

Technical Groups Meet For First Time

The AIGA 1st Technical Meeting was held on 27 & 28 May in Phuket. It was the first such gathering of the Work Groups and the Technical Committee. The Board members also joined in by holding the Board meeting in Phuket.

A total of 49 people from all over Asia and the world came and as President Mike Huggon remarked, he counted people of 16 different nationalities!

We had representations from national associations in Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, Korea, Philippines and our China representative office. We also had guests from JIGA, CGA and ANZIGA.

The meeting kicked off with a series of Work Group meetings on 27 May. However, for the Electronic & Specialty Gases (ESG) group, their meetings had already begun in earnest from 25 May. The ESG group of 11 worked furiously through 4 meeting sessions over 4 days.

Although meetings were the order of the day, the coffee breaks provided time for participants to get acquainted and to learn more about what each country is doing in terms of technical and safety practices within the industry.

The first day closed with evening cocktail and dinner reception. President Mike Huggon graciously gave the after dinner talk. He spoke of the importance of promoting good safe practices for the industry as he



Mike Huggon and C.N. Loke, TC Chairman (seated) at the opening of the meeting in Phuket

related this to his own personal work experience.

On 28 May, the Work Groups reconvened for their presentations to the participants comprising members of all the Work Groups, the Board and national associations.

The presentations were to highlight the progress of the technical Work Groups and to promote interactions with the national associations. Guests from ANZIGA, CGA and JIGA were also present and made introductions of their associations.

Despite some wet weather, the

second day turned dry and sunny to allow participants to interact further on the golf course and during sightseeing.

Most participants thought it was a good meeting. For Jerrold Sameth, from Matheson Tri-Gas, it was also a rather eventful week. Jerrold came in from New Jersey, USA, to be at the Electronic and Specialty Gases Work Group meetings. After 2 days of meetings, he had to leave on a 30-hour journey home to attend and solemnize his son's marriage in Chicago. Thankfully, he made it to the ceremony on time!



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Work Group Focus

One of the objectives of the 1st Technical Meeting was to spur our Work Groups on to achieve their first deliverables by the time they got to Phuket.

The objective was achieved. All Work groups were able to get close to finishing their work.

Here are some highlights:

Electronic & Specialty Gases (ESG) Work Group

The task forces came up with recommendations in the four areas of study.

- Security – They proposed the adoption of EIGA 907/02 (pending EIGA's approval). In addition, the new CGA documents P50 and P51 when issued will be cited as references.
- Safe handling of electronic gases – They recommended references to CGA documents P1 – Handling of Compressed Gases in Containers and P 32 – Safe Storage and Handling of Silane and Silane Mixtures.

The main focus of the task force is to issue a new document under AIGA related to Safe Handling of Electronic Gases. The first draft is now complete and they expect this to be ready for approval by the Technical Committee by 3rd quarter 2004.

- Emergency response for distribution activities – They have recommended the adoption of EIGA document 80/01 on Handling Emergency in Gas Containers (subject to EIGA approval).
- Mutual Aid - CGA has agreed that the COMPGEAP (Compressed Gas Emergency Action Plan) manual could be used to develop a similar mutual aid framework for Asia. The task team will be putting together the basic framework and will recommend that this be initially set up for AIGA members in China.

Labelling Group

They have completed the first draft of a simplified and user friendly guideline on labelling for the commonly used industrial gases. Mixtures are not covered.

The basis of the document will be in line with the EIGA 906/02 and the UN Globally Harmonised System (GHS). The completed draft will be submitted to the Technical Committee after the Phuket meeting.

Medical Gas Work Group

The group is using the EIGA document 99/03 Good Manufacturing Practice for Medicinal Gases as a basis to develop documents.

The group has decided on a slightly different approach from the other groups. They think it is important to obtain the feedback from the national associations during the process of developing a document. As a result of this, they have requested that the TC approve the working draft to be circulated to the national associations first. They will obtain their feedback and will make the necessary changes before preparing it for the final AIGA approval.

They started off by drafting a gas cylinder valve document as well as a document on AIGA policy (on GMP) and implementation.

The group believes that the medical gases policy should be put in place first as it is critical to ensure a clear understanding of the whole process of implementing a GMP.

The Work Group is considered permanent as it will take a number of years before a reasonable GMP can be developed across Asia.

Currently, the first document on medical gas cylinder valves is on restricted circulation to the national associations for comments.

The next set of document they will be working on is in the area of cylinder filling batch record.

Gas Connections Work Group

The group will be putting the finish touches on the first recommendations on liquid connections for the 160-litre portable liquid gas containers (LGC).

Besides this, they are also completing their final recommendations on the standardization of connections for stationary storage vessels and tank trucks. They expect to send their recommendations to the TC in the 3rd quarter of 2004.

Acetylene Work Group

The group will follow up on the working draft of the EIGA code of practice for acetylene gas to see if this can be adopted. This will be the focus of their work in the next few months.

Meanwhile, they have prepared a draft document of a bulletin on safe use of acetylene gas. They expect to send this to the TC after the Phuket Meeting.

AIGA - EIGA Documents

AIGA set to adopt 8 EIGA safety documents
The Safety Advisory Group (SAG) has been tasked with reviewing the first lot of eight EIGA safety documents with the view to have them adopted as AIGA documents.

These are expected to be ready for submission to EIGA for approval within the next couple of months.

Another 6 EIGA documents have been earmarked for adoption.

