

TIEMS 1st International workshop on “Fuel Safety & Disaster Management”

Almost as one in his kind, the first TIEMS international workshop on “Fuel Safety & Disaster Management” ever was organized this fall in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. Right in the heart of the jurisdiction of the European Union, the Luxembourg Hilton hotel was the scene for a two days workshop, 26 & 27 September 2008. Kuwait Petroleum North West Europe, by means of its excellent ties to local authorities and services, served as a respectable partner, organizer, sponsor and local host to this workshop.



Jan Berghmans (Q8) & Giedo Van pellicom (TIEMS)



Hilton Hotel Luxembourg

Because the academic world was about to meet the industry, the organizers of the workshop (left in the picture) chose for a more attractive format, i.e. one day workshop with a balanced program and a live exercise on the second day. This successful format was appreciated by all attendants.

The main focus of the workshop was on safety and disaster management in all downstream activities of the international oil industry, such as secondary and tertiary transport, storage of oil, service stations, ...

Because all process industry operations basically rest on academic research, the first three speakers of the workshop highlighted their research results in the fields of semantics (uniform language on fuel safety), a risk analysis model for “uncertain” industry processes combined with BLEVE and a semi-quantitative risk analysis for gasoline storage accidents.

Technical support for enhancing fuel safety was the main theme during the second part of the morning when an integrated safety system for tank farms was presented as well as the benefits of cathodic protection.

The afternoon started with an important flux of IT applications to support crisis and crisis communication management. A virtual exercising program to prepare incident responders for the real thing was a very (inter)active end to the IT chapter.

Finally, the last part of the workshop was introduced by a model for determining the needs of fire safety and fighting equipment in fuel loading facilities which was an excellent bridge to the two last speakers who commented their lessons learned from recent incidents, i.e. a huge fuel spill into water with vapour cloud and a tank wagon fire caused by stray currents.





Mr. Harald Drager, TIEMS President

All attendants ended this workshop, which was a tremendous success, in style with a nice social drink.

After words of thanks by the TIEMS president, Mr. Harald Drager, the workshop was properly closed with concluding comments by the Managing Director of Kuwait Petroleum North West Europe (Q8), Mr. Gerrit Ruitinga.



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Mr. Gerrit Ruitinga, Managing Director KPNWE

And then, on September 27th, there was this famous live exercise at the Q8 fuel depot in the nearby town of Bertrange. A collision of two road tankers at the depot loading point caused a huge fire which could only be managed by the joint efforts of the Q8 depot staff and local emergency services. The exercise was officially concluded by Mr. Jean-Paul Schmit, General Manager Q8 Luxembourg, Mr. Paul Geimer, Mayor of Bertrange and Mr. Gerrit Ruitinga. The exercise was also extensively covered by local media. For the RTL news report on the exercise, check out this link : <http://tele.rtl.lu/waatileft/videoarchiv/v/20080927/3/1003019/>

TIEMS can announce already that the workshop will be continued next year in Antwerp, Belgium from 24 till 26 September 2009.

Jan Berghmans
29 October 2008