



Chapter Malama O Pa!



Take Care Lest You be Hurt!



ASSE Chapter Recognition
2009-2010

Chapter Officers 2010— 2011

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Volume 2, Issue 7

January 2011

People to People ASSE Trip to China Presentation by Gaylord Yoshimura by Les Onaka

I read last year some time that China passed the United States as the world's largest consumer of oil. Now I understand why. With five million cars on the road during rush hour in Beijing, tremendous amounts of gasoline must be consumed. In Shanghai, the traffic is so bad that only half of the possible traffic is allowed on any one day—cars can be on the road only on odd or even numbered days, depending on their license plate number. For someone who thinks driving into Honolulu on Friday afternoon is bad, I cannot even imagine what it must be like in these cities.

Gaylord Yoshimura experienced it in person along with 36 other ASSE delegates from the United States, Canada,

Germany and Singapore as part of the People-to-People safety tour to China. Together they toured immaculate construction sites (in 2010, more than 1,000 high rises were built in Beijing alone), complete with bamboo scaffolding and green security netting. They toured a steel plant so automated that operations that normally would take 1,500 workers could

“Imagine a steel company on a piece of property about the size of the Island of Kauai”

-Gaylord Yoshimura describing the Bang Bao Steel Company he visited in China.

See Gaylord Yoshimura (Continued on page 2)



Barbara Yee, Ellen Kondo, Jim Newberry, Robert Hunt Jr. (visiting from Pearland, Texas) and Gaylord Yoshimura interrupt their chat to pose for the camera at our January 2011 Chapter meeting at Hale Ikena.

Gaylord Yoshimura (cont'd)

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be done by a staff of 57. The Bang Bao Steel company was so huge that they paid foreign companies to build their first two steel plants, then used reverse-engineering to build their own third plant.

While the current emphasis has been placed on mine safety, construction safety has stringent policies. The group was told that workers had to have one-to-four weeks of safety training then pass a test before they were allowed on a construction site. A serious injury would shut down a job for an investigation and those found negligent—workers or bosses—would be terminated.

With his oriental background, Gaylord could often see the logic behind the Chinese safety systems that might have been difficult for others in the tour to understand. He also found it interesting to look deeply into his own self and culture as a result of what he learned or saw on the tour. While the food in the hotels was unremarkable, an occasional meal (e.g. at the home of the original Peking duck) proved memorable. Next time you see him, ask Gaylord what deep-fried scorpions taste like!

Gaylord Yoshimura's presentation was sponsored by the Society's International Specialty Practice.

ASSE's February/March Virtual Classroom Offerings

February 9: Z-10 Management Leadership and Employee Participation. Dr. Mark Friend, draws on his 35+ years in higher education in the field of occupational safety and health to examine the

complex issues involved in obtaining employee involvement in an occupational safety and health program.

See Virtual Classroom (Continued on page 3)

A Note from the editor...

On my first real trip (i.e. not just a stop-over) to Hong Kong in 1988, one thing that amazed me the most was the bamboo scaffolding used at the building construction sites. It amazed me to see a large building about 20 stories high cocooned in an intricate network of bamboo paths. At that time I wondered why such a technologically advanced culture used such primitive materials to construct such critical structures. At that point, my exposure to the uses of bamboo was limited to catching oama and cheap furniture. Sure bamboo had great strength and flexibility and yet was lightweight, but I was not sure I could trust walking on it a hundred feet above the ground.

Seeing no change in this practice in subsequent trips to Hong Kong and China over the years, the bamboo scaffolding that Gaylord showed in one of his first slides came as no surprise to me. Then it dawned on me how complacent I had become to the hazards of workers in a foreign country that I had accepted the bamboo scaffolding as an acceptable practice even though (I'm told by people who live there) workers are frequently killed falling from them.

In a nation so technologically advanced that they can build stealth aircraft and reverse-engineer a steel mill and add automation that reduces a staff of 1,500 to 57 workers, one would think that safety

See Editor's Note (Continued on page 4)

Hawai'i Chapter News

- ⇒ Noting that we needed to turn away people for our 2009 OSHA-Hawaii workshop, the planning committee decided to change the location of our 2011 OSHA-Hawaii workshop to the Ko'olau Ballrooms and Conference Center in Kaneohe. Many of us noted in 2009 that we may have been over-packed in some of the sessions. The Ko'olau venue allows us to spread out more.
- ⇒ The winners of our Chapter safety-on-the-Job kid's poster contest have been selected. Three winners were chosen from the forty-two entries received. Chapter president **Neil Yamamoto** and other Chapter Board members plan to present the awards at Maile Elementary on February 11th. **Mark Behrens** helped coordinate the poster contest at two Leeward schools. All posters will also be entered in the Society's contest that ends on February 14th.
- ⇒ If you or any Chapter member you know is interested in running for office, please contact **Joanna Clark**. The election slate must be completed by the end of May.

