



EMAS Bulletin November 2011

This November the Environmental Management Association of Singapore (EMAS) brings to you the exciting details from the 25th Annual General Meeting, held on 6th October at Hort Park. The meeting saw a milestone vote on the fate of the association; a vote that was carried out by the 15 ordinary and 1 associate member present at the meeting, as well as 4 proxy votes held by various association members. Out of the 19 votes cast, 15 votes was for EMAS to start engaging a permanent staff to carry out EMAS activities, whilst 2 votes was for leadership change. Separately there was 1 vote for the closing of the association, and 1 spoilt vote. From the results of the vote, there is a clear will for EMAS to remain as an association to represent the interests of companies in the environmental health industry, and to continue to represent the interests of the industry in engaging the various regulatory bodies as well as buyers of services. Moving forward, the new members of the EXCO will be exploring the options for a permanent staff for EMAS.

The AGM also saw a change of leadership with the association members voting for the new Executive Committee for the period 2011 to 2013. The results for the Executive Committee for the year 2011 to 2013 are as follows:

President	Mr Milton Ng, Ramky Cleantech Services Pte Ltd
Vice-President	Mrs Deanne Ong, Origin Holdings Pte Ltd
Honorary Secretary	Mr Daniel Leong, Qool Enviro Pte Ltd
Honorary Treasurer	Mr. Tan Kok Wee, Clean Solutions Pte Ltd
Committee Member	Mr John Selvan, Shiners Facilities Pte Ltd
Committee Member	Mr Woon Chiap Chan, ISS Facility Services Pte Ltd
Committee Member	Mr Peter Cheng/Mr Jeffery Tan, NAFA System Services Pte Ltd

In further housekeeping matters for the association, the meeting saw an update on the association's accounts. The annual accounts for the financial year ended 30 April 2011 was audited by the appointed internal auditors – Mr Ding Chek Leh of Integrated Property Mgt Pte Ltd.

Mr John Selvan reported on the financial report of Year 2011.

He mentioned there was minor increase in income for the year. And since there was no Pulire Asia last year, hence, there was no income from there. And the incomes generated from other activities are also minimal.

He mentioned that the EXCO had taken cost cutting measures like minimising expense and negotiated for a reduced secretariat fee.

He also gave a projection of the income, where should the association decide to engage a full time staff to run it, with the current financial status; the funds will run out in 8 months. And keeping EPC as the secretariat will allow for the association to last for another one and a half year.

Therefore, the association has to think of means to increase revenue. Some of the ways to increase revenue are – increase membership fees, commission of a membership directory where a paid out will be given to EMAS. To organise more social events like Golf and networking sessions where there will be income from there. More educational talks will be organised to raise income and at the same time educating the buyers and services. He also asked for more suggestions from the members on how to increase revenue.

The financial report was adopted by the members present. The motion to adopt the financial report was proposed by Mr Woon Chiap Chan, ISS Facility Services Pte Ltd and seconded by Mr Daniel Leong, Qool Enviro Pte Ltd.

Next, outgoing EMAS President Mrs Deanne Ong gave all members present a good overview of the large strides the association had made in various areas with the past activities organized by EMAS. These included:

Collaboration with NEA

The President mentioned about collaboration with NEA where the following key points were raised with NEA:

1. Housing concerns for Foreign workers
2. Rising salaries
3. The inability to attract new talents into the industry

Collaboration with MOM

The President mentioned the engagement with MOM where the following key points were highlighted to MOM

1. Issue pertaining to foreign workers levy

The President added that EMAS will continue its engagement process with MOM.

Collaboration with WDA

The President mentioned that there are gaps in training, particularly with the PMETS. Currently there are initiatives being rolled out, however it is subjected to grants.

Collaboration with Unions

The EXCO raised the point that it is challenging in raising the wages of the workers, as the end process lies with the buyers where the service contracts are usually one sided. This led to the low wages of workers. This matter is being addressed to NEA and MOM.

Educational Talks

The President mentioned that EMAS has held educational talks with buyers. Where such talks will better serve to educate the buyers, at the same time, updating time of the trends and lastly it is also a means of promoting member companies.

Collaboration with Tertiary Institutions

The President mentioned that there should be engagement with tertiary institutions - Polytechnics, where engagement will allow for internship programmes with the polytechnics and recruitment for new talents.

Social Events

The President mentioned that there should be more social events, where it will allow for a more conducive environment to share industry development and challenges. It is also to build trust amongst members.

Other Initiatives

The President mentioned about some other initiatives that had been rolled out. Where there was a discussion with IDA & SITF, and more dialog session will be done with them to determine the kind of relevant programmes that can be rolled out.

The president also shared about an experiment where an intern was engaged in her own expense (funded by ORIGIN Holdings) to run and manage some of the events.

EMAS Members' Directory

The President updated the members about the upcoming EMAS Members' Directory. The directory will benefit the members when it is being distributed to various organizations.

An additional update on ground covered in the past year includes:

EMAS-RP collaboration study

The EMAS study with RP on "Understanding the drivers that influence the decisions on requirements and standards on environmental health" can be obtained in hard copy. Those interested to have this, can contact Ms Angie Ong at angieong@epc.com.sg to make arrangements for collection. In the coming weeks, this will be sent via softcopy to all EMAS members.

