

2004 Annual General Meeting New Officers Line Up

The AIGA held its annual general meeting on 28 September 2004.

This was also the occasion for the renewal of the Board as it had completed the first 2-year term of office at this meeting.

The following new Board members and office bearers were confirmed for the term 2005-2006:

President: Mike Huggon (BOC)
Vice President: Lee Chun Wah (AL)
Secretary: Michael D. Douglas (Praxair)
Treasurer: Robert D. Dixon (AP)
Board Members:

Yoshihiro Kira (Iwatani International)
 Mikio Abe (Taiyo Nippon Sanso)
 Helmut Schneider (Messer China)
 A.V.L. Narsimha Rao (Ceylon Oxygen)
 Loke Chong Ngean (AL), Chair, Technical Committee

At the Board meeting on the same day, the Board also confirmed the appointments on the Technical Committee, comprising:

Chairman: Loke Chong Ngean (AL)
Vice Chairman: Howard Evans (BOC)

Members: A.V.L. Narsimha Rao (Ceylon Oxygen)
 Tom Lout (Praxair)
 James Lucas (AP)
 Ken K. Ikoma (Taiyo Nippon Sanso)
 Sadao Yasumi (Iwatani)
 Antonio Rivera (Messer China) 



AIGA Shanghai Representative Office

Although the China Representative Office had been established since early 2004, the search for the right candidate to manage the office took a while. The Steering Committee in China is delighted to have Miss Liu Yu Mei join the office as executive director of the China Representative Office from October 2004.

Miss Liu had worked in the gas industry previously. She was with the Beijing Oxygen Company (1987-1992) and subsequently joined Beijing Praxair (1993). She left the gas industry to join Bard

International and graduated from the EMBA programme of Remin-SUNY, Buffalo in 2002.

She lives in Beijing and commutes to Shanghai to work.

The China Representative Office supports the Technical Committee there by assisting in the study of the impact of new

regulations on the gas industry.

The Representative Office has also tied up with the Association of International Chemical Manufacturers (AICM), as a member. AICM is an association comprising many international chemical companies operating in China.

inside

- Highlights on Technical Work Groups
- New Directions for Work Groups ● New AIGA Publications
- 2nd Technical Meeting 2005

Highlights on Technical Work Groups

Electronic & Specialty Gases (ESG) WG

The ESG WG met in Shanghai for 2 days in October 2004.

The WG has issued two new documents AIGA 003/04 and AIGA 005/04 thus far (see titles under New AIGA Publications).

The focus of the meeting was to complete the draft on the **'Safe Handling of Electronic Specialty Gases'** a new document that they had planned to issue.

The draft document went through final scrutiny and has been submitted to the TC for final editorial review. The plan is to have this issued by the first quarter of 2005. A related document, EIGA 30/04 on 'Disposal of Gases' is being reviewed for adoption.

Concurrently, the WG has also prepared a supplementary monograph on the toxicity and other properties of the commonly used specialty gases. This will also be published.

Another initiative undertaken by the Work Group is to promote mutual aid among member companies at the country level.

In May 2004, Air Products conducted a training programme on Emergency Response for the EH & S personnel from the local gas industry and government departments in Shanghai and subsequently, Eugene Ngai (AP), a member of the WG has continued to facilitate the exploratory discussion on mutual aid in Shanghai.

After the completion of their first phase projects, the WG will continue its work on short technical notes. The first will be on security.

Labelling WG

The Labelling WG has completed the final draft on the **'Labelling of Gas Containers'**. This is under final editorial review, and will be issued in the first quarter of 2005.

After this, the plan is to re-constitute the WG to work on another project.

Connections WG

The Connections WG plans to complete the two documents: 'Connections for Portable Liquid Cylinders (PLC)' and 'Connections for Bulk Gases' by first quarter of 2005.

The final draft on the PLC connections document is completed and is under final review.

