

AIGA 2006 Meeting in Shanghai

The AIGA 2006 Meeting was successfully held on 12 and 13 September in Shanghai. The theme was "Transportation Safety".

The meeting kicked off with a full day seminar with five main presentations by experts in the global gas industry. An additional feature of the AIGA seminar was workshop sessions conducted in the afternoon to help reinforce the concepts presented in the morning sessions.

The event was well attended by over 140 members and guests from most Asian countries, Europe and the USA. AIGA was very pleased to welcome twenty-five Chinese government technical administrators from various provinces to attend the meeting. The presentations were supplemented with voice over translation in Chinese for their benefit. The presence of these important representatives of the Chinese authorities reflect their positive impression of the high standard of safety regulations within AIGA member companies. They have expressed their desire to see this kind of forum and training repeated for smaller regional companies.

The second day saw presentations from the AIGA Technical Work Groups on their work for the year.

The chairman of AIGA's Technical Committee, Mr Thomas Lout of Praxair pointed out: "I am happy that this selection of interesting international presentations meets the need of this audience which is so important for our mission: to achieve the highest level of safety and environmental care in the handling of industrial gases."

Representatives from the regional industrial gases associations such as CGA, EIGA, and JIGA also attended

the AIGA Meeting, demonstrating the fruitful cooperation among the associations.

2007 Meeting

Planning for this year's meeting has started. The Technical Committee proposes to focus on Packaged Gases Safety as the theme of this year's meeting.

The proposed venue for this year's meeting is Thailand, a location not only easily accessible from all the countries in Asia, but which also has excellent facilities at a reasonable cost.



Front (L-R) Low W.K., Murray Covello, Mike Huggon, Lee C.W., Mok K.W., Wilbur Mok. Back (L-R) Marc Meteyer (CGA), Tom Lout, Frank Finger (EIGA), Tony Rivera, Ken Ikoma, Hiroshi Masuda (JIGA) - See Page 2

19th International Harmonisation Council (IHC) Meeting

AIGA hosted the 19th IHC Meeting from 14 to 15 September after the conclusion of the AIGA 2006 Meeting in Shanghai.

The IHC is the council comprising representatives from the major regional associations: CGA for USA and Canada; EIGA for the area of Europe, North African states and Middle East (EIGA also reports on behalf of ANZIGA); JIGA for the territory of Japan; and AIGA for the region from India to China except for Australia and New Zealand. The task of IHC is to study and implement harmonised standard documents for the gas industry globally and also focus on UN regulations and ISO Standards.


Major items discussed at the meeting were the current status of open projects and the necessity for more joint working groups to fulfill the request of IOMA Global

Committee for identical projects that will result in identical documents among all the associations.

The need for common copyright regulations, the revision of the IHC work process as well as the decision for new proposed projects were some other topics which completed the agenda of the two-day meeting.

The results of the IHC activities were presented to the IOMA Global Committee at the meeting in November 2006.

Joint project by JIGA-AIGA

Reflecting the growing significance of electronic specialty gases in Asia, JIGA and AIGA will co-lead the development of new harmonised codes of practice for the specialty gases phosphine and arsine. Work is expected to begin in 2007 and targeted to complete by mid-2008. 

First Silane Safety Seminar in Hsinchu, Taiwan

AIGA co-hosted the first Silane Safety Seminar in Asia at the Hsinchu high tech park in Taiwan on 18 September 2006. The last such symposium was held in Europe in 1998. A record-breaking 480 participants packed into the large ITRI auditorium on that day.

The seminar was jointly organised by AIGA, the Taiwan High Pressure Gas Industrial Association (THPGIA) and the Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI) in Hsinchu.

The seminar was an industry project to promote the safe handling of silane and was targeted towards all users of silane. In support of this objective, only a small nominal registration fee was charged for attendance, courtesy of financial sponsorship from ITRI.

AIGA through its Electronics Specialty Gases work group played the lead role of putting together the programme. In particular, Eugene Ngai (AP), from the work group, was instrumental in working with the eleven key speakers for the seminar. The other partners, the THPGIA and ITRI were responsible for the local logistics in Taiwan.

