



EMAS Bulletin December

Last month, there were a number of activities portending to the future of the Environmental Management Association of Singapore, in the wake of the AGM held in October.

1. 1st November 2011 – Recruitment Drive

A recruitment drive on the 1st November was organized, and a small group of non-members from both the pest management and cleaning sectors was invited. The aim was to outline to these companies, the direction of EMAS and its directional goals for the industry. Participating EXCO members also spoke with these companies on their views and sentiments on how they feel the association could lend a positive contribution to the industry. We hope that they understand the relevance and importance that banding together will ignite the change needed for the industry with initiatives that make sense and will be sustainable.

Those present felt similar sentiments shared by members, namely the challenge with labour and the difficulty in managing existing contracts in the current business climate. The general sentiment was that a radical shift is needed to understand the need for the engagement of fairer contracts and how this would benefit service buyers in terms of innovation and output on site. In addition, it was felt that EMAS can only be strong if it has the support of government and currently, it was felt that the level of engagement by government was rather limited. The input garnered from this session was useful to support the on-going direction set by the current committee, to better engage related government agencies, promote the need for fairer contract practices, education of service buyers and also to look at professionalizing the industry. Both President and VP urged the participating companies to come onboard and contribute positively.

2. For now, EMAS would like to warmly welcome the new members who have joined the association recently. They are:

- ◆ BASF SEA Pte Ltd
- ◆ Chye Thiam Maintenance Pte Ltd
- ◆ Ausko Pte Ltd
- ◆ Galmon Pte Ltd
- ◆ STVE Pte Ltd

3. 8th November 2011 – Meeting with NEA on the direction of the association
The EXCO discussed the direction for EMAs, and also took the opportunity to understand better the intended direction for the industry by NEA and how EMAS can be of benefit to the industry in this role. There will be some industry studies that NEA hopes to roll out to the cleaning industry to understand best practices and see how this can be initiated as an industry led initiative. NEA has committed to trying to work more closely with EMAS in the coming months and will be sending an appropriate representative from NEA to sit in on EXCO meetings. The goal here is to be able to share more effectively the intentions of EMAS with NEA through these exchanges and to try and find ways to better fit with shared goals.

4. 15th November – EXCO Meeting on activities for the coming year
The meeting focused primarily on the calendar of events attached and the relevance and purpose of such activities that were drafted out. In the coming year, EMAS hopes to drum up more member involvement through a series of networking events and Kopi Talks, The EXCO is trying to get commitment on involvement from various government regulatory bodies to attend the events. Additionally, we hope to build camaraderie among members, as well as their employees, with various events from a bowling competition to a golf social. Additionally we hope to raise the profile of the association with EMAS Awards Night. We hope all members will take note of the events, and lend your support, from attendance or if you wish to contribute further, do contact one of the EXCO members. For more details, please see the attached calendar of events.

5. 16th November 2011 – Meeting with Republic Polytechnic on the development of a diploma program
EMAS wishes to explore how to bring in middle management that will be able to develop the industry and to lend inputs on what would be relevant as they shape their curriculum. The Diploma will be in Environmental Health and Safety.

Moving forward, EMAS is slowly winding down on the activities this December, as we all slow down to enjoy the Christmas festivities! The EXCO wishes all members a Merry Christmas filled with blessings and much needed feasting after an eventful year.
