

## AIGA's New Secretary General

AIGA is pleased to announce that Milan Sarkar, formerly with Praxair India, has assumed the Secretary General position in February 2014. He will be in transition with the current Secretary till end of March.

Milan graduated in Engineering in India in 1978 and has a varied engineering career spanning 35 years. He started his career in the steel industry in 1978 and joined the gas industry with India Oxygen (now Linde India) in 1984. After a brief stint away in a Coal Gassification works, Milan returned to the gases industry in 1990. He has been with Praxair India for the last 17 years.

Milan has held positions in operations, distribution, engineering installations, plant commissioning and maintenance. He was head of operations in Praxair before his last position in Reliability, Quality, Safety and Productivity.

He was a member of the AIGA Packaged Gases Work

Group five years ago and was also the chairman of the Technical Committee for the Gas Industries Association, India.

The AIGA Board is delighted to have Milan on board to lead AIGA forward.

Milan will be based in Bangalore, India. The AIGA registered office remains in Singapore.



Milan Sarkar

After 10 years as the Secretary General, LOW Wing Keong retires from AIGA. LOW was first appointed in 2003 when AIGA was established. Since then AIGA has progressed steadily with the National Associations and active participation with the International Harmonization Council (IHC) on global standards for the industry.

## Board Changes

New appointments and changes were also seen at the recent AIGA Board meeting on 19 February 2014. Foremost was the resignation of the Board President, Anne Roby. Anne had to relinquish the position as she is returning to the U.S. to take up a new appointment.

Mok Kwong Weng who was the Vice President stepped up to the position of President. The Vice President position will be vacant until new elections take place in October 2014.

At the same time, the Board welcomes the following new members:

Werner Hickel, who succeeded Helmut Schneider as the Country Manager for Messer China, takes over from



Mok Kwong Weng, President

Helmut as a Board member. Helmut was on the AIGA Board from 2004 and held the appointments of Treasurer and Secretary over the years.

John Panikar, who succeeded Anne Roby as President Praxair Asia, takes over from Anne as a Board member. John had been a Board Member in the Gas Industries Association, India when he was based in India a few years ago.

AIGA extends its thanks and best wishes to both Anne and Helmut for their services and leadership on the Board.

## International Harmonisation Council (IHC) Update

The four regional associations in U.S (CGA), Europe (EIGA), Asia (AIGA) and Japan (JIMGA) met in Sydney at the end of February 2014 for the biannual IHC Meeting. This is the 34<sup>th</sup> IHC Meeting for the group.



IHC group in Sydney.  
Kathryn Walton, Executive Officer, ANZIGA, on front row left.

The meeting was specially hosted by the Australia-New Zealand Industrial Gases Association (ANZIGA), also affiliated to the IHC.

The Secretary General and Wichit Sophitanonrat (Linde) from the Technical Committee attended the meeting. The meeting focused on:

- Further optimization of the work process to improve communication and resource support among members.
- Gap analyses to evaluate if the current technical publications have sufficiently addressed the various risks in areas such as air separation, specialty gases and acetylene.
- New work items for harmonisation

The next IHC Meeting is scheduled to be held in Belgium at the end of July 2014. AIGA looks forward to hosting the 36<sup>th</sup> Meeting in Asia in February 2015.

# 2013 Seminars at National Associations

The Taiwan High Pressure Gas Industrial Association (THPGIA) successfully organized its annual seminar this year at the National Technology University of Taipei's auditorium on 6 September 2013. The government agency, Council of Labor Affairs in Taipei was once again a major sponsor of the event as it strongly supports the training programme put up by the Association each year.

This year's seminar theme was 'Gas Process Safety Management'. This theme addresses the risks associated with the operations of various specialty gases used in the electronics industry and is a very apt topic given the significance of this industry in the country.

The topics covered included the observations and lessons learned from recent incidents on spillage of highly hazardous gases, for example, with hydrogen fluoride in Asia.

