

EDITORIAL

By the time this issue of our newsletter is published, the first quarter of 2007 will be over. This year is shaping out to be as busy if not more busy than 2006. Like other people, our members are part of this 'busy-ness' phenomenon. This is reflected in the change in our job scope – across subjects and geographies. Nowadays, security is part and parcel of the SHE Manager's job. In addition, many of our members have responsibilities for the Asia Pacific region. It is not uncommon for our members to meet each other more often at international airports than at home in Singapore.

It is appropriate that we have an article on Security Vulnerability Assessment (SVA) in this issue. This systematic approach to a tough subject gives an assurance that all angles are covered. Senior management and other stake holders can have more confidence in an organization that conscientiously does this exercise than one that does not. It does not guarantee that no incident will ever happen. But it does ensure that an organization would know how to react should an incident occur.

Our President addresses the question of a 'safety culture' for an organization. The best way to think of 'culture' is to say that it (culture) is manifested in the way members of an organization conduct themselves on a day to day basis -- it is seen in the behaviors of the people. Obviously it is not something that happens overnight. At the same time, it is not something that is unchangeable. Safety professionals understand that to change a safety culture, they must first influence the behavior. Fortunately, psychologists now understand how this can be done and practicing safety professionals can use this knowledge to influence behavior and ultimately to produce a new safety culture that upholds good safety practices.

After a break, we now resume our practice of doing a book review. The review by Greg Poi deals with water treatment.

After 3 years SLP is offering again 2 courses on May 22 and 23, 2007. The courses on Gas, Vapor and Dust Explosions and Electro-static Hazards will benefit many industries in Singapore such as pharmaceutical manufacturing, chemical and petro-chemical manufacturing, petroleum refining, petroleum transportation and storage facilities and many others. See the announcement. Members are urged to book early.

We are taking advantage of the presence of the course instructor for the above courses, Mr Ian Pavey, to hold a technical talk on case studies involving the topics covered by him.

March is our financial year end and members would have received invoices to cover subscriptions for 2007/8. Members are urged to pay their subscriptions promptly. This will reduce the need for reminders. Note that reminders cost money and this money can be better spent on other worthwhile activities.