



IECEX 2008 Industry Symposium Electrical Equipment in Explosive Atmosphere

Date: 30th - 31st January 2008

Venue: Brunei Asia Pacific Shell Learning Hub (BAPSLH), Seria, Brunei Darussalam

The first IECEx 2008 Industry Symposium was initiated by the Brunei National Standards Technical Committee (TECO Electrical) with the support from the Energy Division, Prime Minister's Office and the Construction Planning & Research Unit (CPRU), Ministry of Development, Brunei Darussalam. The Symposium was organized by the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET), Brunei Darussalam Network in collaboration with IEC-APRC and IECEx; and was hosted by Brunei Asia Pacific Shell Learning Hub (BAPSLH).

Brunei Shell Petroleum's (BSP) Asset Director, Haji Salleh Bostaman Bin Haji Zainal Abidin, gave a welcoming address at the IECEx 2008 Industry Symposium, followed by the "Introduction of IEC" by Mr. Dennis Chew, OIC-APRC and a presentation on the "Importance and Benefits of IECEx" by Mr. Chris Agius, from the IECEx Secretariat, Australia. The Symposium was officially declared open by the Guest of Honour, Yang Mulia Haji Ismail Bin Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Setia Dato Paduka Hj Hashim, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Energy Division at the Prime Minister's Office, Brunei Darussalam.

In total 189 participants attended the Symposium from the following countries:

- Australia
- Brunei Darussalam
- Germany
- Korea
- Malaysia
- Philippines
- Singapore
- Thailand
- United Kingdom

There were 16 presentations from 14 presenters ranging from users, repairers, manufacturing, testing & certifying bodies, standards and regulatory bodies from various countries; Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Germany, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and United Kingdom.

The TECO Electrical committee realized the need to raise public awareness and competency in the use of electrical equipment in various flammable environments such as gas/vapour, dust and fibre that poses a risk for explosion. It was further

stressed that the asset owners are responsible for the safety and protection of its personnel and the plant, and to ensure that electrical equipment in the facility are correctly designed, selected, installed, operated and maintained to minimum acceptable standards.

During the Symposium, Mr. Chris Agius, IECEx Secretary and the participants witnessed the presentation of the World's first IECEx Service Facility Certificate by Mr. Mike Shearman, SIRA, UK to Mr. Wirote Wannasiwaporn, MD of MARC, Thailand; this being the world's first Repairer Workshop to meet the IECEx Standards in Asia Pacific. This was followed by another presentation of the first IECEx Service Facility Certificate by Dr. Ashraf Chowdhury, Simtars, Australia to Wehaya Sdn Bhd, Malaysia, Malaysia's first Repair and Overhaul Workshop to gain this significant achievement.

The challenges on the determination of hazardous area classification and application of Ex electrical equipment were presented and discussed. It also made references to the use of risk management to ensure personal safety and technical integrity. The Symposium was very interactive and constructive with enthusiastic question/answer sessions from the floor, technical clarifications, and the proposed way forward and solutions to tackle unresolved issues from the two-day event. There were lots of discussions on asset integrity and maintenance, certified Ex equipment, repair and overhaul of Ex equipment, staff development and competency assessment.

BAPSLH has developed its in-house training course for Ex certified equipment since 2003. During the event, there was a live demonstration on the effects and consequences of non-compliant equipment. The course is available and has been extended to third parties. Brunei Shell is actively preparing for an external independent body to assess the course contents for accreditation. Mr. Chris Agius, IECEx Secretary, visited the learning hub and commended BAPSLH on its excellent facilities and dynamic approach towards competency-based training.

The topics on ATEX directives and International Standards were presented and discussed providing the delegates with a clearer picture on the various requirements. In presenting the manufacturer's perspective, Ms. Kim Lim from and Dr. Thorsten Arnhold commented on manufacturers' preference to opt for one international standard approach, for instance, IECEx, rather than providing test certificates for each of the individual countries. Ms. Caroline Voon Oi Mee from BSP presented the challenges on the application of technology (including wireless) with respect to Ex compliance for the Oil & Gas Industry.

The close-out session of the Symposium summarized the vision and way forward that were fed back from the participants. There is a timely need for Brunei Darussalam to adopt and participate in the IEC TC31 standards, re-enforce the IEC 60079-19 and repair capability, and to assess and accredit the Ex training courses. In the longer term, there is the drive to align with IECEx compliance. There is a strong desire and request for the availability and accessibility of the IECEx Competency Standards for staff competency assessment and benchmarking against others across the globe.

In acceptance of the importance of this field, the Symposium unanimously agreed to the following:

- The adoption of IEC TC31 Standards as Brunei National Standards
- The involvement by the national industries in the work of IEC TC31
- The timely need IECEx certification to serve as a minimum requirement for Ex equipment and services as a mid-to-longer term vision
- The need to formally inform the IECEx of the Symposium's support for the need for IECEx to progress to its current work on Ex Personnel Competency Certification as a priority

The IET Chairman, Hj Abd Rahman Bin Hj Modin gave the closing remarks and touched on risk management of Ex equipment in explosive atmosphere, and the need to act on the outcome from the Symposium on the vision and way forward for Brunei Darussalam.

Prepared by,

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On behalf of IET Brunei Darussalam Network &
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