Medical Gases WG

The Medical Gases WG has focused its work on the implementation of Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) for medical gases thus far. The next stage is to have the EIGA document 99/03 GMP for

medicinal gases adopted.


The group has completed the draft of the guidance document (road map) for implementation of GMP. Besides this, it has already written draft technical notes on three elements in the GMP: medical cylinder valves, cylinder filling batch records and medicinal gas container labels. These would serve as model technical notes that could be similarly developed for the other key elements in the GMP.

It targets to have the final documents ready for release by the first quarter of 2005.

Acetylene WG

The WG is reviewing the EIGA 123/04 'Code of Practice for acetylene gas' and hopes to adopt this as an AIGA standard this year. It will also be issuing a safety bulletin on the use of acetylene shortly.

Safety Advisory WG

The SAG has completed the adoption of the first 8 EIGA documents. Currently, it is reviewing a number of EIGA documents and training packages for adoption within AIGA. 

Work Group Members in Transition

Due to changes in their assignments, the following have joined or retired from our Work Groups. We express our sincere thanks to those leaving the Work Groups for their contributions.

ESG Work Group: Retired – Gerry Chen (Praxair), Greg Chen (AP)

Replaced by – Ison Lin (Praxair), Kelvin Huang (AP)

SAG Work Group: Retired – Hugh Sullivan (BOC)

Medical Work Group: Retired – Rod Shephard (BOC)

Replaced by – Kasien Laiyakosit (BOC)

Labelling Work Group: Retired – Stephen Lam (BOC)

Technical Committee: Retired – Toshi Takematsu (Iwatani)

Replaced by – Sadao Yasumi (Iwatani)

A special note goes to Mr. Toshi Takematsu for his active support in our technical work. In addition to his presence on the TC, Toshi was the sponsor for the Acetylene WG and a member on the Labelling and SAG WG. Although Toshi had retired from Iwatani International in July 2004, he is still active in an overseas aid programme in the Dominican Republic.

New AIGA Publications

At the close of 2004, AIGA has issued a total of ten new documents for the year.

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

- AIGA 003/ 04 - Security guidelines
- AIGA 004/ 04 - Handling gas container emergencies
- AIGA 005/ 04 - Fire hazards of oxygen and oxygen enriched atmospheres
- AIGA 006/ 04 - Good environmental management practices for the industrial gas industry
- AIGA 007/ 04 - Job motivation and safe operations in cylinder filling stations
- AIGA 008/ 04 - Hazards of inert gases
- AIGA 009/ 04 - Safety training of employees
- AIGA 010/ 04 - Management of change
- AIGA 011/ 04 - Work permit systems
- AIGA 012/ 04 - Cleaning of equipment for oxygen service


AIGA plans to adopt and adapt as many as possible of the current best-in-class practices from other associations.

The above documents are adopted from the European Industrial Gases Association (EIGA).

Another five EIGA documents are under final review for adoption. These are:

- EIGA Info 1/00 - Safe operations of forklift trucks
- EIGA 102/03 - Safety audit guidelines
- EIGA 90/03 - Incident/accident investigation & analysis
- EIGA 118/04 - Safety rules for contractors
- EIGA 93/03 - Safety features of portable cryogenic liquid containers for industrial & medical gases

In addition to these documents, the Technical Committee is also looking into adopting some of the globally harmonised documents and training packages that are available from both EIGA and member companies.

Some new publications are also expected from the technical work groups in the next few months. 

New Directions for Work Groups

Based on the feedback obtained at the last AIGA Technical Meeting in Phuket, the TC has started a review on the future directions of its technical work. The purpose is to ensure that work groups will be working on the prioritised needs of our association members.

Part of the review has already led the TC to initiate a new **Transportation Work Group**.

At the last TC meeting in November 2004, the TC has defined the new directions for future Work Groups' activities / projects as some of the current projects are close to completion.

