ASMI LEADS SINGAPORE'S PARTICIPATION IN OFFSHORE TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE

Singapore’s participation in the 2006 edition of the Offshore Technology Conference (OTC), the largest international offshore oil and gas exhibition, was organized by ASMI at the request of International Enterprise (IE) Singapore. Singapore made its inaugural appearance in OTC 2005 in a national pavilion led by IE Singapore. The OTC 2006 was held from 1 to 4 May at the Reliant Centre in Houston, Texas in the USA.

The 4-day exhibition this year attracted more participation fuelled by the boom in the offshore oil and gas industry. Some 2,229 companies from more than 30 countries participated in OTC 2006, taking up a total exhibit space of 470,000 sq. ft. This was an increase of 246 exhibitors compared to the year before.

Representing Singapore in the 2,000 sq ft pavilion were eight companies from the marine and offshore sector. They were Franklin Offshore International, Keppel Offshore & Marine, Offshore Seals, Seabed Marine, Sencor Salvage & Marine, Singapore Offshore Petroleum Services, Tri-Star Industries and Marshall Cavendish Information. The companies showcased and promoted their latest offshore services, technology and solutions to the international oil and gas communities. The collective participation as a national group in OTC 2006 was supported by IE Singapore and Singapore Maritime Foundation (SMF). The companies’ participation was subsidized by IE Singapore while the SMF supported the setting up of the general reception and hospitality area in the pavilion.

The total visitorship recorded by the OTC organiser was a 24-year all-time high of 59,736. This was an increase of some 15% from the previous show’s figure. More than 300 technical sessions were also organised during the conference. They included special, general, and panel sessions and discussions addressing the latest technological advances in the offshore industry.

A networking reception was held on the second day of the exhibition for the Singapore exhibitors and their guests. The reception, sponsored by IE Singapore, the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore and SPRING Singapore, was well received and attended. Among the guests who attended the reception were the delegation of Singapore service and manufacturing companies visiting the OTC. The delegation was led by SPRING Singapore.

OTC provided a good opportunity for exhibitors and visitors to exchange new technologies, best practices, emerging trends and proven methods affecting the transforming landscape of the offshore oil and gas industry. The next edition of the show, OTC 2007 which is themed “Transforming the Industry,” will take place from 30 April to 3 May 2007 at the Reliant Center in Houston, Texas.
Singapore Pavilion @ Posidonia 2006

Singapore participated in the 20th edition of Posidonia, one of the world’s largest shipping industry trade events. The biennial exhibition was held from 5 to 9 June 2006 at the Hellenikon Exhibition Centre in Athens, Greece. ASMI co-organised the Singapore Pavilion together with the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) and Singapore Maritime Foundation (SMF). Singapore’s participation in the exhibition was also supported by International Enterprise (IE) Singapore.

The exhibition was officially opened on the evening of 5 June by Greece’s Marine Minister, Mr Nastos Kefaloyiannakis. The Greek Minister and the VIP delegation toured the exhibition and visited some of the national pavilions including the Singapore stand. Mr Kefaloyiannakis was invited to cut the ribbon jointly with Mrs Lim Hwee Hua, Minister of State for Finance and Transport, to officially open the Singapore Pavilion.

Participating together in the 216 sqm Singapore Pavilion were 16 companies from various maritime clusters. They range from marine engineering services, ship repair and shipbuilding, rig building to ship management, maritime legal, medical and training services as well as maritime supply and logistics. These companies were ASSL Shipyard, Eurastra International (Singapore), Joseph Tan Jude Benny, Keppel Shipyard, Kwong Soon Engineering, MarineCorp, Maritime, Nav Marine, SeaCare Maritime Medical, SemCorp Marine, Singapore Technologies Marine, Sinwa, ST Education & Training, Veledata Marine Systems and Tru-Marine.

At the Singapore Pavilion, visitors were served local specialties such as Tiger Beer and biscuits sponsored by Asia Pacific Breweries and Khong Guan Singapore. In addition, bottles of medicinal oil and beanie toy crabs sponsored by Aye Ol.

The Singapore Pavilion was officially opened by Mrs Lim Hwee Hua, Singapore’s Minister of State for Finance and Transport, and Greece’s Marine Minister, Mr Nastos Kefaloyiannakis.

