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In the Oil, Chemical & Process Industries (Singapore)

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Gas, Vapour and Dust Explosions & Electrostatic Hazards Training Course

These two courses were first held in 2003. We invited Ian Pavey, Principal Electrostatic Specialist, Chilworth Technology, to conduct them again, on May 22 and 23, at the Singapore Polytechnic Graduates Guild. Ian did not disappoint.

Thirty-one participants from the oil, chemical process and pharmaceutical industries, and SCDF and JTC attended the course. We even had to turn away a few late comers. The two courses could be taken as a package or singly.

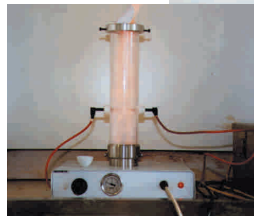
Ian explained how fire, explosion and chemical hazards in manufacturing processes could be systematically identified, evaluated and eliminated. The course provided an understanding of the technical issues as well as the "tools" of hazard assessment, incident prevention and plant protection. Demonstrations of electro-static

Wow! Sugar can cause quite a bang -- it will never be the same again

generation and dust explosions were held in class to drive the lessons home.

One particularly memorable demonstration involved the explosion of a sugar dust and air mixture. This explosion was set off by an electrical discharge. The bang was quite loud and would have woken up any student who was having a quiet nap. Actually I started wondering how Ian managed to bring in all his equipment in these super security sensitive times. When queried during tea break, he recalled that one of his colleagues was actually asked by airport security to do a demonstration.

Included in the training was a 20-minute video on Industrial Electrostatic Hazards



Ian Pavey in his element - talking about his favorite subjects

produced by IChemE. It was really good. Towards the end of the course, Ian shared actual incidents encountered by Chilworth Technology engineers in the areas of gas, vapour and dust explosions and electrostatic hazards. He took pains to highlight the methods of avoiding explosions involving different types of flammable atmospheres and what measures could be taken to control and mitigate the effects of an explosion.

Able support was provided by Ms Penny Pan from our Secretariat. As good Singaporeans we appreciated the refreshments at tea-time and the buffet lunch. Attendees took advantage of these breaks to mingle and network. As everyone knows, networking is a real bonus at these training sessions.

Attendees received 14 SDU's for the 2-day course. For Registered Safety Officers, these would go towards their re-registration.

Summing up – the training courses were a success. For those who missed out this time, please register quickly when they return. They will be better.



Participants all raring to start

By Jacob Soh