



MeetingPreview

Latin American Process Safety Conference Set for Buenos Aires, Aug. 8–10

Process safety and plant security in the process industries and their allied branches will come into focus when AIChE's Center for Chemical Process Safety (CCPS) and the Asociación Argentina de Ingenieros Químicos (AAIQ) host the 3rd CCPS Latin American Process Safety Conference and Exposition, to be held Aug. 8–10, 2011, at the Hilton Buenos Aires Hotel, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Specially tailored for industry practitioners, researchers, and policy-makers in South America, the conference will bring together safety experts and exhibitors from companies in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela, Bolivia, the U.S., and around the world to share practical information and technical advances in process safety. Representatives from many sectors of the process industries — including petroleum and gas, petrochemicals, pharmaceuticals, fine chemicals, food, steel, pulp and paper, and agribusiness — along with academic researchers and government representatives will exchange information on innovative developments in the field at technical sessions, exhibits, and a poster session.

Sponsored by organizations including Dow Argentina, Pan American Energy, YPF (Yacimientos Petrolíferos Fiscales), Techint, Petroquímica Cuyo, and Saudi Aramco, the conference is a unique forum for plant managers, safety managers, risk professionals, and service providers to the process safety field to interact with process safety decision-makers from major companies in South America.

Dow Argentina's Nestor Spósito, who chairs a session on fires, explosions and reactivity hazards, says that the Latin American Conference is a valuable opportunity for companies and practitioners in the region. "This conference allows us to spread the latest knowledge about process safety, risk management and risk assessment to the technical, industrial, management, and academic communities, while improving the awareness of the importance of process safety culture," he says. He also notes that, "bringing CCPS and its expertise to South America will improve the way people operate in the region's industry, and drive interest in U.S. investment."

Wide-ranging program

The conference begins on Monday morning, Aug. 8, with a keynote address by Dennis Hendershot, staff consultant at CCPS, who will talk about "Process Safety Management: You Can't Get it Right Without a Good Safety Culture." On



Aug. 9, another featured presentation will be delivered by Scott Berger, Executive Director of CCPS. Berger will discuss "The Ten Biggest Lies about Process Safety," identifying the changes that company leaders need to make to get past the "it can't happen here" mindset, and to accept and embrace changes to the

company's process safety culture and management systems.

The sessions will cover a variety of subjects, with simultaneous translation in English and Spanish. Topics include:

- *Mechanical Integrity* — discussing the latest concepts and practices related to equipment inspection, reliability initiatives, and overall system design, as well as challenges related to language and cultural barriers, varied national regulations, and availability of resources

- *Fires, Explosions, and Reactive Chemicals* — offering presentations on identifying and characterizing these hazards, with operational guidance on how to mitigate them

- *Safety Instrumented Systems* — covering the identification of Independent Protection Layers (IPLs) and Safety Instrumented Functions (SIFs), the assignment of Safety Integrity Levels (SILs), and safety instrumented management systems

- *Case Histories and Lessons Learned* — exploring incidents and near misses experienced by companies in the region

- *Process Safety Culture, Operational Discipline, and Human Factors* — featuring innovative ideas on company-wide and site-specific safety culture improvements, and how to develop and improve operating safety

- *Risk Assessment* — highlighting hazard identification and risk assessment methods and tools, including examples of successful applications (and lessons learned from the misapplication) of these methods in a plant environment

- *Management of Change (MOC)* — exploring effective methods for implementing and enforcing MOC activities, with examples of successes and failures resulting from MOC implementation

- *Process Safety Management (PSM) Systems* — focusing on revisions to existing PSM systems and implementation of new systems in various companies and sectors

- *Process Safety Metrics / Process Safety Indicators* — focusing on the use of the new CCPS Process Safety Metrics and other measures to help companies to continually improve process safety culture and reduce the frequency of incidents.

Program and registration information are available at www.aiche.org/ccps/conferences/LatinAmerica.aspx.

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