

AIGA New Board elected

As the end of 2009 draws near, we report changes at the AIGA Board level.

In January 2009, Wilbur Mok became AIGA President after Murray Covello stepped down. Joseph Cappello accepted the vice president position in March 2009.

In September this year, we were greeted with the news that Wilbur would be taking up a new appointment in the U.S. Thus, at the Board Meeting and AGM on 17 September 2009, the Board was re-constituted for the remainder of the term ending 2010.



Sanjiv Lamba

AIGA Seminar plans

In view of the difficult economic situation prevailing in Asia as well as the rest of the world, AIGA is focusing more on working with the national associations to organise seminars that will cater primarily for the local audience in the future.

AIGA has already identified some of the priority safety issues in Asia. They are Transportation Safety, Acetylene Gas Safety, Electronic Specialty Gases Safety and Handling and Medical Gases Safety.

AIGA together with the local associations will undertake the organization of one or more of these seminars in order to share their knowledge with the industry.

AIGA's role is to source for the presentation materials as well as work with local or overseas speakers to deliver the message (see page 2).

The following are the current office-bearers.

President: **Sanjiv Lamba** (Linde Gas Asia)
 Vice President : Joseph Cappello (Praxair Asia)
 Secretary: Mok Kwong Weng (Air Liquide)
 Treasurer: Helmut Schneider (Messer China)
 Members: Masashi Yamashita (Taiyo Nippon Sanso)
 Fumiaki Ohya (Iwatani Corporation)
 Ivo Bols (Air Products)
 Co-opted: Tom Lout (Praxair)
 - Technical Committee chairman
 W.K. Low - Secretary General

We welcome Joseph Cappello and Ivo Bols (who replaces Wilbur Mok) on board.

25th International Harmonization Council Meeting


The International Harmonization Council, comprising the regional associations AIGA, CGA, EIGA and JIMGA, had its regular autumn meeting this year via tele-conference for the first time. The meeting was held over three sessions from 18 August.

The virtual meeting was a good measure to help reduce the travel budget for members.

All on-going harmonization projects were reviewed. The IHC has identified three projects to be submitted to the IOMA Global Committee at the October 2009 Meeting. The projects, two of which are related to the use of hydrogen, are:

- Safe location of occupied buildings in industrial gas plants
- Startup and shutdown practices for steam reformers
- Hydrogen piping systems at user locations

The IHC also agreed to work on refining the work process for joint task forces. This would require a separate face to face meeting among members, which will be held during the EIGA Winter Meeting in Brussels in January 2010.

The IHC will hold its spring meeting in Tokyo in March 2010. 

Seminars in the region

Safety Seminar, Singapore

As part of its mission to provide more safety information to end users, the Industrial Gases Association of Singapore organised a 1/2 day seminar on 12 February this year. The theme this year focused on oxygen, nitrogen and compressed air safety.

The seminar attracted more than 200 participants.



L to R: Raymond Ang (SOXAL) and Ernest Khoo (AP) at the Singapore seminar.

Acetylene Gas Safety Seminar, Taipei

The Taiwan High Pressure Gas Industry Association, working closely with AIGA, successfully held a one-day Acetylene Gas Safety Seminar in Taipei on 13 July 2009.

The seminar was well supported by the Council of Labour Affairs Executive Yuan and the Safety & Health Technology Centre. These two government agencies are very proactive in promoting safety in the gases industry in Taiwan.

The seminar was graced by the presence of the Deputy Minister for Labour Affairs, Mr. Kuo Fong-Yu, who gave the opening address. About 140 participants attended the meeting.

AIGA provided the technical resources and facilitated the attendance of speakers from abroad for the meeting. AIGA had invited an international panel of speakers, namely,



Kuo Fong Yu addressing the meeting.

Vijay Kumar (India), Daniel Tregear (U.K.) and EIGA's technical director Andy Webb. (Unfortunately Andy had to cancel his trip due to unforeseen circumstances.)

JIMGA also contributed to the seminar with one speaker on the subject of recycling of waste acetylene cylinders.

The Safety and Health Technology Centre facilitated the translation of the papers which were delivered in English.

2010

Medical Gases Seminar in Thailand

The AIGA Medical Gases Work Group has been working with the Siam Industrial Gases Association (SIGA) to finalise the Medical Gases Seminar in Thailand to be held tentatively in January 2010.

This seminar will focus on the Thailand Medical Gas regulations TIS 540 as well as other safety topics, including how to prevent accidents, cylinder colour coding and labelling, and good manufacturing practices.