Notable recent EIGA documents

EIGA has issued a number of new documents as well as updated a number of older ones since the beginning of 2004. These include:

- IGC Document 30/04 – Disposal of Gases
- IGC Document 52/04 E – Load Securing of Class 2 Receptacles (Revision of IGC Doc 52/94E)

- IGC Document 56/04: CO2 Tanker Driver Manual
- IGC Document 115/04 E – Storage of Cryogenic Air Gases at Users' Premises (Revision of Document 16/85 and Document 17/85)
- IGC Document 116/04E – Code of Practice for Nitrous Oxide
- IGC Document 117 /04E – Environmental Impacts of Customer Installations (Revision of TN 515/95)
- IGC Document 118/04E – Safety Rules for Contractors (Revision of TN 21/83)
- IGC Document 119/04E – Periodic Inspection of Static Cryogenic Vessels (Revision of TN 23/99)

Training Packages:

- TP 09/04 – Slips, Trips and Falls
- TP 10/04 – The Work Permit System

National Associations Roundup

Thailand

The Siam Industrial Gases Association (SIGA) held their inaugural general meeting on 22 April. This was the culmination of preparatory work carried out over the last one year. The group had been meeting informally as a pro-tem group.

The association is chaired by Christopher Browning of Thai Industrial Gas. They have established both a Technical and a Safety Committee.

These committees are chaired by Air Liquide Thailand and Praxair Thailand respectively, and they are looking into a range of subjects that are of concern to the industry. One of these is on road transportation and distribution.

Singapore

The Industrial Gases Association of Singapore (IGAS) held their inaugural meeting in August 2003. Chaired by SOXAL's Tan Guan Joo, the association comprises 10 members.

IGAS Technical Committee has been active in representing the industry

in dialogue with the authorities on issues such as revision to standards and upcoming legislations. The Technical Committee is chaired by Gary Choo of National Oxygen.

Malaysia

The Malaysian Industrial Gases Manufacturers Association (MIGMA) exists under the Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers (FMM).

MIGMA is recognized as the standards writing body for the gas industry by the SIRIM, the standards board in Malaysia. MIGMA is working closely with the authorities on new legislations and changes in the existing regulations.

Philippines

In the Philippines, the new association, the Philippine Confederation of Industrial Gases Inc., has just been registered. The chairman is Mr. Norikazu Ishikawa of Ingasco.

Indonesia

The Association of Indonesia Industrial Gases Producers (AIIGP) has been a member of AIGA since 2003. It is

Currently chaired by Mr. H. Harsono of Samator Gas.

The association has recently held safety technical seminars for its members in Jakarta and Surabaya.

China

In China, the AIGA Representative Office has established a representative office in Shanghai. This is headed by Mr. Minda Ho from Praxair China.

The Representative Office intends to engage a full-time Director to run the office in Shanghai.

There is also a Technical Committee formed among the member companies in Shanghai which is chaired by Tony Rivera from Messer China Group. The TC is also actively engaged in discussion with local authorities with regard to changes in regulations for the gases industry.

Korea

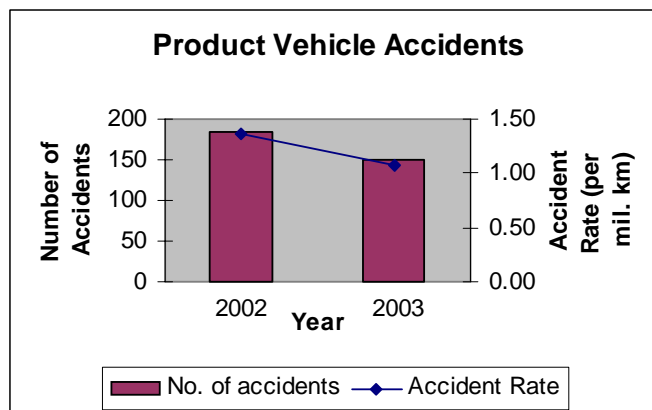
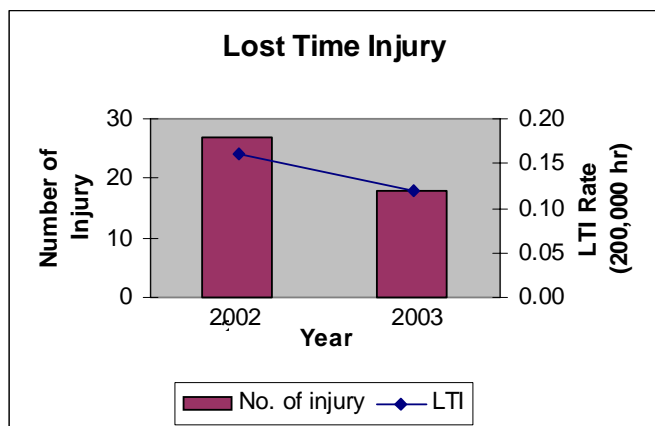
The Korea Industrial Gases Safety Association (KIGSA) has enrolled as a member of AIGA from July 2004. Heading the KIGSA is Kim Seok Jae of Korea Industrial Gases .



Safety Statistics


AIGA started the collection of lost time injury and vehicle accident frequencies among members from the year 2002. The breakdown below shows the basic statistics.

For more information, log on to www.asiaiga.org



Meeting in Taiwan

Having established a friendly dialogue with the Taiwan High Pressure Gas Industrial Association (THPGIA) since 2003, the TC and Work Groups have kept up the momentum by holding meetings in Taipei to stay in touch with each other. In February this year, the TC, led by C.N Loke, was warmly welcomed in Taipei by Mr.

John Miao, Chairman of THPGIA and President of BOC-LienHwa. The 2-day meeting, which included a TC and a Safety Advisory Group meeting was held at the BOC LienHwa Board room. 

Pictured below (L - R): John Lin (Sanfu), John Miao, C.N Loke, Kennie Chen (AL Far East), Frank Chou & Mike Mathews (BOC-LienHwa) at the TC meeting.



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