

## Welcome to AIGA NEWS

This is the inaugural issue of the AIGA newsletter, AIGA News. The primary aim of the newsletter is to update members and interested parties on what goes on in AIGA. The newsletter will be published on our website as well as circulated in hard copy format. We sincerely hope that this will help us to communicate better with our constituents and to serve our members more effectively.

Mike is the Managing Director of the ISP (Industrial & Special Products) business line for BOC in Asia. He is a veteran in Asia, having worked in various Asian countries in the last several years. He is currently based in Singapore.

The other key office bearers are Michael J. Douglas (Praxair), secretary and Lee Chun Wah (Air Liquide), treasurer.

Air Products Asia has nominated Robert D. Dixon to replace Mark on the AIGA Board. Robert succeeds Mark Bye as president of Air Products Asia.

The Board will elect a new vice president to succeed Mike when the full Board meets in March 2004. 

## Board Elects New President

Although the AIGA Board is just about a year old, the inevitable organizational changes in our member companies in Asia have also led to changes at the Board level.

The latest change of guard was announced at the last Board meeting on 5 December 2003. Incumbent president Mark Bye, who was president, Air Products Asia had to retire from the Board as he took on a new assignment as the executive vice president, Gases and Equipment Group at Air Products and Chemicals, Inc.

Mark was first elected president at the beginning of 2003.

The AIGA Bylaws provide that the vice president succeeds the president when the latter retires.

Mike Huggon, from BOC Gases who was the vice president agreed to serve as president, and the Board gave him their unanimous endorsement at the same meeting.

Mike will serve the term of president until September 2005.



*Board Members: front row L-R: Robert Dixon, Mark Bye, Mike Huggon; back row L-R: Low Wing Keong, Helmut Schneider, Bjorn Thronaes, Loke Chong Ngean, F. Ohya, Jorge Chabolla (alt. to H. Schneider)*  
*Not in picture: Abe Mikio, Lee Chun Wah and Michael J. Douglas*

### inside

**IHC News • Global Committee on Harmonization  
 Technical Work Groups • Update on National Associations  
 Technical Meetings Diary**

## BOARD MEMBERS YEAR 2004

<b>President:</b>	<b>Mike Huggon</b> <i>Managing Director, ISP Asia BOC Gases</i>
<b>Vice President:</b>	(to be filled)
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Michael J. Douglas</b> <i>President, Praxair Asia Inc.</i>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Lee Chun Wah</b> <i>Regional Director, Air Liquide Asia</i>
<b>Members:</b>	<b>Robert D. Dixon</b> <i>President, Air Products Asia</i> <b>Bjorn Thronaes</b> <i>Managing Director, Hydrogas (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd</i> <b>Yoshihiro Kira</b> <i>Executive Director, Iwatani International Corporation (alternate: Fumiaki Ohya)</i> <b>Mikio Abe</b> <i>Senior Managing Director Nippon Sanso Corporation</i> <b>Helmut W. Schneider</b> <i>Country Manager, CEO Messer China (alternate: Jorge Chabolla)</i>
<b>Co-opted Members:</b>	<b>Loke Chong Ngean</b> <i>(Chairman of Technical Committee) Regional Operations Director Air Liquide Industrial Services Private Limited</i> <b>Low Wing Keong</b> <i>Secretary General</i>


## TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS YEAR 2004

<b>Chairman:</b>	<b>Loke Chong Ngean</b> <i>Regional Operations Director Air Liquide Industrial Services Private Limited</i>
<b>Vice-Chairman:</b>	<b>Howard Evans</b> <i>Safety Director, ISP East Asia BOC Gases Private Limited</i>
<b>Members:</b>	<b>A.V.L. Narsimha Rao</b> <i>Managing Director Ceylon Oxygen Limited</i> <b>James Lucas</b> <i>Regional Director, Operations Asia, Air Products Asia Inc.</i> <b>Ken K. Ikoma</b> <i>General Manager, Technology Planning Office, Technology Division, Nippon Sanso Corporation</i> <b>Antonio Rivera</b> <i>Technical Director, Messer Group, Corporate Office, China Region</i> <b>Thomas Lout</b> <i>Director, Safety, Environmental Services &amp; Operations, Praxair Asia Inc.</i> <b>Toshiichi Takematsu</b> <i>Senior Associate Director/Assistant to General Manager, Industrial Gases &amp; Welding Apparatus Division, Iwatani International Corporation</i>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Low Wing Keong</b> <i>Secretary General</i>

## IHC News

The International Harmonization Council (IHC), comprising the representatives from CGA, EIGA, JIGA and AIGA held its latest meeting in Tokyo in September 2003. JIGA hosted the meeting, which is the first such meeting in Asia for the IHC. Meetings were previously held either in the United States or Europe.

