

Editorial

As our President has noted, 2009 has not begun very well for WSH performance for our country. As EHS professionals, it must concern us improvement as a whole has not shown a systemic performance our country's political leaders. The knowledge and techniques are certainly present. Safety, just like quality, cannot improve by end-of-pipe inspections or measures. For a sustained and systemic improvement, we have to do what our Quality friends have done. We have to work at the root ie. upstream, long before non-conformances (incidents/accidents) occur. The most powerful ally in this work is the senior management of a company. The man or woman in charge of the performance of the whole company has to believe this and to demonstrate this, day in and day out, in his behavior and actions.

Your Executive Committee, as the leaders of SLP, has decided that SLP should take a more visible role in our EHS area of operations. Exco. members starting with our President has and are serving in various committees and work groups involved in making systemic improvements in EHS (usually referred to as safety) performance. For instance, we have an Exco. member in the SPRING committee on SS 506. There are others helping out with SCDF authorities in implementing an audit/assessment system for emergency preparedness. While it is important for our leaders to be active, it is just as important for our members to contribute their know-how whenever there is an opportunity. For example, if you are offered an opportunity to give a talk or to teach an EHS topic at the university or a polytechnic, you should welcome it. Our involvement with the EHS Master's program at NUS and our teaching of the Accident

Investigation topic at the SEI program on Management of Hazardous Substances is well established. Recently, we added Temasek Polytechnic to our list of partners. In this case we talked about Accident Investigation to the graduating class for the diploma in chemical engineering.

Your Exco. is going to take a more pro-active approach in our relationships with outside parties and regulatory authorities. Approaches will be made to MOM, NEA and SCDF, where we already have a relationship to strengthen and broaden it. We intend to write to bodies such as the Workplace Safety and Health Council (WSHC) to volunteer our help in the areas of our expertise. There will be many opportunities for SLP to help. Say yes when an opportunity is offered to you.

Members will remember that we were given a US \$ 2500 grant by Schering-Plough Singapore to promote EHS excellence. We have decided to use some of this award to recognize a final year student for the Diploma in Chemical Engineering at Temasek Polytechnic. This student has to demonstrate the best performance in the subject on Loss Prevention and for a final year project involving several elements in EHS. The first award will be given out in 2010.

We will be having our AGM at the end of June. Members will be receiving the official notices soon. Please mark your calendars and make it a point to come. Come and enjoy some quality time with your fellow EHS practitioners.

Happy Reading!