



# EMAS BULLETIN

JANUARY 2011 ISSUE

1003 BUKIT MERAH CENTRAL, #02-10, SINGAPORE 159836  
WWW.EMAS.ORG.SG

## **EMAS Members Making a Mark!**

At the start of 2011, the Environmental Management Association of Singapore (EMAS) is excited to announce the compilation of the first EMAS Directory 2011/2012. All EMAS members are entitled the privilege of having your company details listed in the directory at no cost. In addition, EMAS members will also be given the priority of advertising in the directory at members' rates. All EMAS members should have received a weblast on this issue already, and if you have not, please contact the EMAS secretariat as soon as possible. All interested parties should complete the attached forms to submit your company profile and/or advertising details to the EMAS secretariats. For more details, kindly contact Ms Agasia Fong at: at Tel 6377 6629 or email at [agasiafong@epc.com.sg](mailto:agasiafong@epc.com.sg).

## **Extending the Committee!**

In this new year, EMAS is pleased to announce the addition of 2 more members to the EMAS committee. This move was proposed and adopted at the last AGM. The need for co-opted members is to allow for more involvement from EMAS members in the direction and work of the association. The selection of these two members has been based on individuals who have indicated their interest and wish to contribute, and this has been duly voted on at the most recent EMAS EXCO Meeting. The announcement on the committee's selection will be made shortly.

## **Education for Service Buyers!**

Next up, EMAS is pleased to announce that the educational talks will be commencing again in 2011. The educational seminar will comprise of one talk on cleaning and one on pest control, plus one talk with E2I, on the issue of best sourcing. As with the previous talk conducted, the target audience will be the buyers of environmental health services. The aim of these talks will be to promote best practices, and companies who feel they have a process, method or product that will allow for this aim to be achieved should participate. The benefits of participation include the ability of promoting your services through the EMAS platform to potential clients. This will also be a shared cost, so it will be cheaper than having this done independently. As the topics are spread and it is coupled with a government agency, there is a higher likelihood that more potential buyers of services would want to attend this seminar. This educational talk will not involve any of your competitors but will serve as a platform for you and another company to speak directly to the audience of service buyers. More details will come later but for those who are interested, please do contact EMAS Secretariat Mr Jeffrey Tan at:

[Jeffrey@epc.com.sg](mailto:Jeffrey@epc.com.sg)

## **Pest Management – Training and Licensing of Workers!**

Another pressing issue in recent months has been the dialogue between EMAS and NEA regarding the pest control licensing training course, and on this side of things, EMAS has updates to share with all members. On November 23<sup>rd</sup> NEA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with ITE to enhance collaboration and strengthen the partnership between both parties. The new programmes, "Joint ITE-NEA Certificate in Pest Management" and "Joint ITE-NEA Certificate in Pest Control", were respectively launched in July and September this year to train and license vector control technicians and workers. These 2 programmes replaced the former Vector Control Technicians' Course and Vector Control Workers' Course conducted by SEI. The MOU reflected the commitment of both NEA and ITE to jointly formulate initiatives and develop certification programmes. NEA believes that this will translate to higher service standards and greater professionalism in these fields. For more details on the MOU and its objectives, please see the attached newsflash from NEA. Separately, the ground issue of insufficient training has been brought to NEA's attention, and in coming months they will look towards increasing the frequency to meet the increased demand for the course. EMAS is in the midst of producing a

concept paper to trend the increased demand for the course training slots as the pest management industry is seeing increased growth on the back of the flourishing economy. For now though, there is only one March intake for this course that still has vacancies available and the places are being filled quickly. EMAS would thus like to urge all members to register as soon as possible as the next course after March 2011 will only be conducted in May 2011.

### **Christmas Goodies!**

Union for Contract and Casual Workers (UCCW) has, in December, provided some movie tickets for EMAS members. This has been extended on a first-come-first serve basis to members. To date the response has been overwhelming for the event and so, we had to have some companies declined. We hope that this level of response can be sustained in the future and will look at trying to embark on more initiatives that will offer benefits given the interest seen for the staff of EMAS member companies.