AIGA member companies tapped onto the global resources on the topics discussed while speakers were drawn from both Taiwan and other Asian countries.

**In China, the AIGA Representative Office** organized a one-day seminar in Beijing on 22 November.

The seminar was on the 'Safe Transportation of Gases' and was developed with the objective of sharing best practices in the industry worldwide with some of the provincial transportation bureaus and other invited logistics companies.

The seminar papers presented included updates from the transportation bureaus on recent legislations as well as best practices adopted by the major gases companies worldwide.



*Speakers at the Taiwan Seminar*

*Henry Liu (Air Liquide Far East), Ray Bailey (Air Products), Y.S. Kim (Air Products) and Enrique E Troy (Praxair).*

The participants comprised a select group of about thirty people. The seminar closed with a dinner to promote further exchange of experiences and ideas.

**Over in the Philippines**, the Association, Philippine Confederation of Gases Industries Inc. held its first workshop cum introduction Meeting on 27 November at the F1 hotel in Fort Bonafacio, Manila.

The Workshop was the idea of the Technical Committee chaired by Alex Co (Linde Philippines), to introduce the Association to the industry and to promote the importance of safety in the gas industry.

A total of 60 participants attended

the Workshop on the theme of 'Oxygen Safety'. The full Executive Committee of PCIGI was present to support the event.

Three speakers from the member companies Linde Philippines, Air Liquide Philippines and Ingasco shared the key points on the risks of handling oxygen and how to adopt safe and good practices.

The majority of the participants were invited from the small gas producers and distributors.

The participants were very positive about what they had learned from the Workshop. Given the geographic spread of the Philippines, the Association will look at doing a similar event in Cebu for the gas industry people in the south region.



*Alex Co at the Philippines Seminar*



*L-R: Alex Co (TC chairman), Tristan P. Dumlaog (PCIGI Chairman), Ilyong Park (PCIGI Treasurer), Hisayuki Usui and Masataka Nagata (Ingasco, Inc.)*

## Changes at AIGA China Representative Office

At the AIGA China Representative Office, a few notable changes have taken place.

Remi Charachon (Air Liquide China) relinquished his position as chairman of the Steering Committee in November 2013 as he took on a new position in Europe. Remi had been the chairman from 2008. Steven Fang (Linde China) was elected as the new chairman. Steven has been on the Steering Committee since 2008.

F. Ohya (Iwatani) also retired as a member of the Steering Committee and is succeeded by Yutaka Suhara (Iwatani).

Ohya-san had served on the Committee since the beginning in 2004.

Du Pu (Messer China) completed a 2-year term of office as the chairman of the Technical Committee, and Liu Lu Bin (Air Liquide China) has taken over from November 2013.

Liu Yu Mei (Miss), the director for the AIGA China Representative Office since 2004 will be moving on in the next few months. The Committee will be recruiting a new director to take over.

# AIGA 2014 Work Plan

Working in consultation with the Work Groups and the AIGA Board, the Technical Committee has finalized the 2014 Work Plan.

The plan has no major changes from the previous year but will focus on specific goals for each of the Work Groups.

Highlights of the plan include the following:

- Supporting those National Associations who are keen to organize training seminars in their countries

- Translating more AIGA publications into Chinese
- Removing the delineation of work scope for the Transportation Work Group's team A and team B to allow for either team to work on all areas related to transportation safety
- In addition to adopting harmonized publications in conjunction with the other regional associations, the Work Groups will undertake a few projects independently.



