

EDITORIAL

December is the time of year when the temperature drops a little in hot tropical Singapore and people go off on their holidays. It is a relaxed time although we have to brave the monsoon rains. But this year is anything but normal. The rain pattern has even changed. We had more rain than normal in the months leading up to the monsoon but December seems to be drier than normal. At the time of writing even holidays have been spoilt for those who had happily looked forward to relaxing in India and Thailand. The financial storm that engulfed the world in the last quarter of 2008 has spread into the real economy. So in the midst of all the jolliness of the holiday season, many of us would be worried about our jobs and those of our relatives and friends. It is a worrying time for all. Still, life goes on and we can look back on 2008 with some satisfaction.

Members will remember that we started the year with a plan to set the direction for SLP. One of the things we wanted to do was to conduct a member survey to obtain data to help us plan our activities. An important outcome of the survey was the support members gave to changing the constitution to reflect the changes that had taken place since our founding. At our 17th Annual General Meeting in June, we revamped our constitution. The most significant change was to give representatives of corporate members the right to vote and to hold office in the Executive Committee. Another thing, members will note the change in our name to the Society of Loss Prevention in the Process Industries. We are looking forward to welcoming members from outside our traditional oil, chemical and petro-chemical industries. For example, we are looking at bio-engineering/technology and electronic chip/fab plants. Other findings of the survey were commented on in our August newsletter.

After a slow start, we picked up our pace and organized a number of activities that certainly provided value for money for members. We visited Chartered Semi-conductor which is an electronic chip/fab plant. This was our first visit to a fab plant and was an eye opener and educational experience for the participants. See the article by Sam Tsen in this issue. We had a technical talk from Genentech, a leading bio-technology company. See the article by Reginald Tan.

We broke new ground when we held our first round table exchange of best EHS practices. Ms Stella Eccles, Managing Director of Pfizer Asia Pacific, led the discussion.

We continue to gain recognition. As reported previously, SLP was honored to be chosen by Schering-Plough Singapore to receive a grant of US \$ 2500 to promote excellence in EHS practice and performance.

A very successful training course for HAZOPS Leaders was held in November. See the article by Penny Pan. The course was conducted by John Lockwood who is an Honorary Fellow of SLP and a leading consultant in the EHS field. The course was targeted at participants who were being developed to be HAZOPS leaders by their companies. While participants came from a wide spectrum of industries, from batch to continuous plants and educational institutions, and there were differences in the HAZOPS experience of the participants, the feedback was positive. The case studies were appropriate. Participants also made use of the opportunities to net-work.

The story revealed in the book Clean, Blue and Green should make us proud of being Singaporean. We have proven to be leaders in a very important aspect of modern civilization, environmental protection, and that we do not always have to look up to a foreign example. See the book review.

After an absence of one year, we re-instituted our Members Night in September. See the article by Chong Seng. As usual, those who came had a great time and also had a vicarious experience of driving an F-1 car. We can't wait for another party.

On this cheery note, have

*A Joyous Holiday Season and
A Happy Safe and Prosperous 2009.*