

Sustainability in the process industry

The process industry, also known as the process manufacturing industry, refers to the treatment or preparation of raw materials in which a chemical change(s) occurs, as in oil refining, petrochemicals, water and sewage treatment, food processing, and pharmaceuticals. However, according to Industry Department Manager Peter Lee of Singapore's Association of Process Industry (ASPRI), the term process industry applies to only four subsectors: petroleum; petrochemicals; pharmaceuticals; and specialty chemicals. While delivering his presentation at the APO workshop on Innovation and Sustainability Strategies for Growth in the Process Industry held in Singapore, 21–24 October, Lee outlined the emergence of Jurong Island as an integrated chemical hub along with the major performance indicators of those four subsectors in Singapore. The workshop was jointly organized by the APO, SPRING Singapore, and ASPRI, in coordination with ProcessCEM Asia 2008, an international exhibition and conference on plant construction, engineering, and maintenance for the process industry hosted by ASPRI, 22–24 October.

Nineteen private-sector and government agency participants from 14 member countries attended the workshop. They examined the global and regional development of the process industry; learned about its management and safety standards in Singapore; discussed safety, health, and environmental (SHE) measures in the industry in general; and touched upon principles for improving plant

safety and reliability.

The APO deputed three international resource speakers, including Senior Consultant J. David Morgan from Baker O'Brien, USA, who introduced SHE in the US process industry from the late 1980s to the present and

explained the key elements in world-class reliability and maintenance.



Minister Shanmugaratnam (L) visiting the APO booth at ProcessCEM Asia 2008

Participants also attended ProcessCEM Asia 2008, which showcased the latest products, services, trends, and best practices in the process industry. At the opening ceremony Singapore Minister for Finance Tharman Shanmugaratnam described the island nation's growth as the regional process industry hub. The event attracted more than 100 exhibitors from 14 countries. One highlight was an exhibit on local SMEs' capabilities in the process industry organized by SPRING Singapore. As a supporting organization, the APO occupied a booth jointly with SPRING Singapore to promote its activities along with the productivity concept and practices. 