

Preview of AIGA 2005 Meeting

30th – 31st August 2005, Orchard Hotel Singapore

- ⇒ *Leading experts in the gas industry have been invited to share their knowledge and experience at the AIGA 2005 Meeting. The event will provide a good opportunity for participants to further develop their understanding of current and future best practices in industrial gases operations.*
- ⇒ *Highlights from AIGA Work Groups & National Associations*

Thailand: SIGA – Facing new challenges

The Siam Industry Gases Association (AIGA) completed its first year with a Board and annual general meeting in Bangkok on 24 March 2005. Special guest to the AGM was Mr. Wiwat Singkarintr from the Gas Industry group under the Federation of Thailand Industries.

Chris Browning, chairman of SIGA recalled the first 12 months as a rather challenging period.

Cylinder gas safety has been a major focus for the industry in Thailand as this is the main distribution medium for most small enterprises. It is estimated that there are over a million cylinders in circulation. The government has thus initiated a number of programmes to upgrade standards in this area.

One of the first issues that SIGA had to respond to was the initiative to implement non-interchangeable valve for inert gas cylinders in 2004. SIGA supported the CGA 580 gas connection for this, and this was subsequently accepted as the mandated standard.

The government also initiated proposals for regulating the standard for filling station and the qualification of cylinder fillers. SIGA has been involved in the consultative process through its Technical Committee.

One of the recommendations put forward was for key SIGA members to play a role in the certification of new cylinder fillers in the industry.

Another project that the government is pushing for is the set up of certified

test shops for the re-qualification of cylinders.

Although there are regulations regarding periodic testing and re-qualification of cylinders, there is no effective monitoring of this among the many small operators in the country.

One idea that is being put forward is to establish a number of qualified test shops across the country to facilitate the testing of cylinders. SIGA will put forward its recommendation through the consultative body, the Federation of Thailand Industry (FTI).

The implementation of these measures is a positive step forward for the industry. Chris said he is delighted to see that SIGA has gained recognition from the government as a partner in its programmes to improve safety for the gas industry.

AIGA



L-R: Narathip Sukkho (AL), Thaweesak Singkarin (API), Kitti Prapasuchari (Praxair), Tasaneeya Kongsuwan (Linde), Chris Browning (BOC), Jira Arin (BIG), Wiwat Singkarintr (TOC), William Hammarstrom (BIG) at the AGM.

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Meetings Roundup

Electronic Specialty Gases WG meets in Kuala Lumpur

Despite the fact that members of the ESG work group are located in 5 different countries –

China, Taiwan, Japan, Singapore and the U.S. they have managed to meet a number of times over the last 2 years. The group uses these meetings also to introduce the work in the individual countries.

Since 2003, they have had meetings in Shanghai, Taiwan, Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore. The latest meeting was held on 14 March in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. A group of 15 members from the Malaysian Industrial Gases Manufacturers Association led by Margaret Gabriel, the chairman, joined the meeting to learn more about the work of ESG work group.

The ESG work group has issued two documents thus far, one on 'Security guidelines' and one on 'Handling gas container emergencies'.

At the KL meeting, the group focused primarily on finalising the new document, AIGA 018/05 - Safe handling of ESG gases. This would be followed by a review of the following EIGA documents:

- EIGA 33/03 Disposal of gases,
- EIGA 129/05 Pressure receptacles with blocked or inoperable cylinder valves,
- EIGA 130/05 Principles for safe handling and distribution of highly toxic gases & mixtures.

The development of mutual aid programme for ESG has been on the agenda for the Work Group. However, it is very much a voluntary effort among members. The Work Group has been leading discussion on the subject among the association members in Asia.

Eugene Ngai, the Air Products representative has been a strong advocate



ESG Work Group members with MIGMA participants in KL. ESG WG Chairman H. Masuda is seated on the extrem left and MIGMA TC Chairman Margaret Gabriel is seated 3rd from left.

for the mutual aid programme in Asia. He had conducted a training programme on emergency response in Shanghai in May last year and has continued to monitor the progress in China as well as the other countries in Asia. He has also met the MIGMA Board prior to the ESG meeting in Kuala Lumpur.

The Work Group will next meet in Singapore at the end of August, just before the AIGA 2005 Meeting.

TC meets with Philippines Confederation of Gas Industry

The Technical Committee meeting was held in Manila on 23 February 2005. A separate Safety Advisory Group meeting was held on 22 February in the same location.

Eight members from the Philippines Confederation of Gas Industry, led by its chairman Norikazu Ishikawa, participated in the meeting. Most of the

participants were senior members of the member companies who would form the Technical Committee in the association.

There was a good exchange of experience at both meetings, and we look forward to having an active TC in the Philippines association.

Chairman Norikazu Ishikawa had graciously made the arrangement for the meeting and we thank him for making the meeting a success.

Malaysia: MIGMA

The Malaysia Industrial Gas Manufacturers Association recently held its Board meeting in Kuala Lumpur on 11 March 2005. MIGMA Board has been keen to look into mutual aid among members and had invited Eugene Ngai from Air Products to make a presentation on the subject at the meeting.

The MIGMA Board has requested the Technical Committee to study how mutual aid can be applied to the road transportation of gases for the members.

Eugene Ngai (standing) addressing the MIGMA Board.



