Editorial

Our Secretariat has recently informed readers that they can access the pictures that were taken at our March 11 **Corporate Members Appreciation Night** held at the Marina Barrage. See Hee, our President, made a presentation on that night that highlighted our first 20 years. Some of the pictures in See Hee's presentation are quite historical and rare -- very few other people would have seen them previously or have them. So I hope you will view these 2 items on our website.

Also on our website is an announcement on the 2nd run of our **LOPA course** which is scheduled for May 4 and 5, 2010. If you haven't signed up yet, please do so quickly. This LOPA course is one of the few publicly available courses on this subject. It is essential knowledge for all of us who are concerned about process safety.

Talking about safety, we have a review of an interesting book called *SAFETY, CULTURE AND RISK –The Organisational Causes of Disasters* by Professor Andrew Hopkins. This book discusses the concepts of safety, culture and risk. Among other things, two prominent Australian case studies are examined. In each case organisational culture is an important factor. Managers and leaders should read this book and learn from it.

2010 is election year for us. The term of the current Executive Committee ends in June. Every position is up for election. Members, both Individual and Corporate, should think seriously about the leadership in SLP. Existing exco members have done us sterling service for extended periods. New leaders are needed. They will bring new ideas. So you and your friends should come out and offer yourselves for election. SLP is as good as its members want it to be!

It has been several months since we changed to the all electronic format for our newsletters.

Do readers like it? We don't know!

Readers do your part and give us some feed-back. Thanks.

Book Review

Safety, Culture and Risk : The Organisational Causes of Disasters
by Professor Andrew Hopkins*

Safety management is an important and critical issue to business managers as well as those who are responsible for workplace safety & health in any organisation.

The concepts of safety, culture and risk have become increasingly matters of concern and are often discussed but are not often clearly understood.

This book, written by Professor Andrew Hopkins discusses these concepts and deals with the complex issues in a clear, informative style that will help organizations better understand the concepts and mitigate their risks.

The book is divided into 4 parts:

- **Part A** is a general discussion of organisational culture, the cultural approaches to safety, collective mindfulness and risk-awareness.

- **Part B** is an empirical investigation of how organisational culture can affect safety using the New South Wales Glenbrook train crash as a case study. This case revealed that a culture of empowerment is a precondition for risk-awareness at both the organisational and individual levels.

- **Part C** is a second case study of how organisational culture interfered with safety. It dealt with the Royal Australian Air Force F111 inquiry at Amberley Air Force Base, Queensland. The findings reinforced the assumption that organisational culture can affect safety.

- **Part D** deals with the concept of risk, its assumptions for measurement (risk is a product of likelihood and severity); the conflict between what is an 'acceptable risk' and what makes a risk 'as low as reasonably practical'; and the confusion between risk and hazard.

In the Forward of the book, Professor James Reasons, Emeritus Professor of Psychology at The University of Manchester recommended that, **"This book is essential reading for safety practitioners, academics and all students of safety science"**

By Tay Cheng Pheng

• Professor Andrew Hopkins is a sociologist at the Australian National Cauversity and has published widely in the area of occupational health and safety.