The target audience will be the medical oxygen manufacturing licence holders in Thailand, which currently number over 70. The seminar will include a hands on


demonstration of test equipment specified in TIS 540, and aims to help participants to get properly acquainted with the basic requirements.

SIGA expects about 100 participants for the seminar.

Electronic Specialty Gases Safety Seminars proposed

AIGA is proposing to hold one or two seminars on Electronic Specialty Gases (ESG) Safety towards the latter part of 2010 as Asia has a large base of specialty gases users.

As the ESG is a very specialized area, a number of the speakers will have to come from outside Asia. The Technical Committee has started to work on this.

We hope that this project will be well supported by all interested parties so that it will come to fruition. 

Publications

The year has been slow in terms of publications issued by AIGA. However, a number of documents are currently being reviewed and should be issued in the next few months. Recent EIGA new publications (excluding revisions) are also listed below.

AIGA:

- AIGA 059/09 -- Design considerations to mitigate potential toxicity risks of non-metallics in high pressure oxygen breathing systems
- AIGA 060/09 -- Safe installations of PSA and membrane oxygen and nitrogen generators

EIGA:

- IGC 154/09 -- Safe location of oxygen and inert gas vents
- IGC 155/09 -- Hydrogen production by steam methane reforming

New leaders at the associations



Mr Jaw-Tzong Su

This year has seen a number of leadership changes at the associations:

- At the Taiwan High Pressure Gases Industrial Association (THPGIA) Allen Chien retired from Air Products SanFu from 1 November 2009. Allen had been the chairman for THPGIA as well as its

sister organization, the Industrial Gases Association of ROC (IGA). IGA is the organization that is responsible for cylinder testing operations.

Jaw-Tzong Su, President of Yuan Rong Industrial Gases Co. takes over as the chairman of THPGIA.

Over at the IGA, John Miao, President of BOC Lien Hwa Industrial Gases, has assumed the chairmanship. John was a former chairman of THPGIA and has served the association for many years.

- In Thailand, Keerin Chutumstid from Thailand Industrial Gases (TIG) succeeded David Shaw (TIG) as the chairman of the Siam Industrial Gases Association (SIGA) at the AGM in March.

- In Korea, Sungbok Seo (Praxair) succeeded Gangho Lee (Praxair) as the President of the Korea Industrial and Specialty Gases Association (KISGA) in June.

- At the July AGM of the Industrial Gases Association of Singapore (IGAS), it was time to elect a new chairman for the term 2009-2011.

Linde representative Simon Sim assumed the chairmanship. At the same time, the Technical Committee chairman was also changed. For the current term, SOXAL's representative Cliff Yeo takes over as the chairman.



Obituary

In August 2009, the Gas Industries Association (India) appointed its first secretary general, B.N. Qanungo. He was a highly respected veteran in the gas industry in India and had just retired from Inox-AP. Sadly, B.N. passed away in September. Despite his brief stint in the role, he will be greatly missed by AIGA and many of his ex-colleagues.

AIGA Technical Committee & Working Groups 2009

Work Groups	Technical Committee	Safety Advisory Group	Medical Gases	Packaged Gases WG	Electronic Specialty Gases WG	Transportation WG(A) - Packaged Gases	Transportation WG(B) Bulk/ Drivers' Safety
Air Liquide	LOKE Chong Ngean	LOKE Chong Ngean	CN Loke (liaison)	LIM Boon Sung	Margaret ANG	LIU Lin	Vera JARUGARUNA
Air Products	James LUCAS	Brenda OVERTON	Ernest KHOO	James LUCAS/ Thomas LIM	LEE Jin-Sup	WANG Yi	Weerachit SIRIKUL / Amorn JUNGSKUL
Linde Gas Asia	Vincent MOREAU	Yousuf MIRZA	Vincent MOREAU/ Vincent LAI	Ramana VUTUKURU	LEI Hai Ping	Connie PAN	Nattawud JANTEB
Iwatani Corp.	SOEHADI	SOEHADI					
Messer China	DU Pu	DU Pu				DU Pu	
Taiyo Nippon Sanso	Ken K IKOMA	Ken K IKOMA	Ichirou NAKAYAMA	Charles LAW	Ken IKOMA/ Jerrold Sameth	SHU Fei	N. PONTHEP
Praxair	Tom LOU	Tom LOU	T. Lout (liaison)	Milan SARKAR	Ison LIN	HOU XiSheng	T.LOUT/Adisorn RUANGDEJ