Although the target audience was the large number of users working in the high tech industry in Taiwan, there were many overseas participants from several countries in Asia as this was a rare opportunity to listen to so many experts in one meeting.

ITRI provided the excellent facility and management for this large conference, which was conducted with voice over translation in Chinese for the local participants.

The response to this first seminar in Asia was overwhelming. Given the scale of the silane activities in

Asia, AIGA hopes to work with the appropriate associations and other interested groups to conduct similar silane safety seminars in other Asian countries with significant operations involving silane.

New AIGA Board for 2006 - 2008 constituted

At the Board meeting and Annual General Meeting held in Shanghai on 13 September, a new Board was constituted for the 2006-2008 term.

The new Board members are:

President: Mok Kwong Weng (Air Liquide)
Vice President: Murray Covello (Praxair)
Secretary: Wilbur Mok (Air Products)*
Treasurer: Sanjiv Lamba (Linde Group)*
Members:

- Masashi Yamashita (Taiyo Nippon Sanso)
- Fumiaki Ohya (Iwatani International)
- Helmut Schneider (Messer China)
- Tom Lout (Praxair)

** Wilbur Mok replaces Bob Dixon who has taken up a new appointment outside Asia. Sanjiv Lamba replaces Mike Huggon, the previous president who is now working in Europe. We thank both Bob and Mike for their contributions to the AIGA Board.*

Associations updates

Update on association in Korea

A new board was constituted in the Korea Industrial Gases Safety Association (KIGSA) on 4 August 2006 with new leadership:

- President: SON, Moo- Ryung (President, Daesung Ind. Gases)
- Technical Committee chairman: LEE, Jong-Suk (Daesung Ind. Gases)

The KIGSA board at the same time took a momentous step forward to reorganise KIGSA into a larger association.

KIGSA is joining forces with 20 specialty gases companies to form a new association to be named the Korea Industrial and Specialty Gases Safety Association KISGSA. This restructured organisation will be accorded a higher legal standing.

The new association will remain as a safety focused organization and will continue to be a member of AIGA when it is registered.

Siam Industrial Gases Association (SIGA)

Theera Sayamipakdi (TIG) was elected to replace Christopher Browning as chairman of SIGA in July 2006. Chris took on a new assignment in Europe.

Progress in formation of association in India

The protem group comprising the multi-national gases companies have obtained approval from the authorities to form an association to be based in Mumbai.

The mission of this association is to promote better safety and operating standards for the industry in India.

New Publications

New AIGA publications released

www.asiaiga.org

Position Paper PP-01 – GMP guide for medicinal gases

Safety Bulletin 03-06 – Safe operation of forklift trucks

AIGA 030/06 – Storage of cryogenic air gases at users' premises

AIGA 031/06 – LO, LN, LAr storage systems at production sites

AIGA 033/06 – Perlite management

AIGA 034/06 – Hydrogen transportation pipelines

AIGA 035/06 – Safe operation of reboilers/condensers in ASUs

AIGA 036/06 – Guidelines for management of waste acetylene cylinders

AIGA 037/06 – Permissible charge/cylinder fill conditions for acetylene Cylinders

AIGA 038/06 – Vertical cylinder handling and transportation

AIGA 039/06 – Road transport emergency preparedness

AIGA 040/06 – Good practices guide for loading & unloading of cryogenic liquid tankers

AIGA 041/06 – Defensive driving

These can be downloaded from www.asiaiga.org

EIGA recent publications:

www.eiga.org

Doc 15/06/E – Gaseous hydrogen stations

Doc 72/06 /E – Tap water corrosion of composites with AA 6061 liners

Doc 78/06/E – Leak detection fluids – gas cylinder packages

Doc 81/06/E – Road vehicle emergency & recovery

Doc 125/06/E – Guide to the supply of gases for use in foods

Doc 126/05/E – Minimum specifications for food gas applications

Doc 137/06/E – Environmental aspects of decommissioning

Doc 10/07/E – Reciprocating compressors for oxygen service – code of practice

Doc 116/06 – Nitrous oxide – code of practice

Harmonised documents to be adopted by AIGA

Target completion: 2007-2008

Project titles

High pressure breathing gas systems - toxicity of using non-metallic materials (*EIGA 73/00*)