## AIGA Technical Committee & Work Groups - March 2014

Work Groups	Technical Committee	Safety Advisory Group	Medical Gases WG	Packaged Gases WG	Electronic Specialty Gases WG	Transportation WG(A) - Packaged Gases WG	Transportation WG(B) Bulk/ Drivers Safety WG
<b>Air Liquide</b>	LOKE Chong Ngean	<b>LOKE Chong Ngean</b>	CN Loke (to facilitate AL feedback)	pending nomination	Margaret ANG	LIU LuBing	Vera JARUGARUNA
<b>Air Products</b>	Haris FAROOQI	Raymond BAILEY	Patrick Cheng	LUO Lan	<b>Haris FAROOQI/ Raymond BAILEY/LEE Jin-Sup</b>	Nicholas YONG	Weerachit SIRIKUL / Amorn JUNGSKUL
<b>Linde Gas Asia</b>	Wichit SOPHITA-NONTRAT	Wichit SOPHITA-NONTRAT	<b>Wichit SOPHITA-NONTRAT/ Poh-Lyn YEOH</b>	<b>Ramana VUTUKURU</b>	LEI Hai Ping	Glen GORHAM	<b>Nattawud JANTEB</b>
<b>Iwatani Corp.</b>	Muhammad DANI/Susumu TOMIDA	Muhammad DAN/Susumu TOMIDA					
<b>Messer China</b>	DU Pu	Thomas RUBBERT			LI Hong Wei	<b>DU Pu</b>	
<b>Taiyo Nippon Sanso</b>	Gary CHOO	LUM Kok Whye	Keita Kajiyama	LEE Hong Yin/ <b>Gary CHOO</b>	Mark PRUSIECKI	SHU Fei	N. PONTHEP
<b>Praxair</b>	<b>Mike SHANNON/ Chairperson</b>	Enrique Elias TROY	Mike SHANNON	Arindam DAS	Frank YANG	Cyrus LIU	<b>M.SHANNON/ Muangmon PONGMITA-MORRA</b>
<b>Co-opted</b>	Milan SARKAR (Sec-General)				<b>BLUE denotes Sponsors; BOLD denote chairpersons.</b>		

## List of AIGA publications (as at March 2014)

AIGA 003/07	- Security guidelines (Members' access only)	AIGA 015/05	- Safety rules for contractors
AIGA 004/13	- Handling gas container emergencies	AIGA 016/05	- Safety features of portable cryogenic liquid containers for industrial & medical gases
AIGA 005/10	- Fire hazards of oxygen and oxygen enriched atmospheres	AIGA 017/05	- Labelling of gas containers (& associated equipment)
AIGA 006/10	- Good environmental management practices for the industrial gas industry	AIGA 018/10	- Safe handling of electronic specialty gases
AIGA 007/04	- Job motivation and safe operations in cylinder filling stations	AIGA 019/05	- Connections for portable liquid cylinders
AIGA 008/11	- Hazards of inert gases and oxygen depletion	AIGA 021/12	- Oxygen pipeline systems
AIGA 009/10	- Safety training of employees	AIGA 022/13	- Code of Practice for acetylene
AIGA 010/04	- Management of change	AIGA 023/05	- Good manufacturing practice guide for medicinal gases
AIGA 011/04	- Work permit systems	AIGA 024/10	- Connections for transportable & static bulk storage tanks
AIGA 012/04	- Cleaning of equipment for oxygen service	AIGA 025/13	- Pressure receptacles with blocked or inoperable valves
AIGA 013/05	- Incident/accident investigation & analysis		
AIGA 014/05	- Safety audit guidelines		