New AIGA publications

The following new AIGA publications are available on the website: www.asiaiga.org

- AIGA 013/05 – Incident/Accident investigation & analysis
- AIGA 014/05 – Safety audit guidelines
- AIGA 015/05 – Safety rules for contractors
- AIGA 016/05 – Safety features of portable cryogenic liquid containers for industrial & medical gases
- AIGA 017/05 – Labelling of containers (and associated equipment)

- AIGA 018/05 – Safe handling of electronic specialty gases
- AIGA 019/05 – Gas connections for portable liquid cylinders

Training Packages

- AIGA TP 02/05 Fire hazards of oxygen & oxygen enriched atmospheres
- AIGA TP 03/05 Safe storage, handling & use of compressed gases
- AIGA TP 04/05 Slips, trips and falls
- AIGA TP 05/05 Prevention of over pressurisation

AIGA China: C.S. Tay heads Steering Committee

The AIGA China representative office also completed its first year of establishment recently.

A Steering Committee and a Technical Committee provide guidance to the representative office. Both committees meet regularly, about one meeting every two months.

At the last Steering Committee meeting on 28 February 2005, election was held for a new chairman to succeed Minda Ho (Praxair). Members unanimously elected C.S. Tay from BOC China to assume the chair position for the next one-year term.

The leadership of the Technical Committee has also changed concurrently with that in the Steering Committee.

Hou XiSheng (Praxair) and Jevons Zhang (AP) were elected as chairman



C. S. Tay (left) with Minda Ho at handover meeting.



AIGA TC chairman C.N. Loke (back, 4th from left) with KIGSA TC Chairman C. H. Yang (front, 3rd from left) and other members from both TC in Seoul

and vice chairman during their January meeting this year. Tony Rivera (Messer) stepped down as the TC chairman.

Indonesia Association Congress in November 2005

The Association of Industrial Gases Producers in Indonesia will be convening its 8th Association Congress & Technical Seminar from 30 November 2005. The venue & time are:

**Sheraton Hotel, Yogyakarta,
Central Java
November 30 - December 2, 2005**

The Technical Seminar will be held over 2 days. The theme is "The advantage of Industrial Gases Technology in stimulating the National Economic Growth". Chairman of the Organizing Committee is Jerison Silitonga from Air Liquide, Indonesia. The Association Congress is a major event that is held once every 3 years. AIGA looks forward to supporting this event.

TC in Korea

The Technical Committee held its latest meeting in Seoul from 17 – 18 May 2005.

The meeting was hosted by the Korea Industrial Gases Safety Association (KIGSA). Members from KIGSA, led by C.H. Yang, the TC chairman, attended the SAG and TC meeting. Key members of KIGSA comprises Air Liquide Korea, BOC Korea, Daesung Industrial Gases, Korea Industrial Gases and Praxair Korea.

New Cylinder Gas Package work group confirmed

The work scope for the new Cylinder Gas Package work group was confirmed at the TC meeting. The work group is expected to kick off its first project on the inspection of cylinders prior to filling operations.

The work group will be chaired by A.V.L. Narsimha Rao from Ceylon Oxygen, who had previously sponsored and chaired the Labelling work group. A new chairman and other working members are being nominated.

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Seminar and Speakers Information

- **Behavioural- based safety – John Gillies, BOC**
John Gillies works with BOC Gases in Asia as Behavioural Safety Process Manager.
- **Best practices in compressed gas emergency response (ER) – Eugene Ngai, Air Products**
Eugene Ngai is with Air Products as the Director of ER and Disposal Technology in the Product Safety Group.
- **Understanding Operational Discipline – Dennis Johnson, Praxair**
Dennis Johnson is Global Director, Safety & Environmental Services in Praxair.
- **Changes in Gas Packages in the last 25 years – Andrew Webb, Air Products**
Andrew Webb is International Operations & Engineering Manager, Packaged Gases for Air Products.
- **Recent developments in compressed gas cylinders & valves – Jerrold Sameth, Matheson Tri-Gas**
Jerrold D. Sameth is the Chief Technologist and Director of Gas Packaging for Matheson Tri Gas, a Taiyo Nippon Sanso Group Company.
- **Prevention of brittle fracture in cryogenic vaporisation systems – Eric Fortuit, Air Liquide**
Eric Fortuit is currently Manager, Merchant & Electronic Activities expert in the Risk Management & Safety Division of Air Liquide.
- **International Harmonisation Work in the Gas Industry – Panel speakers**
The IHC is scheduled to meet in Singapore from 1 – 2 September 2005. AIGA, which is hosting the meeting, is delighted to have members from the IHC to give the presentation on the IHC & related activities.

AIGA 2005 Meeting - Programme Outline

30 August		
Morning	8:30 – 10:30	- Operational Discipline - Behavioural based safety - Best practices in compressed gas emergency response (ER)
	10:30 – 12:30	- Prevention of brittle fracture in cryogenic vaporisation systems - Package gas changes in the past 25 years - Recent developments in compressed gas cylinders & valves
Afternoon	2:00 – 5:30	Workshop Sessions: - Operational Discipline - Behavioural based safety - Emergency response planning
Evening	7:30 – 10:00	Reception & Dinner
31 August		
Morning	8:30 – 12:00	International harmonisation work Highlights from Work Groups projects National associations presentations Closing

IHC meeting in Singapore

AIGA will host the 17th IHC meeting in Singapore from 1-2 September 2005. Some of the IHC committee members will also join in the AIGA Meeting from 30-31 August.

IOMA meeting in Hong Kong

The IOMA 2005 Annual Meeting is scheduled to be held in Hong Kong from 23 –26 October. The Global Committee will meet during the IOMA meeting.

