



NEWSLETTER

THE INSTITUTION OF FIRE ENGINEERS (SINGAPORE BRANCH)

89 Short Street #02-15 Golden Wall Centre, Singapore 188216

Tel: 63389274 Fax: 63366175 E-mail: ifespole@singnet.com.sg

Website: www.ife-singapore.org

MARCH-APRIL 2009

IFE 35TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 2 APRIL 2009



AGM Meeting commenced



Our guests from overseas in the front row



Question from the floor



Signing of MOU between IFE & IES

IFE (Singapore Branch) Council Members

President

Tan Jin Thong PGP, BBM
FIFireE, IAAI (USA)

Vice President

Siew Yee Cheong FIFireE

Honorary Secretary

Azmi b Adam FIFireE

Honorary Treasurer

K Ramanathan GIFireE

Members

Koh Soon Chuang MIFireE
S Ramasami FIFireE

Yeow Mei Leng FIFireE
Fong Kum Wah AFFireE

Vincent Leong Kuan Yu MIFireE
David Goh AFFireE

Pandi Karuppiah FIFireE

This year's AGM was attended by 66 members, 5 guests from IES and 5 guests from IFE overseas (1 from Malaysia, 2 from UK and 2 from USA).

The President called the meeting to order with the following opening address: -

“Distinguished Guests,
Fellow IFE Members,
Ladies & Gentlemen

A very Good evening to all of you and thank you for taking time off from your very busy work schedule to attend our 35th AGM especially on a weekday after a hard day's work. Your presence here tonight shows your strong support to the IFE Singapore and we look forward to your continued support.

Tonight's AGM also marks another milestone as the Institution of Fire Engineers Singapore will be signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Institution of Engineers Singapore (IES) for both parties to collaborate educational activities or facilities sharing in Singapore after the AGM.

We are happy to welcome our friends from IES led by its Chairman of the Construction Committee (Mr. Lum Chong Chuen). Thank you for taking your time off to be with us. We are also privileged to have with us 3 special guests from our counterparts overseas. They are Mr. Paul Young and his lovely wife (Joan) from UK and Mr. William Peterson and his lovely wife (Diane) from USA and Mr. Tay Hao Giang (Secretary of the IFE Malaysia).

Both Paul and William were also Past International President of IFE UK. Thank you for joining us tonight and we bid you a warm Welcome. Incidentally Mr. Tay Hao Giang from IFE Malaysia is seeking re-election into the IFE UK Board of Directors during this coming IFE UK AGM in July and I request our members to give him full support when the ballot papers are sent to you at a later date. During his term in the IFE UK BOD, Mr. Tay had brought forth issues that concern overseas

branches and his presence in the UK BOD will certainly benefit the IFE overseas.

As I am always mindful that I should not bog you down with a lengthy speech, so I would just highlight some significant events during the year. The details of activities and events are reflected in the various committee reports contained in the annual report which was sent to you earlier.

IFE Singapore has been active working in partnership with NTUC LearningHub in conducting courses on the Servicing & Maintenance of Fire Extinguishers. During the year 6 such courses were organized and the response was good. Other courses with NTUC Learning Hub comprise Fire Safety Training Courses.

Our partnership with the National Fire Protection Association of USA (NFPA) in organizing Technical Workshops for our Fire Professionals continues to be strong.

In November last year IFE Singapore and the NFPA of America jointly organized 3 Technical Workshops viz. NFPA 101 – Life Safety Code, NFPA 13 – Installation of Sprinkler Systems, and NFPA 20 – Fire Pumps. The Lead instructor came from NFPA and we have overwhelming response from participants from the Asia Pacific Region such as Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Brunei, Vietnam, Philippines, Hong Kong, China, Japan, Australia, USA and our locals as well.

On the Education cum Social activities, IFE Singapore organized overseas visits to:

- China Fire 2008 in Beijing from 26 – 29 Oct 2008,
- Taipei Fire Department and Chinese Society of Fire Safety & Disaster Management, Taiwan in November 2008, and
- Fire Asia 2009 Fire Safety Conference and Exhibition in Hong Kong from 9–12 Feb 09.