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AIGA 026/13	- Principles for safe handling & distribution of high toxic gases & mixtures	AIGA 058/13	- Safe preparation of compressed oxidant fuel gas mixtures in cylinders
AIGA 027/06	- Cryogenic vaporisation systems -prevention of brittle fracture of equipment & piping	AIGA 059/09	- Design considerations to mitigate potential risks of toxicity of non-metallics in high pressure oxygen breathing systems
AIGA 028/06	- Unmanned Air Gas plant - Design & Operation	AIGA 060/11	- Safe installation and operation of PSA and membrane oxygen and nitrogen generators
AIGA 029/10	- Code of practice for nitrogen trifluoride	AIGA 061/13	- Safe use of gas cylinders in marine service
AIGA 030/13	- Storage of cryogenic air gases at users' premises	AIGA 062/09	- Methods to avoid and detect internal gas cylinder corrosion
AIGA 031/14	- Bulk oxygen, nitrogen & argon storage systems at production sites	AIGA 063/09	- Use of residual pressure valves
AIGA 032/12	- Perlite Management	AIGA 065/13	- Avoidance of failure of CO and CO-CO2 mixtures in cylinders
AIGA 033/06	- Hydrogen transportation pipelines	AIGA 066/10	- Selection of Personal Protective Equipment
AIGA 034/06	- Carbon monoxide & syngas pipeline systems	AIGA 067/10	- Safe location of oxygen and inert gas vents
AIGA 035/13	- Safe operation of reboilers/condensers in ASU's	AIGA 068/10	- Carbon Dioxide
AIGA 036/06	- Guidelines for management of waste acetylene cylinders	AIGA 069/10	- Recommendations for safe filling of carbon dioxide cylinders and bundles
AIGA 037/06	- Permissible charge/filling conditions for acetylene cylinders	AIGA 070/10	- Leak detection fluids - cylinder packages
AIGA 038/06	- Vertical cylinder handling & transportation	AIGA 071/13	- Centrifugal compressors for oxygen service
AIGA 039/06	- Road transport emergency preparedness	AIGA 072/11	- Guidelines for transport by sea of MEGC's and portable tanks for transport of gases
AIGA 040/06	- Good practices guide for loading & unloading of cryogenic liquid tankers	AIGA 073/13	- Tap water corrosion of composites with AA 6061 liners
AIGA 041/06	- Defensive driving	AIGA 074/11	- Safe handling of carbon dioxide containers that have lost pressure
AIGA 042/13	- Work injury and product vehicle accident statistics	AIGA 075/11	- Calculation method for analysis & prevention of overpressure during filling of cryogenic tanks
AIGA 043/07	- Transport security guidelines (Members' access only)	AIGA 076/13	- Safe use of aluminum structured packing for oxygen distillation
AIGA 044/07	- Flexible connections in high pressure gas systems	AIGA 077/11	- Guidelines for handling externally contaminated medical cylinders in a pandemic situation
AIGA 045/07	- Gaseous hydrogen stations	AIGA 078/12	- International Harmonisation Council - Work Process
AIGA 046/08	- Periodic inspection of static cryogenic vessels	AIGA 079/12	- Safe design & operation of cryogenic enclosures
AIGA 047/08	- Safe preparation of gas mixtures	AIGA 080/13	- Safe practices for the production of nitrous oxide from ammonium nitrate
AIGA 048/12	- Reciprocating compressors for oxygen service	AIGA 081/13	- Safe practices for the storage and handling of nitrous oxide
AIGA 049/08	- Guidelines to bulk medical oxygen supply system for healthcare facilities	AIGA 082/13	- Combustion safety for steam reformer operation
AIGA 050/08	- Code of practice for Arsine	AIGA 083/13	- Disposal of gases
AIGA 051/08	- Code of practice for Phosphine	AIGA 084/13	- Methodology to establish Product Carbon Footprint
AIGA 052/08	- Storage and handling of silane and silane mixtures	AIGA 085/13	- Liquid oxygen, nitrogen, argon cryogenic tanker loading system guide
AIGA 053/13	- Code of practice for fluorine and mixtures with inert gases	AIGA 086/14	- Safe startup & shutdown practices for steam reformers
AIGA 054/08	- Prevention of excessive pressure during filling of cryogenic vessels		
AIGA 055/14	- Installation guide for stationary, electric motor driven centrifugal liquid oxygen pumps		
AIGA 056/14	- Safe practice guide for cryogenic air separation plants		
AIGA 057/10	- Safe use of brazed aluminum heat exchangers for producing pressurized oxygen		

 Globally Harmonised Documents.

Other publications include position papers, safety bulletins and training packages.