The various activities covered by EMAS during Mrs Deanne Ong's term as President have shown the association's growth and progress, and this is something incoming President Mr Milton Ng hopes to continue building. Based on the outgoing President's proposed roadmap for EMAS, the progression includes the following areas:

Development of HR function for the industry

To think of ways in help with staff retention:

EMAS to assist in recruiting staffs for member companies

EMAS to identify relevant course for the member companies and negotiate group rates where possible.

Development of a partnership between the industry and tertiary institutions

Such a partnership will allow for the test bed of new processes, technology and ideas.

The partnership will also help in upgrading the workforce and also change the perception of the industry, which will lead to better recruitment of staff.

Platform for the industry

EMAS should provide act and provide feedback to the government and at the same time assist in shaping government policies.

Launch pad for Buyer information

Education of the service buyers is vital in allowing the buyers to better understand the type of services and products that they are getting. By the same token, such educational workshops will allow the buyers to know of the new technologies available and also serve as upgrading of knowledge to the buyers and members alike.

Organizing body to hold and attend exhibitions and conferences

EMAS should expand our reach to overseas markets by participating in exhibitions and at the same time, this allows for the industry to keep up with the latest industry developments. One good example is the trade mission to Australia to understand the workings of the cleaning industry there.

Meet and develop collaborative techniques

The industry should change the mindset of undercutting their competition; and by doing so it will lead to the growth of the industry by expanding markets.

Exploration of new areas

EMAS should explore the following options so as to ensure the continuity growth of the industry and association.

1. The President also urged members to help increase membership numbers by spreading the word of EMAS
2. EMAS will be inviting the Government to Act as the patron of EMAS to assist in championing some of the EMAS initiatives
3. Consideration of Industry Grant, the President mentioned that at this point of time, the association is not able to get Industry grants. However, as the association grows in size, they will consider getting industry grants.
4. Secondment of Staff from Agency and Industry
5. To have a permanent part-time staff to sustain continued efforts – The president feels that for EMAS to grow there should be a permanent part-time staff to push through the initiatives and engage the members.

Additionally, new EMAS President Mr Milton Ng also suggested to have training and upgrading of the foreign workers and by doing so to seek for the government to reduce levies of such workers. Outgoing President Mrs Deanne Ong had asked the member body their views on having EMAS look at housing for foreign workers as a value add the association could offer. The challenges with responses to contracts and the inflexibility of just one location for this housing were discussed. However, it was therefore agreed that while somewhat useful given the escalating costs in rental, this may not be practical for members.

Based on the proposed roadmap, the EXCO and all EMAS members have our work cut out for us. For now, the Association has a total of 37 members – 31 Ordinary and 6 Associate.

The new members are:

Glomax Maintenance Services Pte Ltd
Ensystem (Singapore) Pte Ltd
Pest-Pro Management Pte Ltd

The EXCO also updated that the following companies had withdrawn as EMAS members:

Agro Technic Pte Ltd
Conrad Services Pte Ltd
Pestguards Pte Ltd
Tomi Environmental Solutions – Singapore Pte Ltd
United Hygiene Services Pte Ltd
Eng Leng Contractors Pte Ltd

Incoming President Mr. Milton Ng, requests for the members to assist in bringing in more members to the association and promised that the Executive Committee will continue to engage the government agencies to address the issues of EMAS. Mr Milton Ng also mentioned that they would be exploring if there would be a possibility of accredited cleaning companies must be part of EMAS as a pre-requisite for accreditation.

Ultimately it is to the benefit of all EMAS members to play a part in growing the association. Only through gathering more members under the umbrella of EMAS, can the association grow in strength and influence. With more companies lending their combined voices to EMAS, the association can make greater strides forward in engaging the various government ministries on a larger platform, and the benefits of such engagement will be enjoyed by all members. As such, this November, the EXCO exhorts ALL EMAS members to do YOUR part in recruitment. Only then can the association continue to grow and flourish for the good of the industry!



Finally, all EMAS members are invited to e2i's Building Services Seminar on 10 November 2011. Details as follows:

Event: Building Services Seminar

Date: 10 Nov 11, Thursday

Time: 2pm – 6pm

Venue: Amara Hotel

Grand ballroom 1 & 2
165 Tanjong Pagar Rd
S(088539)

During the seminar, we will share on how companies in the Landscape, Cleaning, Facilities Management and Pest Management industries can

1. Better manage your business
 - How to better run your company using HR capabilities for business excellence
2. Increase your company's efficiency
 - Find out how you can get funding support for productivity breakthroughs
3. Strategically manage talent
 - Support your recruitment and manpower development needs

Besides the sharing sessions by our Guest speakers, there will also be exhibition booths showcasing various equipment suppliers and consultancy companies

To RSVP for the event, please email your details (name, contact number, designation & company) to Mr. Aloysius Soh, sohwl@e2i.com.sg by 31st October 2011, Monday.

Pls contact the respective e2i officer if you need more information:

For Cleaning, Ms Jenny Siew siewmj@e2i.com.sg or 6471 5824

For Landscape, Ms Valerie Tan, tantx@e2i.com.sg or 64715866

For Facilities Management / Pest Management, Ms Tay Wei Bin taywb@e2i.com.sg or 6471 9589
