

Editorial

It is that time of year again when we send all our friends and colleagues our good wishes for the Holiday Season. It has been a good year for us in Singapore because the economy has been doing well and nearly everyone who is ready and willing can find some gainful employment. It is also a time to make resolutions for the next year.

What are these resolutions for SLP?

Like other professional societies, we are subject to "market" forces. When we were formed in the early 1990's, the intellectual space we occupied was less crowded. Now there are competitors. For example, when Prof Ching and his committee organized the first conference on loss prevention in 1989, the field was new and the conference was a huge success. Now the same conference would face stiff competition. Other than conferences, we also organized training courses, seminars, workshops and technical talks. These have been our staple diet.

Our Executive Committee has been grappling with these issues these past few months and we recently held a half-day strategic planning meeting on Dec. 7. Taking the results of an earlier SWOT analysis, we worked on an action plan for the way forward. Our President, Ong See Hee, has made reference to this strategic planning work in his message. You will hear much more on this in the new year. Doing the strategic plan is rightfully the work of the Exco. To translate these plans into action is another matter. One of the things the Exco. will do will be to form standing committees to execute the plans eg. Training, Technology, Conferences and others. When you are approached to serve on one or more of these working teams, please seriously consider the request and come on board. Better still, put your hands up and volunteer.

This is the Number One resolution for SLP -- to regenerate itself so as to remain the society of choice for professionals in safety, health and the environment.

Members will notice that we have been busy these past few months. We were invited to join SCDF in its CERT (Company Emergency Response Team) assessment launch. Our President made a presentation on Emergency Response Planning at the ceremony. There will be more on this in the near future.

We paid a visit to the SCDF Academy on Nov. 15. This was a very interesting and informative tour of the facilities. Attendees will agree that SCDF is well prepared to deal with any emergency. SLP members have many dealings with SCDF and the visit was an excellent way to build rapport.

On Nov. 20, we co-hosted a technical talk with SCIC on Process Safety Performance Indicators/Metrics by Mr Mitch Krutilek of Chevron Phillips Chemicals. As members will know, process safety management (PSM) has gained much prominence since the BP Texas City incident in 2005.

PSM is distinct from personnel safety. For example, a plant can have an excellent personnel safety record but go on to suffer a catastrophic accident because of a process failure.

On November 26 and 27, we held a successful training course on Incident Investigation. This was a collaborative effort with the Singapore branch of the Institution of Chemical Engineers.

As a side comment, we will increasingly lean towards collaborative efforts with other like-minded organizations in the future. This is driven by the reality of "scarce resources".

November was hectic to say the least.

To end this note, we need to go back to our strategic plan and resolution.

SLP is as good as its members want it to be.

When you are asked to make a contribution to SLP and to the science of loss prevention, please step forward.

HAVE A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON AND A SAFE NEW YEAR 2008.