

We are now into the third quarter of 2007 and the economy is going better than anyone expected. Everywhere we go we see evidence of this. Shopping malls are packed and construction projects are at a frenzy. The industries that we serve are busy too and everyone is hard at work. This is very good for everyone concerned. But in all this good news, there is a dark side. Our safety performance has not been up to scratch. This is not only in the construction industry where accidents happen all too often, but also in our industries that have been held up as exemplars of good safety performance. What this means is that we have to be extra alert in this period where production is at a premium and people are under pressure to keep plants up and running. It is therefore appropriate that we present a book review about API 753 -- A Recommended Practice (RP) for the Management of Hazards Associated with Location of Process Plant Portable Buildings. This practice arose out of new data that has become available and as a result of the tragedy at the BP Refinery at Texas City. We are reminded again about the hazards that arise during turn-arounds, start-ups and non-routine operations. These thoughts should be in our minds during this time when events seem to be happening at break-neck speed.

We ran a successful training course in May on Gas, Vapor and Dust Explosions and Electrostatic Hazards. This 2-day program was actually two courses held back to back. Participants had a choice of attending one or both of the courses. Ian Pavey, from Chilworth Technology, came back to conduct the courses after a break of four years. Ian also gave a technical talk on a number of case studies while he was here. Attendees at the two events certainly got their money's worth.

This leads to the subject of professional development and training. Dennis Tay and Praveen Arora are members of our Technical Sub-committee and they welcome ideas and suggestions on your professional development and training. Keep your ideas flowing in. Or better still, volunteer to join this technical sub-committee.

Members would have received our announcements about the workshop on How to Implement BBS. We hope you have responded positively to this opportunity to share and learn from Seow Min Fook.

Later on in the year, we propose to hold a course on Accident Investigation. This would be a joint initiative with the Singapore Branch of the Institution of Chemical Engineers. Members will remember that we had a joint activity with them for our very successful Job Safety Analysis courses.

At present we have a joint working committee with the Institution of Engineers Singapore (IES) to explore possibilities for collaboration on training and related activities such as conferences. Dennis Tay and Praveen Arora are our representatives. We believe that collaboration with other like-minded professional institutions is a good way to optimize scarce resources.

Members may be wondering what happened to our ever popular Members Night. Well, you will be pleased to know that Sam Tsen has taken on the task of organizing this year's event. It will have a Malay theme. Sam will be looking for volunteers to join his organizing committee. So what are you waiting for?

In June we held our Annual General Meeting. Since this is an in-between year, we did not have an election for the Executive Committee. According to the constitution, we elected a new Honorary Treasurer and two Honorary Auditors. For more details, see the story about our 16th AGM. Members will be happy to know that we ended the 2006/7 financial year with a small surplus.

On this note, HAPPY READING.