

Presidents Message
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SESHA's 2008 Symposium – What's in it for Your Boss?

SESHA's 30th annual symposium is coming up fast. This year's meeting will be held at the Doubletree, Lloyd Center in Portland, OR on March 25th through 28th. Many long term SESHAs members know that our symposium is the High-Tech ESH event of the year! But, do your boss and company's senior management understand this?

With industry finances coming under increasing scrutiny, many of our organizations are implementing travel restrictions upon their employees to ensure that the money invested in travel provides a return on the company's investment. Even if your company freely approves of your participation because the symposium offers continuing education units (CEU's), for maintaining certifications such as CIH or CSP, don't you want your organization to understand that SESHAs membership and attendance of the SESHAs symposium provide critical business environment intelligence essential to ensuring that your company is successful in the future?

Pick up any business magazine or leaf through the business section of a newspaper these days. It would be difficult not to find a reference to creating "Sustainable" businesses. This is an exciting time to be an ESH professional. Ask 10 people for the definition of a sustainable business, and you may get 10 answers back; however, all of the answers will probably include conserving resources, minimizing waste, and maintaining the health and safety of employees and surrounding communities. These efforts have always been key to our profession. Business leaders are recognizing that ESH issues go well beyond compliance and are vitally involved in achieving the businesses core goals – namely making money, and staying in business for a long time to come.

All of the activities described above, when done properly, have a direct positive impact on a company's bottom line, and executives are recognizing this. Even efforts to document an organization's carbon footprint are linked just as closely with securing a sufficient supply of affordable energy, as they are to a genuine desire to combat global warming.

This year's symposium will provide you with information that could provide you with dozens of opportunities make your company money, and ensure that you can stay in business for a long time to come. Bruce Klafter, Sr. Director of EHS at Applied Materials (AMAT), will give a keynote address on "Sustainability and the EHS Professional". In the past two years, AMAT has almost re-invented its business with sustainability in mind, expanding broadly into the photovoltaic industry. There will be numerous presentations on electricity, water, and other utility saving measures, pursuit of energy efficient LEED Building status, carbon footprint reduction and carbon trading schemes. Implementation of any one of these ideas could easily provide a return on your company's investment of registration and travel expenses in almost no time. Consider that even a 1% reduction in a typical semiconductor fab's electricity consumption can result in an annual savings of >\$250,000, and its easy to see that even small project savings can add up fast!

Going beyond the bottom line and ensuring that our companies can remain in business is now an ESH issue, as well. Chemical regulations like REACH and the US Dept. of Homeland Security's new Chemical Facility Anti Terrorism regulations (commonly known as CFAT), can have an effect on your companies chemical supply chain. Restrictions on chemical import and export, and new security requirements for the transport, storage and use of certain chemicals can all affect your company's ability to get the materials it needs when it needs them! This year's symposium will give you the latest developments on both of these topics.

Lastly, sustainability depends on preventing accidents or exposures that could result in injuries death and business interruptions. Along this line, I'd like to draw your attention to a special full day review of Silane safety, sponsored by Air Products and offered as a Professional Development Course at a special rate of \$125. The symposium will also offer presentations on working safely with nanotechnology, including keynotes from Dr. Charles Geraci of NIOSH and Rick Kelly, Chair of DOE's committee on the safe handling of nanomaterials.

These are just a few examples of the opportunities for you and your boss to benefit from participation in SESH A 2008. Can you really afford not to be there?

I'm looking forward to seeing you in Portland!

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