IFE Singapore's relationship with the Fire Departments in the Asian and ASEAN region has been cordial especially with the IFE Malaysia and the Malaysian Fire Department and the IFE Hong Kong and Hong Kong Fire Department, China Fire Protection Assn, and the Chinese Society of Fire Safety & Disaster Management, Taiwan.

It is through the cordial relationship that IFE Singapore is able to organize reciprocal visits to these countries and learn from each other. For events in the pipelines, members will be kept updated through IFE newsletters. One significant event will be in October this year when IFE Singapore will jointly organize with NFPA 3 Technical Workshops on NFPA 72 – Fire Alarm System, NFPA 130 – Standard for Fixed Guideway Transit and Passenger Rail Systems and NFPA 502 – Standard for Road Tunnels, Bridges and other limited access highways to support a major conference and exhibition to be organized by Conference and Exhibition Management Services (CEMS). The details will be announced in our Newsletter nearer the date and I urge our members to give their support to the event.

Our financial standing continues to be sound and this is attributed to the revenue generated

from the training courses and technical workshop organized by the IFE Singapore and of course the prudent expenditure exercised by your council.

As promised, I would not bog you down with a lengthy speech or report, so it leaves me now to thank my council members for working relentlessly despite their heavy work commitments to work as a team to keep the flame of IFE Singapore burning brighter and brighter and certainly to all our members I look forward to your continued support and together we can bring IFE Singapore to the next higher plane.

Thank you and have a nice evening."

Following the AGM, there was a signing of Memorandum of Understanding between Mr Siew Yee Cheong, our Vice-President and Mr Lum Chong Chuen, Chairman of the Construction Committee, Institution of Engineers, Singapore for both parties to collaborate in joint projects like organizing of seminar, workshops and other educational activities to encourage sharing of expertise and support to the institutions.

WORKSHOPS ON NFPA 72, NFPA 130 & NFPA 502

Workshop on NFPA 72 – 29 & 30 Sep 2009

Heightened risk awareness and changing safety dynamics have revolutionized the role of alarm and signaling systems in protecting life and property. At the same time, sophisticated technical advances and solid research findings have improved their ability to meet the new demands. It is in response to and out of this dynamic environment that the 2010 edition of *NFPA 72: National Fire Alarm Code*® has emerged.

Technology- and research-driven changes offer improved egress time and system reliability.

- Developed at the request of the U.S. Air Force, a new Mass Notification Systems Annex provides guidelines to facilitate fast, safe evacuation in emergency situations such as fire, terrorist attack, biological and hazardous chemical incidents, accidents, and natural disasters.
- Added requirements for new technology equipment, including video image smoke and flame detection, detectors that use

multiple sensing inputs, fire extinguisher monitors, and directional appliances

- New guidance on visual notification in large space occupancies
- Updated rules for spacing of smoke detectors in joist and beam and small room applications
- New requirement to provide a Response Time Index for heat detectors
- New provisions for strobe synchronization when installing visible notification appliances
- New requirements for household fire warning applications, including smoke alarms with voice and expanded smoke alarm coverage for larger size homes

Workshop on NFPA 130 – 1 Oct 2009

NFPA 130 specifies fire protection and life safety requirements for underground, surface, and elevated fixed guideway transit and passenger rail systems including stations, trainways, vehicles, vehicle maintenance and storage areas.

Keep up with revisions in the 2007 edition that increase safety including:

- New requirements for electrical conductor protection in stations, trainways and ventilation systems
- Recognition of fire resistive cables
- Changes to egress design requirements and calculations of occupant loads
- New requirements for electronic operated fare collection equipment
- Reorganization of Chapters 5 for consistency throughout the document and

restructuring of Chapter 6 based on components rather than trainway location

- Complete revision of the Performance Based Vehicle design criteria and Annex Material
- Revisions to the requirements for rail vehicle fire resistance tests and procedures
- New Annex D on Rail Vehicle Fires

Workshop on NFPA 502 – 2 Oct 2009 (1/2 day)

NFPA 502: Standard for Road Tunnels, Bridges, and Other Limited Access Highways provides designers, AHJs, and state and federal regulators with guidelines for the construction, operation, maintenance, and fire protection of limited-access highways, tunnels, bridges, elevated highways, and air right structures.

