

Outlook for 2009

The drastic slowdown of the global economies has impacted the gases industry in general and members are responding quickly to the new environment in various ways.

AIGA has also started to rethink part of its 2009 programme in view of the new environment facing its members.

AIGA's Technical Committee (TC) is looking into its work plan this year. Some face-to-face meetings may be dropped in 2009 and replaced by tele-conferences, since members are working to trim their travel plans.

Notwithstanding this, AIGA is committed to continue its activities for 2009.

Looking ahead, the TC has decided to re-structure the Annual Meeting for 2009 by holding smaller technical meetings at the country level instead of doing this on a pan-

Asian level. This proposal was put forward last year as AIGA was aware that on some priority safety issues, we can reach out to the target audience effectively only at the country level. The smaller companies in Asia often do not come to an Asian event due to the cost and time constraints, even though AIGA only charges a minimal fee to cover costs.

AIGA has also identified acetylene gas safety as a priority concern in Asia.

Although the gas is still used extensively in some countries in Asia, expertise is a dwindling resource both in Asia and Europe.

An ad-hoc team has been formed (headed by Vincent Moreau, Linde Group) to look into organising one or more Acetylene Gas Safety Seminars at the country level. This will be done in conjunction with the national associations of the countries identified.


The plan is to use available training materials (from EIGA) and replicate them for an Asian audience in at least one to two countries this year. Speakers will be drawn from associate companies of our members.

The seminar will be a one to two day event depending on the needs of the association. AIGA hopes to roll this out in the second half of 2009.

The other key activities for AIGA revolve around our Technical Work Groups and our participation in international harmonisation work with the other regional associations CGA, EIGA and JIMGA.

Under the five Work Groups, AIGA adopted and issued a number of documents in 2008 (see New Publications). The Work Groups will continue to review documents from the other associations and adopt them for Asia in the months ahead.

The work on international harmonisation is described in a separate report.

The AIGA Board will also be reviewing AIGA strategic plan for the future and more information will be given when this is completed. 

7th AIGA AGM

Our AGM was held on 25 August together with the annual gathering of members for the 2008 Meeting in Kuala Lumpur.

A total of 11 members were present for the meeting. During the meeting, the new AIGA Board members were confirmed for the term 2008-2010.


President : Murray Covello (Praxair)*
 Vice President: Wilbur Mok (Air Products)
 Secretary: Sanjiv Lamba (Linde Group)
 Treasurer: Helmut Schneider (Messer China)
 Members: Mok Kwong Weng (Air Liquide),
 Masashi Yamashita (Taiyo Nippon Sanso), F. Ohya (Iwatani)
 Co-opted: Tom Lout (Chairman of TC)
 Secretary General



Mok K.W. handing over to the new elected president Murray.



Wilbur Mok


* In January 2009, Murray Covello returned to the U.S. Under the AIGA succession process, the vice president, Wilbur Mok succeeds Murray as president. 

AIGA 2008 Meeting

The 2008 Meeting in Kuala Lumpur on the subject “Product Vehicle Safety and Accident Prevention” was held successfully with over 140 participants from Malaysia and other Asian countries.

The event was jointly organised with the FMM-MIGMA, the national association in Malaysia representing the industrial gases industry.

Most of the speakers for this year’s Meeting were drawn from the Asia operations of member companies and much useful experience was shared.

In line with AIGA’s objective to disseminate safety knowledge to as wide an audience as possible, proceedings of the Meeting have been uploaded to our website Publications section. 

Appreciation for Work Group Members



Ernest Khoo (Air Products)

The AIGA Board conveyed its appreciation to work group members for the year 2008 with a simple certificate of recognition. Members who attended the AIGA 2008 Meeting received their certificates from the President during the dinner for the Meeting (see snapshots).