Priorities identified based on feedback from national associations and original list of high priority subjects (identified in 2002) are:

- Packaged gases

- Training
- Bulk tank inspection & maintenance
- Hospital installation standards
- Cylinder connections

As technical expertise resource is finite among members in Asia, the approach is to maintain the same number of six work groups while the composition of members may be changed in relation to the work that is required.

Some Work Groups are expected to be re-constituted.

The TC hopes to initiate work in these four areas in 2005:

- Packaged gases
- Training
- Either bulk tank inspection & maintenance or hospital installation standards
- Cylinder connections

New Transportation Work Group

A new Work Group on Transportation has started since September 2004. The TC recognises that the wide range of activities in distribution work requires greater attention and has decided to form two teams to focus on two aspects of work.

Team A:

Cylinder packages transportation

Chaired by:

Antonio Rivera - Messer China

Members:

Rod Midgley / alternate

Liu Lin - AL

John Loh - AP

Hou Xi Sheng - Praxair

Wang Zhou - Taiyo Nippon Sanso

Connie Pan - BOC

Team B:

Bulk Gas Transportation & Drivers' Training

Chaired by:

Adisorn Ruangdej - Praxair

Members:

Samsak Srichantr - AL

Weerachit Sirikul - AP

Nattawad Janteb - BOC

Gary Choo - Taiyo Nippon Sanso

2nd AIGA Technical Meeting 2005

The next AIGA Technical Meeting is scheduled from **August 30-31, 2005 in Singapore.**

The TC is taking into account the many useful feedback from the last meeting in Phuket for the second meeting. One key feedback from members is to have a session with experts to speak on topics of interest.

The 2-day programme will consist of:

- i) A first-day seminar, with expert speakers on a number of topics. The theme will be safety in operations and distribution.
- ii) A second-day Work Groups presentation to highlight their work.

Detailed announcement on the programme will be made later. However, it is not too early to reserve the date in your diary.



National associations roundup

1. The Siam Industrial Gases Association (SIGA)

SIGA is currently actively engaged in consultations with the Thai authorities on proposed new regulations for the (i) standard for cylinder filling stations (ii) training and qualifications of cylinder filling operators. SIGA has received recognition from the authorities as a body representing the industrial gases industry in Thailand.

2. The Industrial Gases Association of Singapore (IGAS)

IGAS is currently working on a safety awareness programme to help gas users on worksites and factories. The first project will be a safety poster for the handling and use of gas cylinders which will be distributed to their customers.

3. Malaysia Industrial Gases Manufacturing Association (MIGMA)

MIGMA has been active in dialogue with various statutory bodies on issues that impact the industry, such as carbide sludge waste, transportation and emergency response and medical cylinder standards. The MIGMA Board had a meeting in early December 2004.



Forthcoming meetings

- Technical Committee / SAG meeting 22-23 February 2005
- Board meeting 3 March 2005

Welcome New Members

- **Chart Industries Asia**, a subsidiary of Chart Industries, Inc. based in the U.S. Chart Industries is a leading global supplier of standard and custom-engineered products and systems for low-temperature and cryogenic applications (Associate Member).
- **Australia – New Zealand Industrial Gases Association, (ANZIGA)** – the association representing the gas manufacturers in the two countries (Reciprocal Associate Member)

Where is Takematsu-san?
(see page 2)



International Harmonisation Council Meeting in Singapore

The IHC, a sub-committee of the IOMA Global Committee is charged with harmonising standards for the gas industry globally.

Current IHC members are CGA, EIGA, JIGA, ANZIGA and AIGA.

IHC has scheduled the coming fall meeting in Asia, tentatively from 1-2 September 2005 and AIGA will host this meeting in Singapore



Asia Industrial Gases Association

298 Tiong Bahru Road #20-01 Central Plaza
Singapore 168730

Tel: (65) 6276 0160 Fax: (65) 6274 9379
E-mail: aigasec@singnet.com.sg

Website: www.asiaiga.org