In an all out effort to instill a safety culture in the shipyards and to assist marine companies to implement risk assessment (RA) at their workplaces, ASMI and the Ministry of Manpower are once again collaborating in partnership to organise a series of risk management workshops for the industry.

Eight key marine trades have been identified by the ASMI Safety Committee for the trade specific RA workshops. These eight trades are scaffolding, tank cleaning, steel work, painting & blasting, electrical, mechanical, piping and transporting. Three workshops were conducted between April and June 2006 for the scaffolding, tank cleaning and steelwork trades.

Each workshop is championed by one of the major shipyards, and led by a Chief Facilitator from the champion yard and supported by senior safety and trade personnel from the eight shipyards as group facilitators. A generic shipyard risk matrix and risk template was developed by the Chief Facilitators for the RA workshop series. MOI officers also assist in the facilitation of the workshops.

The first in the series - Workshop on Risk Assessment for Marine Scaffold Trade, kicked off on 12 April 2006 at the Ngkee Ann Alumni Clubhouse. Some 103 managers, safety and operational personnel from the industry attended the full day session. This workshop session was championed by Sembawang Shipyard and led by its Chief HSE Manager, Mr PK Ravendran. The workshop commenced with a presentation by MOI on the salient points in the Workplace Safety and Health (Risk Management) Regulations. Chief Facilitator Mr Ravindra then took the audience through the shipyard risk matrix and risk template developed for the scaffold trade.

Following the presentations, the participants who were already organised into groups, began their group discussions to identify scaffold work processes and mapped out the tasks involved in these processes. A facilitator was assigned to each group so as to guide the discussions and clarify any doubts. Using a standard template, each group then went on to discuss and analyse the risks hazards, likelihood and severity of the risks involved in the specific tasks. The groups also had to propose risk control measures for the risks identified.

The discussions were fruitful as participants from various companies and position levels engaged in active consultation with one another. Each group had to share its findings and present its templates to the other groups. Although some ‘questioning and grilling’ took place as the audience debated with the presenting teams, these were done in good spirits as they helped to provide additional inputs and clarify issues.

The second workshop on tank cleaning was conducted in similar format as the first. Held on 10 May at the SAFEA Mount Faber, the Risk Assessment Workshop on Tank
ASMI and the Ministry of Manpower (MOM) co-organised a Seminar on Towards World Class Safety and More... for the marine industry. The seminar, held on 4 May 2006 at the Novotel Clarke Quay, was one of a series of seminars and activities organised in conjunction with the National Workplace Safety and Health (NWSH) Week.

The NWSH Week held from 28 April to 4 May, 2006, was organised by the Workplace Safety and Health Advisory Committee together with MOM and its partners, to raise the awareness of workplace safety and health among all CEOs, the human resource community, managers, supervisors, WSH professionals and workers.

Prof Poo Aun Neow, Chairman of the Workplace Safety and Health Building and Ship-repairing Advisory Sub-Committee, kicked off the seminar with an opening address. He noted that while the marine industry had done very well over the past ten years, it must "guard vigilantly against being lulled into complacency". He reminded the audience that "low accident rate does not mean no accidents and accidents cost great hardships on the families affected and, sometimes, loss of precious lives".

Prof Poo that the industry, working with ASMI and through ASMI, has been very proactive and supportive of the various workplace safety and health initiatives and programmes over the years. He recommended the industry's top management for their recognition of the positive impact of good safety and health in their workplaces on their bottom line.

Four papers were presented at the seminar. Mr Alvin Yeo, Head of Major Hazards Industry Unit, MOM's OSH Inspectorate Department, gave an overview of the safety performance of the industry in 2005 and reviewed some lessons learnt from accident cases. Mr Tan Gekk Leng, Head for Process, Access and Material Handling in MOM's Occupational Specialist Department, highlighted the requirements for personnel, equipment and procedures in occupational underwater operations as stated in the Singapore Standards SSI51 on Diving at Work.

Guest speaker, Ms Pelin Davison, a Maritime Consultant with Det Norske Veritas Pte Ltd delivered a presentation on "Implementing Risk Management at the Workplace". She focused on the various drivers for development and implementation of risk management which are aligned with the main goals of risk management, risk matrix and risk control options.

Mr P K Ravendran, a member of the industry's Task Force (TF) on Safe Scheduling and Lifting of Scaffolding Equipment, presented the TF's recommendations to the audience. The TF was set up by ASMI and MOM to review existing scaffolding practices as scaffolding-related accidents were among the common types of accidents in the industry. The half-day seminar was well attended by 165 participants from both shipyards and marine companies.

