

# Bringing API-U Training to Malaysia Seminar

OIL, GAS AND MINING TECHNICAL DIVISION



by Ir. Al-Khairi bin Mohd. Daud

**ON** 12 July 2010, a seminar entitled “Bringing API-U to Malaysia” was conducted by Frontium Energy Sdn Bhd together with Equity Engineering Group Inc (E2G), a certified American Petroleum Institute (API) training provider. The seminar, conducted at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre (KLCC), was officiated by Dato’ Ir. Dr Johari Basri, Director General of DOSH, Ministry of Human Resources.

Representatives from DOSH, SIRIM, IEM, UKM as well as E2G President and CEO, Mr. David Osage, presented a paper during the seminar. IEM was represented by Ir. Al-Khairi Mohd Daud, Chairman of the Oil, Gas and Mining Technical Division, who delivered a presentation on “Development of Professional Engineers to Support the Oil and Gas Industry.”

Most of the topics in the seminar revolved around the technology and requirement for equipment Risk Based Inspection and Fitness for Service especially for the oil and gas industries and petrochemical plants. To complement the technical details, Ir. Al-Khairi brought up the subject on the need for professional engineers in the oil and gas industries. He reminded the audience of the registration of the Engineers Acts 1967 as the first basis of engineering practice in Malaysia in which many engineers in the oil and gas industries do not comply with even though it is a statutory requirement.

Ir. Al-Khairi stated that the BEM and IEM, as the bodies that qualify professional engineers, not only look at engineering technical competencies, but also at the maturity and ethical aspect of engineering practices as well as one’s ability to lead and communicate effectively within an organisation. The non-technical aspects can only be evaluated after the engineers have accumulated sufficient practical experience in the industry.

He then stressed that the most important aspect of professional engineers is abiding by the engineers’ code of conduct, a requirement of which unregistered engineers may not be aware of. Moreover, professional engineers are required to upgrade their knowledge by continuous learning as mandated by the CPD requirement. Thus trainings such as the API certification program will support the professionalism and development of technical expertise by engineers.

Ir. Al-Khairi then explained that the oil and gas industry is one of high risk where combustible and explosive materials are present and where operations are sometimes



Dato' Ir. Dr Johari officiating the seminar.



Ir. Al-Khairi delivering his presentation.

carried out in dangerous and hostile environments. Equipment failure can have a major impact on human life as well as to the environment such as the explosion of the deep water well in the Gulf of Mexico recently. Having professional engineers in the industry will promote ethical responsibility and the ability to communicate effectively with other disciplines which will result in stronger trust in the industry as well as promote the engineering discipline itself.

Thus it is for the benefit of a company to have professional engineers in key positions to portray an image of professionalism, integrity and high value to protect society as well as the national interest. As for individual engineers, being a professional will allow easier cross boundary mobility as well as better employability. In his closing remark, Ir. Al-Khairi implored oil and gas industry players to support the registration of professional engineers to ensure ethical and professionalism in their service and activities. ■