



## **EMAS Bulletin August 2011**

This August, the Environmental Management Association of Singapore (EMAS) kicks off the month with recaps of two major events that took place in the past month.

### 1. Golf Social in Bintan

Held on 15<sup>th</sup> July in Ria Bintan, this was a great opportunity for EMAS members to get together in an informal setting to enjoy a game of golf and a day out in the sun. A total of 11 participants turned up, and all had a good time with the friendly competition and casual chats whilst on the course. The day rounded off with dinner, as EMAS members gathered to discuss the various issues common across each others' businesses. It was a good bonding session, and EMAS looks to organize more similar events in the months to come.



## 2. Seminar on Responsible Handling of Strays

This seminar was jointly organized by Cat Welfare Society and Mutts and Mittens. AVA also extended a talk on their current guideline, the implication to the companies and their handlers, and how the law is interpreted. Held on 14<sup>th</sup> July, at Republic Polytechnic, the seminar sought to impart to participants the importance of handling methods when dealing with stray cats and dogs, as well as guidelines on more responsible and humane handling of the animals. Participants of this talk included pest management professionals across the industry as the handling of strays is often part of the pest control contract. By the end of the seminar, participants had covered the following topic areas:

- a. Good understanding on the legal requirements and guidelines
- b. How to identify and handle stray cats.
- c. The legal implication to their staff and the directors for non-compliance. A pest management company has already been convicted and given that contract sums for this removal is small, then it is advisable that the law is understood and necessary precautions are taken
- d. A practical hands-on experience

The above topic area gave participants a good idea of the importance of responsible handling of strays especially from the perspective of the humane handling of animals, as well as the legal consequences of animal abuse.

Following this seminar, there were a number of proposed areas where follow up action was deemed necessary:

- e. Follow-up proposed for action was to have a template drafted to ensure compliance with WSH
- f. Follow-up on guidelines for clients with regards to tender specifications and have instead recommended guidelines for joint legal compliance
- g. Follow-up for template to extend to clients with regards to clarification
- h. Follow-up for a certification course conducted with AVA to ensure staff are trained and encouragement of clients to engage with trained personnel. AVA will explore whether this can be added to the NEA-ITE course.



### 3. Meeting with IDA

This took place on 7th July. EMAS met with IDA to explore the possibility of the application of technology incorporating IT to benefit companies. The overall sentiment was that members of EMAS coming together to implement this in their companies, as a cluster, would result in increased savings for all. EMAS is currently looking at ways to approach this with IT associations or with independent vendors. It is hoped that we can find a common platform that will be of benefit to all members as part of membership. As such, EMAS plans to hold an educational talk on this and more related developments. This will be updated in the coming months. We look forward to your attendance and engagement in the upcoming seminar.

### 4. Business Study Trip for Cleaning Companies.

This trip kicked off on the 19<sup>th</sup> July with a total number of about 10 companies and several government ministries flying off to Sydney for the trip. The aim was to understand how the cleaning industry is managed in Australia. Collectively the trip allowed participants to cover the following topic areas:

- a. To understand how they operate without an increased dependency on a foreign workforce
- b. To understand how they attract and retain cleaners in Australia
- c. To understand how training and skills are promoted in Sydney
- d. To understand how technology can be adopted and incorporated in tenders
- e. To understand how productivity is adopted and measured in contracts
- f. To understand how they manage the image of the industry
- g. To also better understand the role the association has on the industry
- h. To understand the role government has with regards to policy and improvements for the industry

Overall it was a fruitful trip as cleaning companies here had a chance to see how similar companies operate in Australia, and to then bring these ideas back to the Singapore marketplace and to see how this can be effectively adopted to create our own uniquely Singapore success story. In such a way, the industry here would have a chance to grow and develop along the lines of greater capabilities.



Next up, are events planned for the month of August, which EMAS is organizing for all members. These events will give all members a chance to engage with government, to find out more about industry related policies, thus EMAS encourages all members to block out those dates!

1. Planned seminar next month with MOM  
This is scheduled for the 29<sup>th</sup> August, so block the date. More information about the seminar will be extended shortly, so do look out for the email!
2. Meeting with the new Chief of UCCW, Mr Zainal (MP for Pasir Ris)  
This meeting is scheduled with the EMAS EXCO for the start of the month. Previous issues tabled will be done so again and hopefully with some outcome this time. Members will be advised on the developments associated so keep an eye out for that email!

All in all, it has been an exciting July for EMAS, and it looks set to be an eventful August as well. We hope all members continue to look towards greater engagement with the industry and government via EMAS. Please do encourage your friends and suppliers to join the association as we can only drive change if we have a large enough voice. The time is ripe to push for much needed change and we cannot do this without your continued support and your encouragement to others to join EMAS and ride the wave for change.

Yours Truly,  
Mrs Deanne Ong  
President – EMAS.

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