

CENTER FOR CHEMICAL PROCESS SAFETY HOLDS 3rd ASIA-PACIFIC MEETING IN MUMBAI

Companies focus on the importance of workplace culture and metrics in improving process safety.

NEW YORK, NY – The Center for Chemical Process Safety (CCPS), held its 3rd Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting on May 17th in Mumbai, India. The meeting, hosted by Toyo Engineering India, Ltd., brought together CCPS member companies from India and Asia, to discuss challenges and opportunities in improving process safety in the region.

“The number of potential incidents is unlimited, and all have global impact,” said Mr. Hisashi Osone, Managing Director, Toyo Engineering India Ltd., in his welcoming remarks. “Therefore, a global community like CCPS is needed coordinate activities to increase safety awareness and to improve the well being of all stakeholders.”

Chief Guest, Mr. Hirak Dutta, Executive Director, Oil Industry Safety Directorate (OISD), inaugurated the meeting. Detailing OISD’s efforts to regulate and monitor process safety in India in refining, exploration, and pipeline sectors, Mr. Dutta stressed the need for operators to develop a habit to “listen to their plants” as all incidents send out signals of malfunction which the operators should to learn to receive and to interpret. Additionally, he welcomed collaboration with CCPS, as OISD was open to ideas from all sources which would to help plants more safe.

Ms. Maureen Song Chai Kee, Head, HSE Strategy and Governance, Group HSE Division, Petroliaam Nasional Berhad, Malaysia, (Petronas), observed that “appropriate metrics are the key.” “As we implemented our metrics based on CCPS recommendations, we have begun to see improvement,” she added.

Other speakers included Mr. Sanjay Choudhary, Chief Technology and Sustainability Officer, Tata Chemicals Ltd., and Mr. Alok Chandra, Head-Corporate EHS, Rallis India Ltd., who spoke about efforts to strengthen the culture of process safety by engaging the workforce.

Mr. Hiroshi Sumida, Chief Engineer, Engineering Technology Division, Plant Engineering Center, Toyo Engineering Corporation, Japan, talked of the lessons learned from the 2011 Tsunami that struck Japan. He underlined the need to keep potential consequences of catastrophic events like process safety incidents and large natural disasters, however rare, in mind, and to cultivate and disseminate the knowledge and experience of such events to the next generation.

Mr. Ravi Ramaswamy, Vice President-PSM, Centre for HSE Excellence, Reliance Industries Ltd., in his presentation emphasized the need to have a proactive approach in management. “All incidents, even if extremely minor, must be reported and studied, as it is essential to learn from incidents. It is the only way to ensure that such events are not repeated.”

In break-out discussions attendees discussed the process safety challenges that they faced and how CCPS's collaborative efforts provide tools to address those challenges. The highest priority challenges they identified were strengthening the process safety culture in ways that resonate at the local level, and using of suitable global process safety metrics.

Scott Berger, CCPS Executive Director, thanked attendees, speakers, and the host, Toyo India, for a productive meeting. He went on to add, "The Asia-Pacific Region of CCPS is demonstrating leadership and vision in process safety and is, in all ways, a full partner of the CCPS global community."

Attendees agreed to increase the frequency of regional meetings and to plan a two-day conference in 2013. The next regional meeting will be held in October 2012 in Kuala Lumpur.