



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY ENGINEERS KUWAIT CHAPTER

Protecting people, property and the environment since 1911

December-2004

Newsletter



"3rd International Professional Development Conference & Exhibition -5th & 6th Dec'04

The Third International Health, Safety, Environment and Loss Prevention Professional Development Conference & Exhibition organized by the Kuwait Chapter of the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE-KC) was inaugurated on 4 December, 2004 at Radisson SAS. Over 250 safety experts & professionals in this field from around the world, the Gulf region and Kuwait gathered for the inaugural function of the conference. It was then followed by two days of intensive and highly specialized technical papers presented by national & international renowned experts in the field and were attended by over 200 delegates. The exhibition had 23 stalls of companies and institutions that displayed the latest equipment and technology available in the field of safety and protection.

DAY 1: INAUGURATION.



The grand inauguration was held at 7 pm on 4th December 2004. Proceedings were opened with the playing of the National Anthem followed by a recitation from the Holy Quran. Opening remarks of program was given by Dr. Waleed BuHamrah (Assistant Professor, Chemical Faculty, Kuwait University) who then introduced Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled Al-Sabah who delivered the inaugural address on behalf of Energy Minister Sheikh Ahmed Al-Fahad Al-Sabah who was indisposed.

Then Mr. Gene Barfield the current president of American Society of Safety Engineers (US Headquarters) delivered the keynote address. Mr. Barfield was very impressed at the size of the event and the number of attendees at the inauguration.



Mr. Fadhel Al-Ali, Chairman of ASSE – Kuwait Chapter thanked all guests and participants and gave a brief on the achievements of the society. This was followed by an address by Mr. Talal Al-Saklou, VP – Saudi Arabian – Texaco who said he was proud to be associated with such an important conference. Dr. Ali Al-Hemood, Scientific Committee Chairman, presented an overview of the program agenda and conference schedule.

Finally came the exhaustive vote of thanks from the organizing committee president Mr. Ujwal Ritwik. He first outlined the ASSE-Kuwait Chapter's year-round activities that ranged from

monthly networking meetings and technical symposiums to organizing conferences such as the present PDC. He went on to thank the patrons, sponsors and supporters of the society and its activities.



THE CONFERENCE

Held over two days, 5 & 6 December 2004, the aim of the two-day professional development conference was to promote safety, health and environmental protection throughout the region by providing practitioners from industry and educational institutions to share experiences, updates in the latest technological advances, new ideas as well as the latest in protective equipment, services and training programs. Each conference day was divided into plenary and technical sessions. The plenary sessions

comprised of those presentation topics that was of a general nature where it was profitable to everyone in the safety field. The plenary sessions were followed by two simultaneous parallel technical sessions. In these sessions, topics of a more specialized nature were dealt with.

THE EXHIBITION

The event as in the past conferences featured an exhibition of a collection of companies interested in displaying their state of the art products and services in the field of safety, health and environment. The exhibition was open to all during the conference timings while the delegates visited the stands during the breaks between their sessions. One outstanding feature of this exhibition was the **B2B** (Business to Business) room which was the room set



assigned for delegates and visitors to have refreshments and at the same time arrangements were made so that those companies having stands in the exhibition could come and give presentations on their products & services and answer any queries from the delegates and visitors. This service was unique to this event and was highly appreciated by the companies as they got a platform to give details of their products. There were 19 companies that participated in the exhibition.

Proposal on “Pilot Study on Health Outcomes of Kuwait Petroleum Workers. By Dr. Madhav Rao 6th Dec, Hilton Resort.



Petroleum industry is the backbone of Kuwait’s economy and contributes 80% of the country’s GNP. The industry is state-owned and employs the cream of Kuwaitis and expatriates. Workers as well as general population have exposures to petroleum bi-products of varying degree of concentrations. Several fractions of petroleum are known to be hazardous to health- resulting in disorders of blood,

respiratory system, skin, kidneys and nervous system. Benzene is an established human carcinogen. Innumerable number of non-petroleum agents associated with petroleum industry is also hazardous in their own right. More than one hazard at the place of work means the toxic effects are additive.

It therefore becomes necessary to determine the extent of impact on health of petroleum industry workers with a view to develop a comprehensive strategy to address the issue. At present technology is available to help identify earliest changes at chromosomal level much before the disease has actually set in!

Most documented health effects are clinically manifest. However, there is a large spectrum of sub-clinical illness that impacts productivity and health. There are issues of latency period, i.e., disease occurring after long years of exposure, sometimes after retirement. Therefore the link between the exposures and health effects is often not noticed, not recorded and hence not reported. There is extensive literature, which suggests that health impact is much more than what is seen. The health impact remains unknown thereby blocking possible efforts to take effective preventive measures. There is an increasing demand from the neighborhood, which is exposed to effluents, and pollution from the industry, though at lesser levels of concentration, to be informed of the health risks.

Therefore it is proposed to carry out a longitudinal, comprehensive study to determine the health outcomes of petroleum industry workers in Kuwait in specific and in the GCC region, in general. The study will not only address the issue of the nature, type and extent of health impact, but will also define the groups of people involved, their levels of exposures and circumstances of exposures. It will also investigate into early changes that take place at the cellular level. Further, the study will explore if early changes in cells, long before symptoms of disease, can indicate / predict future disease.

The Pilot study

It is proposed to carry out a pilot study as a prelude to a more comprehensive study to determine the health outcomes of petroleum industry workers. This pilot study will collect information necessary for the launching the main study. A pilot study needs less resource, has a shorter time frame, serves as a start up and forms an operational basis for the wider study.

The pilot will initially include *100 petroleum workers*, selected representatively and 100 un-exposed workers. Both the groups will be investigated for their detailed work histories, past and current exposures, health status including review of systems, clinical examination, linking of past health records, physiological tests skin, lungs, heart, nervous system, laboratory examination of blood, urine, and biological sampling.

ASSE-KC MEMBER STATUS

Currently ASSE-KC has 119 members.

Upgradation : Mr.Rajendar Dahiya has been awarded a "CSP" from BCSP, USA. He is the third ASSE-KC member to get this important certification

Editorial Board

N. Vasudevan, Publication Committee

G. Ashok, Secretary

www.assekuwait.org

C/o. Kuwait Society of Engineers, P. O. Box. 4047, Safat – 13041, Kuwait.

Phone: 6846040, 2445588 Ext. 311, Fax. 2428148, E-mail :assekuwait@hotmail.com