



## Peeling The Onion . . . To Keep Tears Away

A total of 21 participants gathered at SPGG - Singapore Polytechnic Graduates Guild on 18th & 19th August, 2009 to “peel the onion... layer by layer”.

They were learning the ropes from John Lockwood about LOPA - Layer of Protection Analysis.

This 2-day course was specially put together for SLP by John Lockwood with the able support of Yokogawa Engineering. The objective was for the participants to learn about LOPA so that they will apply the principles at their workplaces and “keep the tears away”.

The course covered,

- the fundamentals of the LOPA process & methodology, and
- the criteria & determination of Independent Protection Layer (IPL), Safety Instrumented Function (SIF) and their associated Safety Instrumented System (SIS).

Feedback was encouraging. The training was rated “Very Good” with an overall score of 4 out of 5. Comments included:

- A very well organized course
- An informative training course
- Good presentations with interesting case studies
- Good sharing of experience & expertise by trainers
- Good resource references & web links provided
- The course should be re-run for those who missed out this time;
- Trainers were particularly good & explained things very well
- Breakout discussions & exercises were good
- Successfully catered to vegetarian and Muslim participants
- Interactive Q&A sessions were excellent – effectively injected & shared real practical issues.

Without doubt, the sharing of experience with case studies by John had generated much positive exchanges of opinions & ideas. Participants commented about the gap between the ideals of LOPA and the reality on the ground. Companies had to take LOPA seriously if LOPA is to give the level of protection expected and hoped for..

*Just as John promised -- the course is no walk in the park -- participants enthusiastically hard at work in their groups*

