

# The V-letter

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE VIRTUAL LOCAL SECTION OF AIChE

MAY 2018 - VOLUME 8, ISSUE 5



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Meeting Begins

9:00 pm EDT/ 8:00 pm CDST/ 7:00 pm MDST/ 6:00 pm PDST

Thursday, May 24, 2018

## Using Big Data to Improve Plant Operations

Aslam Kahn

Production Manager, Asean Bintulu Fertilizer (PETRONAS)

Mr. Khan will speak about the power of Big Data Analytics in his facility. He will give examples of how the Dynamic Risk Analyzer™ has supported improved maintenance, process safety, production, and operations excellence.

Mr. Aslam Khan has more than 20 years of experience in the petrochemical industry. He is currently the Production Manager of Asean Bintulu Fertilizer (ABF), a subsidiary of PETRONAS. Starting his career as a process engineer at ABF, Mr. Khan soon joined the Operations department and specialized in managing Ammonia and Urea operations. In 2006, he joined the Petronas Ammonia plant in Kerteh as the Process Engineering Manager. He returned to ABF in 2009 as the Senior Manager of Production. During his tenure at ABF, he was involved in DCS upgrades, process revamp studies, implementations of plant historian, alarm management and process safety management. Mr. Khan holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Birmingham, UK.

The WebEx meeting invitation has been sent to all VLS members, or you can click the link below:

[Join WebEx meeting](#)

Meeting number (access code): 639 038 693

If you cannot login, please use one of the following phone numbers:

1-866-469-3239 (Toll free in United States and Canada)

1-650-429-3300 (Toll number in United States and Canada)

Send your name and PE state and number to [lg\\_environmental@bellsouth.net](mailto:lg_environmental@bellsouth.net) to receive one hour of continuing education credit.

## Section Elections are Coming

The VLS nominating committee needs volunteers to organize the 2018 Virtual Local Section elections. Two to five volunteers are needed to assist Dan Miller, Committee Chair, in organizing the election for the section's next Chair-Elect, Treasurer and two Directors.

The members of the nominating committee including the Chair will

- Identify possible candidates for each open position
- Select at least one candidate for each position
- Submit the slate of candidates to VLS members for review
- Add any petition candidates within 2 weeks of releasing the initial slate
- Prepare and distribute ballots to the membership with a stated return deadline
- Finalize counts and submit election results to the VLS President for communication

After a three-week voting period, the nominating committee counts the submitted ballots and issues a report to the Section President summarizing the results.

Anyone who is interested in joining the Nominating Committee or running for one of the open leadership positions, please contact Dan Miller at [millerd54@comcast.net](mailto:millerd54@comcast.net).

## Future Webinar Topics

June 28, 2018

Using Simulation to Drive Operational Excellence

November 15, 2018

Rapid Advancement in Process  
Intensification Deployment

## FROM THE EDITOR

In the next few weeks, recent engineering graduates will begin their career as engineers. Help them make the switch from student to working engineer by welcoming them to the workplace.

Besides explaining how to complete expenses reports and obtain access to files on the computer or still in paper form, introduce your new coworker to the Virtual Local Section and our online meetings by sharing this newsletter and our social media platforms

I wished someone had provided meeting information on the local section when I first started working which was before the Internet and Facebook existed.

My first office was in a satellite building where the environmental scientists were located. They could provide meeting information for several scientific societies but not for the engineering societies. I finally found meeting information when I had to visit the main office for a departmental meeting.

I showed up at the AIChE section meeting without contacting an officer first. That seemed to surprise the other members of the local section. Perhaps it was because I was a young member or maybe it was because I was a woman but the first impression was less than welcoming.

A year later, I had moved to Houston, which had a Young Member's Committee to meet and greet new members. In addition, the major employers had a contact person who provided information about monthly meetings and volunteer opportunities. This effort provided a much more welcoming feeling and encouragement to new members to become a volunteer.

Let us copy Houston by encouraging new coworkers to attend a meeting or join the VLS.

## NATIONAL NEWS

The AIChE hosts and co hosts technical conferences around the world. Check [www.aiche.org/conferences](http://www.aiche.org/conferences) for registration and presentation information for this year's events.

Dates	Host School & Contacts
June 5-7	2018 Process Development Symposium Oak Brook, Illinois
June 24-28	Metabolic Engineering 12 (SBE) Munich, Germany
June 24 – 28	North American Mixing Forum Conference San Juan, Puerto Rico
August 12-14	2nd Natural Gas Utilization Workshop College Station, Texas
Sep 16-20	63th Ammonia Plant Safety Symposium Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Oct 26-29	Annual AIChE Student Conference Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Oct 28 – Nov 2	2018 AIChE Annual Meeting Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Nov 4-6	International Conference on Microbiome Engineering Boston MA
Dec 2-4	Food Innovation and Engineering (FOODIE) Conference Napa, California
March 31 - April 4	2019 Spring National Meeting New Orleans, Louisiana

Volunteers are needed to help run the section. You can exercise your current skills or learn new skills. Our most critical need is for help in preparing the monthly newsletter or managing one of our social media platforms. If you are interested in volunteering in one of these areas or one of your own choice, please contact the VLS Volunteer Recruiter at [lg\\_environmental@bellsouth.net](mailto:lg_environmental@bellsouth.net).

## INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY

### *DOE's Science Undergraduate Laboratory Internships Program*

The Department of Energy's (DOE) Science Undergraduate Laboratory Internships (SULI) Program is now accepting applications for the 2018 Fall Term. Applications are due **May 30, 2018 at 5:00 PM ET**.

The SULI program encourages undergraduate students to pursue science, technology, engineering, and mathematics careers by providing research experiences at one of the 17 participating DOE laboratories/facilities located all over the United States.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the opportunity.

## Help Wanted

### **Senior Chemical Engineer - Arden Hills, MN**

**Boston Scientific:** This experienced engineer will work on product and process development to lead the design and commercialization of new innovative technology at our Arden Hills facility.

The candidate must have a desire to utilize their skills to solve technical/complex problems in a hands-on manner, working in a fast-paced environment, and across multiple functions in a global company. Must have BS in Engineering or Chemistry and 5+ years of experience using DFSS tools (DOE, problem solving).

### **Environmental/Safety Manager - Cincinnati, Ohio**

A manufacturing firm needs a skilled manager to oversee compliance at 24 plants and 47 R&D facilities. Must have BS Engineering or IH, 7+ years experience as an EHS leader in a manufacturing environment, managing others; prefer food, pharmaceutical or chemical manufacturing experience. Visit [www.psassociatesinc.com](http://www.psassociatesinc.com) for more information.



## SECTION OFFICERS

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Director 6: Paul Adamson  
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Attendance at a Virtual Section Meeting is open to AIChE Virtual Local Section Members, AIChE members and interested persons. Attendees are required to log into

<http://virtual.aidhe.org/content/join>

to receive the login link and password.

Visit <http://virtual.aidhe.org> for more information on AIChE Virtual Section missions, activities and membership.

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