The Secretary General of AIGA attended the meeting. The next IHC meeting will be held in March 2004 in Florida, USA (hosted by CGA) and the following meeting will be in September 2004 in Munich, Germany (hosted by EIGA).

Update on the IHC work is reported under the Global Committee. 

## Global Committee on Harmonization

The Global Committee on Harmonization which is the body overseeing the work of the IHC, met in October 2003 in Scottsdale, Phoenix, in conjunction with the IOMA annual meeting.

The Global Committee is chaired by Lennart Selander of Linde AG. However, this year's meeting saw the changing of guard as a result of the retirement of Robert Gadomski of Air Products and Chemicals, Inc.

Jean-Pierre Duprieu of Air Liquide S.A. assumed the position of vice chairman, 2004-2005 to replace Robert Gadomski. Mark Bye of Air Products and Chemicals, Inc. joined the committee as a new member.

The IHC status report was presented to the GC. Status reports were made on:


- Prevention of Toxic Contamination in Breathing Installations
- Global Harmonized System (GHS)
- Installation Guide for Horizontal Stationary Electric Motor Driven Liquid Oxygen Pumps
- Code of Practice for Nitrous Oxide

The GC approved the completion of four "A-priority" projects:

- Oxygen Pipeline Transportation
- Oxygen Cleaning Guidelines
- Safe Use of Brazed Aluminum Heat Exchangers
- Code of Practice for Nitrogen Trifluoride

The Committee also approved three new projects as "A priority" projects:

- Hydrogen Pipeline Transportation
- Carbon Monoxide/Syngas Pipeline Transportation
- Flat Bottom Tanks

The Global Committee will next meet in Paris in May 2004. 

# Technical Work Groups

The Technical Committee with the approval of the Board has formed six expert Work Groups to look into the following areas:

1. Safety Advisory Group (sponsor: Praxair)
2. Connection fittings for bulk gases (sponsor: Air Products)
3. Acetylene (sponsor: Iwatani)
4. Medical gases (Sponsor: BOC)
5. Labeling of gas containers (sponsor: Hydrogas)
6. Electronic & specialty gases (sponsor: Nippon Sanso)

These Work Groups were formed at the beginning of 2003 and are working on a number of issues and which are in various stages of progress. The target is for them to complete their projects before the middle of 2004.

Work Group members have been nominated from the category 1 and 2 members' companies and subsidiaries in Asia. The diversity of the representation will help to ensure that a balanced view of the requirements in Asia is reflected in the groups' work. The following is a brief review of the work currently undertaken by the Work Groups.

## Safety Advisory Group (SAG)

The group is developing the reporting system for accidents and incidents among member companies in Asia. The first part is the reporting of the loss time injuries statistics and the road vehicle accident statistics. The second part is the accident/incident information report. This will be used to create a database of information on injury causes and its statistics.

It is the aim that the work of the SAG will cascade down to the national associations level, so that each country will be able to build its own database of accidents and incidents.

The SAG will also issue Safety Flash, an advisory bulletin on issues of immediate importance and concern on an as required basis. Safety Flash will be presented via our Website.

## Connection Fittings for Bulk Gases

This group is looking into the standardization (& harmonization) of connection fittings for the bulk liquid gases such as nitrogen, oxygen and argon.

The group has completed most of its recommendations on the liquid connections for the 160-litre size liquid gases containers (LGC).

The next phase will be the standardization of connections for stationary storage vessels and tank trucks. As it may not be possible to get a single standard for all the countries in Asia, the group will stress the importance of having discriminating connections among the different gases and the minimized use of adaptors.