The seven LIUP ships are Jurong Shipyard, Keppel FELS, Keppel Shipyard (Tuas & Benoa), Pan-United Marine, Sembawang Shipyard and Singapore Technologies Marine. They work together to ensure the safe upgrade their services and support for the shipyards. Over the last ten years, Marine LIUP has helped to nurture the marine SMEs through the various initiatives developed.

The Marine Group LIUP SME affiliate programme was launched in 2003. At the anniversary function, 21 companies joined the existing group of 29, bringing the total number of Marine Group LIUP SMEs to 50. These SMEs are key contractors of the seven shipyards.

In her address at the function, the GOH, Mrs Lim noted that the industry's success, adaptability and resilience hinged on having a strong cluster of equipment suppliers, service providers and other local supporting industries. “Marine Group LIUP can serve not only as a platform to strengthen the ties between the different companies in the cluster, but also as a means to facilitate and coordinate the entire marine industry’s efforts in rising to the challenge together,” Mrs Lim noted. She added that the programme had also enabled the SMEs to keep pace with the shipyards’ developments in terms of quality, service and safety management systems.

Mr Wong Peng Kin, Chairman of the Marine Group LIUP Steering Committee highlighted in his speech that SMEs must also be mindful and responsive to the dynamic changes that are taking place. He spoke on the need to further develop local capabilities, realign and restructure operations to be more resilient in today's fast moving economic context. "We need to tap on the existing LIUP platform to energise and nurture our marine SMEs to find their own business niche to grow and emerge as a world-class organisation." He added that Marine LIUP would continue to focus on three main areas of strategic partnership and entrepreneurship, innovation management and human capital development.

Five of the Marine Group SME affiliates were presented the "Best LIUP Affiliate Award" at the function. The Award was given in recognition of their strong support for the Marine Group LIUP initiated programmes. The five SMEs, who are also ASMI members, are Beng Kuang Marine, Eng Soon Investment, Heatac Jetiong, Hoo Huat Engineering and Jason Electronics.

The Seminar on Marine Fabrication Technology was held on 20 April 2006 at the Thatekette in the Convention Centre of Ngee Ann Polytechnic. Four speakers delivered presentations on advances and applications in marine fabrication technologies at the seminar jointly organised by the ASMI Productivity Committee and Ngee Ann Polytechnic.

Dr San Zheng, Senior Industry Development Manager with SIMTech, kicked-off the seminar with his update on the latest advances in welding technologies and their benefits and applications in the marine, oil and gas industry. Second speaker, Mr Takeshi Maeda, a Technical Advisor in Jurong Shipyard, provided the Japanese perspective of marine fabrication with his comparison on the fabrication processes, inputs and materials used in Japanese and local shipyards. Mr Maeda also advocated the concepts of system productivity through ‘kazeni’ and accuracy management to improve overall productivity.

The Association held its 38th Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 24 May at the Albizia Room in Jurong Country Club. ASMI President Mr Michael Chia, opened the Meeting with a presentation on the marine industry’s performance in the year 2005. He reported on the stellar performance of the industry in 2005, which saw a growth of more than 40% to a new record, total turnover of $7.43 billion.

The growth in output was led by the offshore sector but there were also increased contributions from the other sectors of ship repair and conversion as well as shipbuilding. Members noted the overall positive outlook for all sectors in the industry. Mr Chia reported that the order book of the industry was at an all time high with strong growth coming from the offshore sector.

The Association’s activities and projects during the year in review were also highlighted to members at the AGM by ASMI’s Executive Director, Mr. Steven Hoo. These committees were Manpower, Safety, Productivity, Industry Promotion, Supporting Industries and Social and Membership Promotion.

Honorary Treasurer, Mr Simon Kuik, presented the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 30 December 2005. The financial statements had been audited by the Association’s Honorary Auditors Mr Tham Yew Mun from Det Norske Veritas and Mr Thomas Tan Say Tock from ABS Pacific, and an external auditor. Members at the AGM subsequently approved the Annual Report and Financial Statements for 2005 before adjourning to a sumptuous buffet dinner spread.

The Seminar on Towards World Class Safety and More... for the marine industry was held in conjunction with the NWSH Week.

The Marine Group LIUP (LIUP) 10th anniversary celebration function.