Guam Section News

Neil Yamamoto and **Mike Thompson** travelled to Guam on January 20th meet with our Guam section members and present them with their Section charter. The meeting was held in the VIP Restaurant in Tumon and Neil estimated the attendees to number about 35, including three who were planning to join.

As Guam Section President **Oneal McAfee** leads them into the new year, the Section has set a goal to become a Society Chapter by the end of the year. Section officers also include Vice-President **Jack Fernandez** and Secretary/Treasurer **Lt. Tanya Bates**. **Jack Ary**, **Joe Castro**, **Tristan Aldeguer**, **Johnny Cruz** and **Robert Hendrix** round out the Section Executive Board. The Board meets every third Wednesday of each month at 5:30 PM at TGI Fridays in Hagatna.

Congratulations to Guam Section member **Tom Relling** who recently obtained his CSP designation.

OSHA Update

On December 20, 2010, OSHA published its fall semi-annual regulatory agenda in the Federal Register. With a high priority on their Injury and Illness Prevention Program (I2P2—currently in the pre-rule stage), OSHA plans to initiate the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act (SBREFA) process this June. Other agenda items include:

- ⇒ Final rule on the inclusion of a muscle-skeletal disorders (MSD) column on the OSHA 300 log expected in February 2011 (Note: OSHA temporarily withdrew this proposal in a news release on January 25, 2011, citing the need to seek greater input from small businesses on the impact the proposal will have on them)
- ⇒ Initiate the SPREFA process for the proposed combustible dust rule in April 2011.
- ⇒ A rulemaking has been initiated on backing operations to prevent injuries and fatalities that occur when equipment is backing up. Now in a pre-rule

See OSHA Update (Continued on page 4)

Virtual Classroom (cont'd)

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Dr. Friend's textbook—Fundamentals of Occupational Safety and Health—now in its 5th edition, has been a top seller in the field.

February 16: Industrial Hygiene Sampling for the Safety Professional. In has 20 years of loss control experience Brendan Moriarty notes that many employees are often asked to perform complex industrial hygiene evaluation and assessments while lacking the basic IH tools. His presentation intends to provide these tools.

March 1 & 2: Best Practices in fire Safety. Numerous sessions throughout the two days by experts in the field. Worth 1.6 CEUs, individuals who register for this virtual symposium have 30 days after it to complete the viewing and evaluations on-line.

Please visit virtualclassroom@asse.org for more information or to register for any session.

Visit Your Chapter Website Often for the Latest News



Protecting People, Property and the Environment since 1911

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Write to the webmaster at ASSE Hawaii

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OSHA Update (continued)

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stage, OSHA intends to send a request for information in May of 2011.

- ⇒ Final rule of the Hazard Communication Standard requiring chemical manufacturers and importers to evaluate the hazards of the chemicals they produce or import and prepare labels and MSDS materials that warn the end-users of these hazards. Final rule expected August 2011.
- ⇒ Modernization of OSHA's reporting system. A Notice for Proposed (NPRM) has been scheduled for a September 2011 release. Collecting electronic data in a timely manner will help OSHA, employers, researchers and the public shorten response time to prevent workplace injuries and illnesses.
- ⇒ OSHA expects to issue a final rule on confined space in construction in November 2011.

The agenda also mentions anticipated work on:

- ⇒ Permissible Exposure Levels (PELs);
- ⇒ General working conditions for shipyards;
- ⇒ Electric power transmission;
- ⇒ Several whistleblower regulations;
- ⇒ A rule for silica; and
- ⇒ Initiatives for reinforcing and post-tensioned steel construction.

Noise Standard. In a January 19, 2011 news release, OSHA withdrew its proposed interpretation on occupational noise as they examine other approaches to prevent work-related hearing loss.

Editor's Note (continued)

(Continued from page 2)

efforts could be focused on mining, construction and other areas at the same time.

We do not accept this price in worker suffering and life here and should this not be true of all peoples of the world? In their own way, the People-to-People tour to China led by Society Past-President Chris Patton may be the first step to bringing this issue out in the open.