The revised 2008 Standard reflects the latest industry developments and includes these important changes:

- New material discussing the issues on fixed fire suppression systems
- New and more restrictive design fire curves for structural component fire resistance
- New material for determining the tenability of the tunnel environment for egress
- Revised fire data for typical vehicle fires based on international research.
- New information on unregulated cargoes
- New categories for tunnels and material for determining the classification

DEMENTIA QUIZ

Below are four (4) questions and a Bonus question to test your perception, reasoning and the quickness of your logical processing. They are stated simply so you should try to answer them instantly without looking ahead so grab a piece of paper and cover all four questions. To

assure the accuracy of the results, you should not take your time, but instead, answer each of them immediately.

OK? Let's find out just how clever you really are....

Ready? GO!!! (*Slide the paper down slowly to uncover Q's and then the A's*)

First Question:

You are a participant in a race. You overtake the second person. What position are you now in?

Answer:

If you answered that you are first, then you are absolutely WRONG! If you overtake the second person and you take his place, YOU are in second place!

Second Question:

If you overtake the last person, then you are...?

Answer:

If you answered that you are second to last, then you are ; ; ; ;WRONG again. Tell me Sunshine, how can you overtake the LAST person??

You're not very good at this, are you?

Third Question:

Very tricky arithmetic! Note: This must be done in your head only. Do NOT use paper and pencil or a calculator. Try it. Take 1000 and add 40 to it. Now add another 1000. Now add 30. Add another 1000. Now add 20. Now add another 1000. Now add 10. What is the total?

Answer:

Did you get 5000?

The correct answer is actually 4100. If you don't believe it, check it with a calculator!

Fourth Question:

Mary's father has five daughters: 1. Nana, 2. Nene, 3. Nini, 4. Nono, and ??? What is the name of the fifth daughter?

Answer:

Did you Answer Nunu? NO! Of course it isn't. Her name is obviously *Mary*Read the question again!

Okay, now **the Bonus round**, i.e., a final chance to redeem yourself:

A mute person goes into a shop and wants to buy a toothbrush. By imitating the action of brushing his teeth he successfully expresses himself to the shopkeeper and the purchase is done.

Next, a blind man who wants to buy a pair of sunglasses comes into the shop; how does HE indicate what he wants?

Answer:

It's really very simple. He opens his mouth and asks for them...

(Source: Megnus by ACADS-BSG)

COURSE ON SERVICING & MAINTENANCE OF FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

The 12th run of the Course on Servicing & Maintenance of Fire Extinguishers will be held from 13th –21st July 2009 jointly with NTUC LearningHub Pte Ltd. This course is accredited by SCDF under the Accredited Training Institution Scheme. Upon successful completion of the course, participants will be qualified to inspect, maintain and re-charge fire extinguishers. This course will be conducted by qualified personnel from IFE Singapore, and there will be an examination at the end of the course to qualify for certification.

The Course Contents are:

1. Introduction to fire extinguishers.
2. Types of fire extinguishers and their classification & ratings.
3. Overview of SS232 – Construction of fire extinguishers.
4. SS.CP.55 – Selection & distribution of fire extinguishers.
5. SS.CP.55 – Maintenance of fire extinguishers – theory & practical.
6. SS.CP.55 – Recharging of fire extinguishers – theory & practical.
7. SS.CP.55 – Hydrostatic testing of fire extinguishers – theory & practical.
8. Theory test and Practical test

Course commencement date : 13th July 2009
Duration: 6 evenings 6.30pm to 9.30pm

Course fee: \$475.00 for IFE Member
\$505.00 for Non-Member

Venue: 13th, 14th & 20th July 2009
Centre for Employability Scheme
NTUC Learning Hub
141 Redhill Road (158828)

Maximum Class Size: 20

Closing date: 8th July 2009

16th, 17th & 21st July 2009
32 Ang Mo Kio Industrial Park 2
#07-06 Sing Ind Complex (569510)

Please fill up the application form below and return it together with payment to the IFE Secretariat. As there will be limited places, allocation will be on a first-come-first-served basis.

