

Singapore Workshop provides great insight for delegates

Made in Singapore

CBRNe World's CBRNe Focus: Workshop was held in the Civil Defence Academy of the Singapore Civil Defence Force on the 12th and 13th of November. Nearly 50 participants from Singapore and beyond sat in on a range of presentations from Singaporean agencies. The presentations spanned the whole range of defence from science and technology preparedness to clean up after an event.

Eight agencies were involved, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF), Singapore Police Force (SPF), the National Environment Agency, Immigration and Checkpoint Agency, the Office of the Science and Technology Officer (OCSTO), Defence Science Organisation (DSO) and the Defence Science and Technology Agency (DSTA). The event was started by Eric Yap of the MHA, who provided an overview of the threat facing Singapore and an idea of how all the government agencies meshed together. Following him was Lt. Col. Teong How Hwa, of the SCDF, the SCDF is the lead agency in any CBRN attack, and he outlined their capability, command structure and gave an idea of the development path of the force. Dr Lee Fook Kay, of OCSTO, presented after Lt. Col. Teong, and brought his team to the CDA to showcase some of the new work that OCSTO is doing and how it will fit into the other research agencies. The last speaker on the first day was Tan Quee Hong of the National Environment Agency, Singapore having a large area of high value buildings needs to have a highly competent decontamination capability and Mr Tan explained how they managed this.

Day Two started with Assistant Superintendent Wendy Lee of the Singapore Police Force. Singapore has foiled a number of terrorist attacks and she went into detail of their capability and training programme and discussed some of their innovations like the Clipper bus system. The penultimate science paper was given by

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Sng Mui Tiang of the DSO, after an overview of the Organisation she was able to show some of the fascinating research that they are working on in areas such as agent fate and modelling and simulation. The first speaker in the afternoon was well known to old Singaporean hands, Ho Kong Wai of the DSTA used to be CO of the Singapore Armed Forces CBRE response, and how outlined the work that the DSTA is doing in research and acquisition for the armed forces and outlined the types of devices he wanted to see from industry. The last speaker was Danny Ng, of the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority, an agency that has to maintain security over the world's biggest port. As well as explaining some of the radiation portal work that they have developed he announced the creation of the ports new chemical and biological laboratory for the screening of suspect packages.

The whole event was supported by the SCDF, not only the venue and the catering, but also the tour of the facility and a demonstration. The former showed why the UN has approved of the CDA as one of the leading urban search and rescue facilities in Asia, as well as the outside chemical factory and oil storage tanker the facility has a building that they call the furnace. The 'furnace' is a nine storey building that is split into a range of rooms such as a chemical storage facility, bar, karaoke room, restaurant kitchen, here trainee firefighters can be educated in the right way to fight fires – and if they take too long the fire spreads. This became abundantly clear to the '6'3" editor when the roof of the karaoke bar caught fire, since he was only three inches beneath the roof he had to take emergency evasive action before what little hair he had was immolated. The exercise and demonstration underpinned everything that Eric Yap and Lt. Col. Teong How Hwa had said about Singapore and the SCDF's capability. Speed and polish are the watchwords, and from stretcher 'mopeds' taking casualties out of the hot zone (two non ambulant to each one man moped), to the decon bus that can start its unpacking procedure while still on the move, to allow quick set up. Despite the 40 degree heat, the Level A team went through the procedures at an admirably cautious pace and dealt with device mitigation. The static demonstration was also an eye opener for the amount of assets that the SCDF has, from bio detectors like Smiths SBS and Scott's Prime Alert, to a mobile radiological laboratory and RDD mitigation chamber.

CBRNe World would like to pass their thanks onto Col. Christopher Eng Kiong, CO of the CDA, Major Esther Low, our liaison at the SCDF for their help and support, all the speakers for their time, and especially Karen Connelly and Gerard Tan for all the excellent work that they did on the two days!



Singapore's casualty extraction utilises PAPR respirators and a motorised scooter for the non ambulant ©CBRNe World