



Dr Angoh Gaetan, Managing Director, holding our "thank you" plaque with his happy visitors

Visit to Corporate Member Schering-Plough

As part of its regular technical program, a group of eager SLP members visited Schering-Plough on April 22. The visit began by first being briefed about Schering-Plough's operations.

Schering-Plough is a worldwide pharmaceutical company committed to discovering, developing and marketing new therapies and treatment programs that can improve people's health and extend lives. The company is a recognized leader in biotechnology, genomics and gene therapy. Core product groups are allergy and respiratory, anti-infective and anti-cancer, cardiovasculars and dermatologicals.

Schering-Plough Ltd., Singapore Branch was the first major US pharmaceutical company to establish manufacturing operations in Singapore in 1994. Since that time, its investment has grown to over US \$ 1 billion. It has 7 manufacturing plants here that make a diverse range of pharmaceuticals including active drug substances, tablets, dry powder inhalers, sterile injectables and nasal sprays.

The 13-person SHE Department is led by Managing Director, Dr Angoh Gaetan. Besides handling safety, health and environmental issues, the department also operates the

wastewater treatment plant, unloading of bulk chemicals and operating the thermal oxidizers.

Managing workplace hazard is one of the core responsibilities of the SHE Department. Since the implementation of Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (HIRA) in 2005, up to 2200 workplace activities have been evaluated for their hazards, control measures and risk level. Besides HIRA, the site also has a change management process where process engineers take the lead to analyze changes to facilities, equipment or plant operations for any process hazard.

The site is certified in both ISO 14001 and OHSAS 18001 Management Systems. It has the honor to be the first pharmaceutical company in Singapore to obtain ISO 14001 certification in 2005. Besides the yearly surveillance audit conducted by the external registrar, the site has a pool of about 40 cross-functional trained Internal and Lead Auditors.

The site has a large-scale US\$16 million tri-generation facility. Tri-generation is the concept of deriving three different forms of energy, namely power generation, combined heating and cooling from a single primary energy source (natural gas). With the operation of the tri-

generation plant, energy consumption has fallen from 13.5MW to 10.5MW. Besides cost savings, the facility also brings substantial reduction in carbon dioxide gas emission, from 75 kilotons to 57 kilotons per year. This is equivalent to planting 15,000 trees with an average lifespan of 70 years.

SHE staff accompanied SLP members during the tour. This was much appreciated by the visitors because they could get first hand information on the spot. The interaction continued during the reception that followed. From the sound of things in the conference room, it was easy to conclude that both the hosts and the visitors had an enjoyable time

Ngiam Tong Yuen, on behalf of Ong See Hee, the President of SLP thanked Schering-Plough for its hospitality. To mark the occasion, a token of appreciation was presented to Dr Gaetan Angoh.

By Anthony Neo

Editor's Note:

SLP members are fortunate that our corporate members willingly share their SHE experience with us. This is one of the most important benefits of being an SLP member. We network and share our experience so that the overall SHE performance of our various industries and Singapore as a whole will improve. Schering-Plough is one of our staunch supporters. Last year, it awarded us a US \$ 2500 grant to propagate environmental protection and a safer workplace. Readers would be pleased to know that we are using part of the proceeds of this award to establish a prize for the best student in the area of Loss Prevention at Temasek Polytechnic. This student will be selected from the graduating class for the Diploma in Chemical Engineering.



A member of Schering-Plough's SHE Department explaining his plant's operations



Discussing operations in a reactor building