

Electronic Permit to Work System

We organized a Technical Talk on **an Integrated Safe System of Work** on Thursday, 23rd September 2010. It was presented by George Barry, Client Account Manager, Americas and Asia-Pacific, Safe Systems of Work, Petrotechnics, Houston, Texas. Our special guest for the evening was Go Heng Huat, the Deputy Director of Systems Safety, Ministry of Manpower.

The primary objective of this talk was for the speaker to share and discuss the merits of exploiting IT technology to enhance process safety, as well as occupational safety and health management systems, not only for the oil, petrochemical and pharmaceutical industries but for other industries too.

He focused on the compelling reasons for moving from a paper-based safety permit system to an electronic, computer-based system. These are shown below.

1. Sharing work flow information allows all parties - issuing and performing authorities and management - to have easy access to the network system. The same information would be available to all parties and this transparency led to better work planning and coordination.
2. The intelligent navigation system guides the user through each step of the workflow permitting process. This reinforces the inclusion of inputs required under the risk mitigation and LOTO process.
3. The software can be configured to incorporate inherent safeguards to prevent short-circuiting and to pre-empt human errors.
4. It is an excellent tool to store and retrieve information for incident investigation or auditing purposes. It would show who did what and when.
5. It has the capability of enhancing communication with workers of different nationalities by using multi-language software configured to print the permit in the preferred language. This would be especially useful for Singapore because of our multi-racial workforce.

George did a demonstration of Petrotechnics electronic permit system to illustrate some of the above features. This integrated system is coming into its own because of the advances in IT technology.

Following his talk, George and the audience engaged in an interesting Question and Answer session. Members continued discussions with him over dinner. Everyone agreed that it was a great networking opportunity.

Readers who want the full set of presentation slides can [click on this link](http://www.slp.org.sg/techtalks/2010/ISSOW_SLP_2010_v1_0.pdf)
http://www.slp.org.sg/techtalks/2010/ISSOW_SLP_2010_v1_0.pdf

Written by Jacob Soh



Above picture: Jacob Soh (right) introducing the speaker, George Barry



Left picture: Speaker George Barry engaging some of the enthusiastic audience during the Q and A session

Right picture: A view of the audience with special guest, Go Heng Huat, Deputy Director, Systems Safety, MOM, in the foreground (2nd from right)