REGISTRATION FORM

Fire Extinguisher Servicing & Maintenance Course 13th – 21st July 2009 (6.30 pm – 9.30 pm)

The Institution of Fire Engineers
Singapore Branch
89 Short Street #02-15
Golden Wall Centre
Singapore 188216

(Closing Date: 8th July 2009)

I am interested in enrolling for the Fire Extinguisher Servicing & Maintenance Course. Enclosed is my cheque _____ for the sum of **\$475.00**, made payable to "THE INSTITUTION OF FIRE ENGINEERS".

Signature: _____ Name: _____

Designation: _____ Name of Company _____

Address of Company: _____

Educational Qualification: _____

NRIC/Fin No: _____ *Citizenship _____

Date of Birth: _____ Sex: _____ Marital Status: _____

Tel No: _____ (O) _____ (HP) _____ (Fax)

Membership No: _____ E-mail address: _____

* For non-Singaporeans, a copy of the employment pass/work permit must be submitted with the application.

GOLF DOWNUNDER

A group of eight, consisting of seven members and a friend left Singapore for Perth on 16 April 2009, to spend 4 days downunder. The group spent 3 days playing golf at some of Perth's renowned golf courses. The weather was fantastic, sunny as Singapore, but minus the humidity. There was always a cool breeze blowing in the wind. Most of the players did well as the golf courses were very friendly. Kangaroos were resting in the shade, mother kangaroos suckling their babies, ducks waddling around, birds calling out to one another, all oblivious to the golfers who swing their balls around them. Kangaroos and bird poo were found everywhere - on fairway and on the green, all of which add to a very natural setting. Even a harrowing experience (see article on GOLFERS BEWARE) did not dampened the mood of all the golfers, though some suffered poor performance immediately in the next few holes, but soon recovered.

The group took a day off from golf and went to Freemantle Market, which is next to the sea. We managed to pick some local products there, many of them were handmade or home made. There were a lot more Asians sellers now than before, selling products from Asian region. Fish N Chips is a must, and eating at the "CICERELLO'S is a must.

The camaraderie and companionship amongst the golfers were great. All the players had to learn to live with one another in an eight-persons apartment. All had to learn to live with each other's idiosyncrasies, habits, snoring and queuing for toilets.

All the golfers agreed that the time was well spent, worth every penny of it, and some already talking about the next game.

The Social Committee would like to thank all who had supported this event, and look forward for more new golfers joining in the next game

GOLFERS BEWARE

The group learned a valuable lesson during the golf trip downunder.

It had never happened before. Nothing unusual for the flight of our four golfers focusing on their game, and totally engrossed in trying to hole their balls. As they were walking back to their buggies, they could not believe their eyes, their buggies were no longer parked by the buggy track. They were GONE!!!. Someone had stolen them. Panic set in, as the buggies might contain passports, air tickets, wallets, handphones, etc, which were often left in the wire basket on the buggy.

Luckily for all, the earlier flight saw some kids playing with buggies and spinning them around, and they shouted at the kids. The kids then ran away. One of the player in the earlier flight suspected that the buggies might have belong to us and helped drove one back to us, and told us where to look for the 2nd buggy. It was found outside the golf course (there is no fencing demarcating the course and the road) on the other side of the road. Apparently, the kids had taken the buggy and riding them onto the public road. We had to lift the buggy back into the course, over a 300mm high retaining wall. The more senior players suffered muscle cram as a result of the lift.

Lesson learned : NEVER LEAVE THE BUGGY OUT OF YOU SIGHT!!



The Vines Golf Course



Fremantle Markets



The Secret Harbour Golf Club



CICERELLO'S

*The President and
Council Members*

Wish all members

A happy Labour Day on 1 May 09 and

A happy Vesak Day on 9 May 09