Singapore Chapter

The Singapore Chapter held a sharing session on Sept. 25, 2009, at ST Kinetics Founders Hall. The turnout was good, with many interactions between the participants and the speakers, especially on the topic of the GEIA standard.

Seet Ting, the new president of the Singapore Chapter, gave an overview of the goals of the System Safety Society and the Chapter. She introduced the new Chapter Executive Committee appointed in August. Seet Ting welcomed safety professionals to sign up as members of the System Safety Society and as affiliates to the Singapore Chapter. She also told members and affiliates to plan ahead to participate in sharing sessions and the International System Safety Conference.

Eng Ling introduced the much-anticipated GEIA-STD-0010, Standard Practice for System Safety Program Development and Execution. She made a comparison between this commercial standard and the MIL-STD-882D. The methodology of system safety is generally the same, although there is a regrouping of some requirements. She shared the developments that led to the publication of GEIA-STD-0010.

Yue Sang shared the impetus and benefits of certification of safety professionals. These include the recognition of individual achievements, and the sustaining of competency and self-esteem. He gave an overview of several certification programs and shared the "lead service" approach for U.S. safety review to reduce the complications of risk acceptance of joint programs. He compared this with the SAF in Singapore.

Southern California Chapter

The Southern California Chapter elected Thomas Meyers as its new President, who will serve with returning officers Stephen Greenberg (Vice President), Gregg Ellers (Treasurer), and Karen Moran (Secretary).

The Chapter thanked its outgoing President, Ronald T. Welch, for his leadership over the last several years and for his crucial role in re-establishing and maintaining the Southern California Chapter as an active Chapter.

Sierra High Desert Chapter

The Chapter congratulated the following new Sierra High Desert Chapter Officers for Society years 2010 and 2011:

- Stephan Bussell, President
- Steve Schiavone, Vice President
- Staci Mathews, Treasurer
- Clint Johnson, Secretary

The Chapter also thanked the following outgoing officers for their service:

- David Sweitzer, President
- Jerry Boone, Vice President
- David Mesa, Treasurer
- Ken Chirkis, Secretary

The Chapter held a meeting at the 27th ISSC to welcome all new members.
Tennessee Valley Chapter

The Aug. 3, 2009, TVC meeting was held in conjunction with the 27th ISSC, which was hosted by the Tennessee Valley Chapter in Huntsville, Alabama. There, 25 members and 14 guests met before the "concert in the park" event and had a barbecue dinner.

Myris Dowdy was introduced as the secretary appointed for the TVC for the coming year. The Chapter's plans for this year include constructing and publishing a periodic newsletter and constructing and sending out welcome packages to all new members to provide a personal touch when they join the chapter.

The chapter videotaped many of the activities at the 27th ISSC and will be discussing how to best promote this for future conferences, as well as how to manage the information.

The 27th ISSC had 436 attendees and included 13 countries. Seventy-one Tennessee Valley Chapter members attended, who contributed 11 papers, presented nine tutorials, chaired four technical sessions, conducted two workshops and hosted six panel discussions. Social activities included the "concert in the park," "Hot August Nights" at the new Westin Hotel, an awards dinner and a tour of the Space & Rocket Center, and a dinner and tour of the Jack Daniel's Distillery. This year's ISSC had a total of 20 sponsors.

The TVC held its next meeting on Sept. 16, 2009. It was hosted at QinetiQ by Steve Hosner. This was a planning meeting to discuss member preferences for programs and places for 2009/2010.

The Vice President reported on his meeting with the HATS organization, at which STEDTRAN grants were awarded to 25 deserving K-12 school programs.

Various types of programs were discussed, with the following results:

- Presentations from out-of-town speakers, such as Marge Jones and Steve Mattern, are desired. (It was noted that Steve will be in town near the time of the Chapter's October meeting, and may agree to present a lunch program).
- War stories are preferred to lectures. People want to hear interesting things the speaker has done.
- Panel discussions with short presentations of conflicting views, followed by group discussion, were brought up, but faintly praised.
- Topics of interest were mentioned, such as "legal consequences of safety" and "how to make money testifying as a safety expert for lawyers at trial."
- Programs addressing adherence to DIDs were faintly mentioned.
- Safety merit badge programs and training sessions free to members were mentioned.

Meeting hosts were also solicited:

- APT will host four meetings a year.
- Steve Hosner volunteered to contact QinetiQ for two meetings, and later emailed the dates that QinetiQ would host.
- The Vice President will contact SAIC and Bastion to fill in other dates for the year.

The announcement of the 2010 NASA/Army System and Software Engineering Forum was made by Josh McNeil, and volunteers for session chairs from the System Safety Society were solicited. Jim Schiermeyer volunteered to put together a session on system safety and Steve Hosner volunteered to chair a session. The TVC is considering supporting this forum in the form of tote bags as an advertisement for the society.

Although attendance was light, discussion was lively and will hopefully result in a well-organized year for the TVC, with meeting subjects and places appealing to most members.

Washington DC Chapter

The Washington DC Chapter has scheduled the 2010 System Safety Training Symposium at the College of Southern Maryland from March 22-26, 2010. This symposium is open to anyone interested in system safety. For more detailed information, visit http://ss-training.net.