Code of practice - Fluorine (*new EIGA draft*)

Reciprocating compressors for oxygen service (*EIGA 10/07*)

Good environmental management practices for industrial gas industry (*EIGA 88/02 & CGA P 37*)

Installation guide for centrifugal liquid oxygen pumps (*CGA G 4.7*)

Safe practices guide for cryogenic air separation plants (*CGA P 8*)

Safe use of brazed aluminum heat exchangers (*CGA G 4.8*)

Personal protective equipment [PPE] (*EIGA 136/05*)

Safe handling of silane (*CGA G 13*)

New Work Group - Packaged Gases


A new work group for Packaged Gases was formed in mid-2006. The group held their first meeting at the end of August 2006.

Two existing work groups, the Gas Connections and the Acetylene work groups were retired as they have completed the projects that they were set up for.

The new work group has a fairly broad work scope and will also take on any work that would have been handled by the retired work groups.

The chairman of this group is James Lucas (AP), who

previously chaired the Gas Connections Work Group. Other members are Milan Sarkar (Praxair), Wichit Sophitanonrat (Linde Group), Charles Law (Taiyo Nippon Sanso), and George Ong (AL). With the re-structuring of the work groups at the end of 2006, there are now five work groups (listed on the next page).

The new group has started work on several documents (mainly from EIGA) with a view to adapting and adopting them for Asia. 

AIGA TECHNICAL WORK GROUPS 2007

Members	Technical Committee	Safety Advisory Group	Medical Gases Work Group	Packaged Gases Work Group	Electronic Specialty Gases Work Group	Transportation Work Group(A)-Packaged Gases	Transportation Work Group(B)-Bulk/ Drivers' Safety
Air Liquide	LOKE Chong Ngean	LOKE Chong Ngean		George ONG	Margaret ANG	LUI Lin	Somsak SRICHANTR
Air Products	James LUCAS	HUANG Chin Hwa	Ernest KHOO	James LUCAS	Andy CHUNG/ Eugene NGAI	Frank YU	Weerachit SIRIKUL
Linde Group	Vincent MOREAU	Yousuf MIRZA	Vincent MOREAU/ Kasien Laiyakosit/ Vincent LAI	Wichit Sophitanontrat	LEI Hai Ping	Connie PAN	Nattawud JANTEB
Iwatani International	Soehadi	Soehadi					
Messer China	Matthias KLAPPER	Matthias KLAPPER				Matthias KLAPPER	
Taiyo Nippon Sanso	Ken K IKOMA	Ken K IKOMA	Ichirou NAKAYAMA	Charles LAW	Ken IKOMA/ Jerrold Sameth	WANG Zhou	Gary CHOO
Praxair	Tom LOU	Tom LOU		Milan SARKAR	Ison LIN	HOU XiSheng	Tom LOU/ Adisorn RUANGDEJ

Preliminary announcements

AIGA 2007 Meeting Packaged Gases Safety

Pattaya, Thailand 30-31 August 2007

This year's technical meeting will focus on the safety of packaged gases in Asia. Presentations will cover safety, security and regulatory issues in the design and operations of gas cylinders and packages. Emphasis will be placed on the operational environment in Asia.

Pattaya is on the eastern sea board of Thailand about 100 km from the new Suvarnabhumi International Airport and is within easy reach by highway from the airport.

Reserve these dates on your diary. Registration will start in June 2007.

EIGA Symposium 2008

Safety in distribution: The route to success

At Congress Centre Dusseldorf 30-31 January 2008

**This symposium will address the safe distribution and transport of industrial and medical gases
Registration will start in October 2007**

