



Technical Talk on Corporate Security Awareness

Richard introducing the subject. Members taking the opportunity to network before the talk.

On Wednesday, 26 October 2005, a group of Loss Prevention practitioners gathered at the Jurong Country Club to attend a technical talk on Corporate Security Awareness.


The speaker was Mr Royston Tan, Regional Manager of Xvolution Pte Ltd. He was supported by Mr Yong Hua Yong, the General Manager of APAC I – Security Pte Ltd. Mr Tan started his one-hour presentation by defining a terrorist. His main point is that a terrorist is a criminal and should be regarded as such. He showed us pictures and diagrams of terrorist devices - usually called Improvised Explosive Devices (IED)—such as modified mobile phones and even envelopes. It seems that the shape and size of an IED is only limited by the imagination of the terrorist. Hence the great danger posed to a largely ignorant civilian population. He had pictures of field experiments that demonstrated the destructive power IED's. These devices, made from lethal, noxious and/or pyrotechnic chemicals, are designed to kill, maim, disfigure, destroy, distract or harass the target victims. Various ways of disarming an IED were also illustrated and discussed.

In this kind of environment, emergency response procedures had to be re-thought. For example, a terrorist could set off a device in a building to distract the emergency responders while concealing his real purpose. In a case like this, the real target could be the 'safe' evacuation assembly points. The terrorist could set off a really destructive explosion when all the evacuees are gathered at the assembly point. Thus evacuation routes and assembly points have to be completely re-thought. The old rules on ERP do not apply any more.

Mr Tan discussed several incidents that had taken place in Asia Pacific, Europe and North America. These incidents involved toxic gases, biologically active agents and explosives.

Companies and organizations could protect themselves by being prepared. Awareness training had to be taken seriously. Security professionals had to re-think emergency response plans and procedures. These same professionals had to be adequately trained. Building and plant security had to be improved.

A lively discussion took place after the presentation and during the dinner that followed. Companies and organizations that wish to learn more about this important subject are encouraged to consult the companies that are represented by Mr Tan and Mr Yong.



**Mr Yong Hua
Yong receiving
his memento
from Richard**

By Ngiam Bo Han