### **Sport for a Good Cause!**

There is also an update on the previously suggested EMAS golf event. After compiling responses, there are sufficient companies who have indicated their interest to participate and EMAS is therefore looking to arrange a small tournament where companies can arrange for their staff or clients to participate in the event. The aim of this event is to support a charity or worthy cause. It will be a monumental year for EMAS, as it is our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary and we hope to be able to show our clients that we as an industry have a heart.

### **Completion of the Perception Study with Students from Republic Polytechnic!**

At the end of last year, the EMAS collaboration with Republic Polytechnic on a joint study conducted by RP students and coordinated by EMAS members has been successfully concluded. The study aimed to find out more about the service gaps between buyers and providers of environmental health services in Singapore, namely from the pest control and cleaning industries. In addition, the students also conducted a perception study to understand prevailing perceptions of our industry by service buyers. The study included a detailed survey of service buyers across the sectors of hospitals, town councils, schools and shopping centres. The findings of the study have been compiled in a concept paper, and this information will be sent to EMAS members ONLY, and in hardcopy. The document will also be used for dissemination and discussion with related agencies namely, NEA, UCCW, e21, WDA and MOM. The study has shown that there exists current service gaps and we would like to find ways to have these gaps addressed. EMAS will hold a dialogue with members on steps going forward from this, so that a collective and rounded voice can be extended with related agencies, given the findings of this study.

### **EMAS is taking up Pro-active Engagement for the Environmental Health Industry**

Moving on, EMAS hopes to achieve new heights in 2011. We have embarked on this journey by improving our positioning as an association through tie ups with other related agencies. These initiatives are listed below.

1. EMAS involvement in the inter-agency committee for public restrooms with Restroom Association of Singapore. EMAS representative on the committee is Mr John Selvam. The committee has issued a 70 page report on public restrooms in Singapore, and this was shared with a media at a press conference on 16<sup>th</sup> December.
  2. EMAS involvement in the Public Hygiene Council set up by NEA. The council's objective is to garner community and business support in promoting the standards of environmental hygiene in Singapore. Besides initiating community and business oriented programmes to drive home messages concerning cleanliness and good personal hygiene, the Council will also be supporting the Govt's effort in leveling up the performance of local cleaning industry through our new Clean Mark Accreditation Regime. The Council will also be helping MEWR and NEA in coming out with a new Award scheme to recognise organisations and individuals who have contributed towards
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raising public hygiene standards in our community. EMAS Vice President Mr Milton Ng will be sitting on this council as our EMAS representative.

3. EMAS' involvement in the Hazardous Waste Committee - NEA. The big take-away for the industry from this meeting is that some bleaching agents have been found in the reservoirs and so there will be mitigating effects to be expected with the types of bleaching and cleaning agents in the coming months. This will be announced directly by government. Those who wish to know more, please contact EMAS Secretariat Mr Jeffrey Tan, who will be able to ensure the appropriate information is extended. EMAS President Mrs Deanne Ong is representing EMAS in this committee
4. EMAS' involvement with a Presidents Roundtable discussion organized by IE Singapore. The objective of the dialogue would be to discuss the IE Green Programme Office 2011 Initiatives, including: iCDP (Green) NEW incentive for Green solutions providers, Green Branding and Info Webpage/Green Issue, as well as Regional Green Business Promotion Alliance and a sharing by IE GPO on regional green business promotion and alliance. EMAS President Mrs Deanne Ong has been invited to participate in the roundtable discussion and will represent EMAS interests at the event.

EMAS is excited to be involved in the many interesting developments involved in environmental health concerns here in Singapore. We believe this is a clear sign that EMAS is heading in the right direction, and is starting to be recognized as a worthy changemaker in the industry. However, more needs to be done to increase our sphere of influence and to continue to be able to serve members better and remain relevant for the diverse business interests of our members.

Once again, we would like to urge members to raise matters or interests through EMAS and have EMAS serve as a conduit to effect change in the industry.

On behalf of the EXCO, EMAS would like to wish all members the very best for 2011!

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