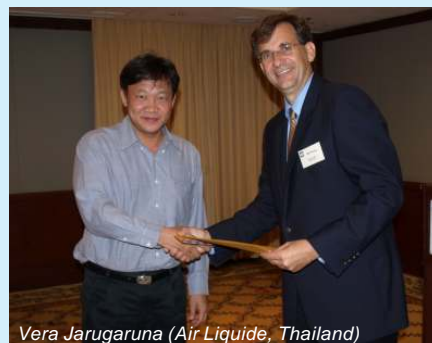
Du Pu (Messer China)



Kasien Laiyakosit (Linde)



Hou Xi Sheng (Praxair China)



Vera Jarugaruna (Air Liquide, Thailand)



Ken Ikoma (Taiyo Nippon Sanso)



Ang Lee San (Air Products)



Vincent Lai (Linde)



Ichirou Nakayama (Taiyo Nippon Sanso)



Ison Lin (Praxair)



Jerrold Sameth (Matheson Tri-Gas, TNS)

Technical Committee Team

The Board has affirmed the appointment of Tom Lout (Praxair) as the chairman of the Technical Committee (TC) for the term starting 2008 at the August 2008 Meeting. Kouji Ikoma (Taiyo Nippon Sanso) will continue as the vice chairman.

Other members of the TC are :

Loke Chong Ngean (Air Liquide) – chairman of Safety Advisory Group

Jim Lucas (Air Products) – sponsor for Packaged Gases Work Group

Vincent Moreau (Linde Group) – sponsor for Medical Gases Work Group

Du Pu (Messer China) – chairman for Transportation Work Group A

Soehadi (Iwatani)

The TC met in November 2008 in Thailand.

Work Groups Update

The following works are currently under review by the Work Groups (WG):

- Medical Gases WG
 - i) Adoption of IGC 73/08 – Design considerations to mitigate the potential risks of toxicity when using non-metallic materials in high pressure oxygen breathing gas systems
 - ii) Studying the adoption of ISO 32 for colour coding of medical gas cylinders
 - iii) Evaluating new projects on external cleaning of contaminated medical gas cylinders and decanting of medical gases from large to small cylinders.
- Electronic Specialty Gases WG
 - Review of IGC 30/07 – Disposal of Gases
- Transportation WG 'A' – Studying the issue of road conditions and how they affect drivers' performance and accident prevention
- Transport WG 'B' – Studying the issue of driver fatigue and accident prevention
- Packaged Gases WG – Several EIGA documents are being reviewed by the group.

International Harmonisation Update

The International Harmonisation Council held its 23rd Meeting on 21-22 August 2008 in Osaka, Japan.

The meeting was hosted by the Japan Industrial and Medical Gases Association (JIMGA).

A list of seven 'A' (high priority) projects were recommended to the Global Committee and were subsequently approved at the IOMA Global Committee meeting in October 2008.

New 'A' projects:

- Road vehicle emergency & recovery
- Safe location of occupied buildings in industrial gas plants
- Safety distances for hydrogen systems
- Site security
- Transport security
- Qualifying customers purchasing compressed gases
- Safe operation of hydrogen plants (including burner management & safe start-up/shutdown)

On-going open projects:

- Sea transport of MEGC's and cryogenic tanks
- Bulk cryogenic air gases at production sites
- Centrifugal compressors for oxygen service
- Design & operation of cryogenic enclosures
- Operating gas cylinders with quick opening valves
- Disposal of gases
- Near misses on electronic specialty gases
- Safe handling of electronic specialty gases
- Safe location of oxygen & nitrogen vents
- Code of practice for arsine
- Code of practice for phosphine
- Fire hazards in oxygen and oxygen enriched atmospheres

New publications

Since the second half of 2008 AIGA has issued the following new publications:

- AIGA 047/08 – Safe preparation of gas mixtures
- AIGA 048/08 – Reciprocating compressors for oxygen service
- AIGA 049/08 – Guideline for bulk medical supply system for healthcare facilities
- AIGA 050/08 – Code of practice for Arsine
- AIGA 051/08 – Code of practice for Phosphine
- AIGA 052/08 – Storage & handling of silane and silane mixtures
- AIGA 053/08 – Code of practice for compressed fluorine & mixtures with inert gases

- AIGA 054/08 – Prevention of excessive pressure during filling of cryogenic vessels
- AIGA 055/08 – Installation guide for stationary, electric motor driven centrifugal oxygen pumps
- AIGA 056/08 – Safe practices guide for cryogenic air separation plants
- AIGA 057/08 – Safe use of aluminium heat exchangers for producing pressurised oxygen
- AIGA 058/08 – Safe preparation of compressed oxidant fuel gas mixtures in cylinders