## Acetylene Gas

This group is a small team and is focusing its attention on the safe practices in the production and distribution of acetylene gas.

They will be studying the proposed revision of the EIGA documents into the new Code of Practice, as this will help to harmonize the use of standards and practices globally.

## Medical Gases

The Medical Gases Work Group is using the framework of the European Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP), EIGA document 99/03 for medicinal gases in its work.

The group plans to develop detailed code of practice in selected priority areas of the GMP guide. This approach will mean that the Work Group will work its way through the GMP in stages and the preparation of detailed codes will take place over a number of years.

The group is currently working on a code of practice on medical gas cylinder valves.

The group will also focus on feedback from the national associations, as implementation of their recommendations is the key to how they should progress.

## Labeling of Gas Containers

The group is using the framework of the UN Globalized Harmonization System (GHS) of Classification and Labeling of chemicals as a basis for their work.

The group is studying the equivalent EIGA document 906/02 on this. The aim is to produce a more concise guide for the commonly used gases that will serve most of the needs of the industrial gases business.

## Electronic & Specialty Gases (ESG)

This group is working on the following areas under ESG:

- Security
- Safe handling of electronic gases
- Emergency Response
- Mutual Aid

The group's strategy is to adopt and adapt existing standards from the other regional associations. They have made recommendations to adopt both CGA and EIGA documents in the areas of security and safe handling of electronic gases.

They are also working on a new AIGA document that will be a code of practice for electronic gases.

The other areas of work under emergency response and mutual aid will involve the setting up of co-operative agreements among the companies in each country in Asia. The group will prepare the framework under which such co-operation can be established.


# First Technical Committee cum Work Groups Session

May 2004, Phuket, Thailand

**A**IGA will be organizing a joint session for the Technical Committee and Work Groups coming May 2004. The venue will be the island of Phuket, Thailand. The venue is chosen for its central location in Asia and also the reasonable costs of its first class facilities.

The proposed session will bring together all the Work Group participants to share their work progress with other Work Groups and to foster team work within AIGA.

National association representatives are also invited to attend the session to understand the work in AIGA and to give feedback. The Board will show its full support for this inaugural event (we hope to run this once a year) and will be holding the Board meeting in the same location.

Members and invited parties will be informed in due course on the dates of the meeting and the details of the programme. 

## ASSOCIATIONS' MEETINGS DIARY 2004

### AIGA

Technical Committee & Work Groups Session,  
May 2004 (date to be confirmed), Phuket, Thailand  
Annual Meeting, September 24, Singapore

### CGA

Annual Meeting, February 29 – March 2, Amelia Island, Florida  
IHC Meeting, March 3, Amelia Island, Florida

### IOMA

Board Meeting, May 25, Paris  
Global Committee Meeting, May 24, Paris

### EIGA

Summer Session, June 2 – 5, 2004, Budapest, Hungary  
IHC Meeting, September 16-17, Munich

### IOMA

Annual Meeting, October 30 – November 3, Napa, California  
Global Committee Meeting  
(in conjunction with IOMA Meeting)

# Brief Update on National Associations

**A** top priority for AIGA since its inception is to help form the new associations as well as encourage the enrolment of existing associations in the countries in Asia into AIGA. However, one pre-requisite is that these associations should share similar objectives and goals to AIGA's in working towards better standards of operations for the gases industry.

Although the progress has been slower than expected, most of our goals have been met.


In Singapore, a new association, the Industrial Gases Association of Singapore (IGAS) was formed in June 2003. Currently, Tan Guan Joo from SOXAL is the president.

In Thailand, a new association has also been registered. The chairman is Christopher Browning from Thailand Industrial Gases.

A new association is being registered in the Philippines and this is expected to be up and running in the first quarter of 2004. Existing associations in Indonesia and Malaysia have enrolled as members of AIGA.

The association in Taiwan has also showed its interest to be associated to AIGA and we are in communication.

**China** poses a slightly different challenge for the industry. AIGA is in the process of establishing a representative office in Shanghai so that the major gas companies will be able to promote the cause for better safety standards there.

Two other countries that will also be within AIGA's radar screen will be India and South Korea and we hope to see new progress in 2004. 



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