and process industries, there is still much to do to fully comply with the new regulatory requirements. Companies are expected to conduct risk assessments

for both routine and non-routine tasks and activities, including various trades performed by 3rd. party contractors. In all this work, the key objective is accident prevention – in line with SLP's charter in loss prevention – namely preventing injury and loss of life, damage to the environment, and loss of property and business.

SLP has an important role to play in helping its members get up to speed in Risk Management. We have and will continue to provide opportunities for members – individuals and corporate nominees – to share information and their experience in Risk Management. We will do this through short courses, technical talks, informal gatherings and forums. These events are also open to other interested people – non-members and persons outside the oil, chemical and process industries.

Members are urged to strongly support SLP through their active participation in these events. As members will appreciate, these events do not come easy – much sweat is expended by the organizers.

Internationally, the Globally Harmonized System (GHS) in classification and labeling of chemicals gained much momentum through the involvement of international organizations. A member of the SLP Executive Committee who is a subject matter expert in GHS is none other than our Immediate Past President, Richard Gillis. He is a well-known figure in the industry here in Singapore. He has had a long and fruitful association with SLP as well as other industry organization such as the Singapore Chemical Council's Responsible Care Committee.

This is an opportune time to speak about Richard because he is embarking on another exciting phase of his life – his well deserved retirement (in December) from ExxonMobil Chemical Asia Pacific. Richard is leaving Singapore after more than 14 years to return to his home in Melbourne. He will be missed by all his friends here.

**Thank you very much Richard for your contributions to SLP. We wish you and Kay a very long and happy retirement.**