

Asian promise

Brian O'Shea reviews Global Security Asia 2009

This is the third in the GSA series of the bi-annual conference and exhibition and, in terms of CBRN, it is only getting better. The choice of Chairs – Lee Fook Kay, the Head of the Chief Science and Technology Office (OCSTO) in the Singaporean Ministry of Health, and the Editor, Gwyn Winfield, both with CBRNE backgrounds – indicated this was never in doubt. Their contacts ensured the CBRN great and the good attended, from DTRA's Dr John Weimaster and Deputy Commissioner Peter Lim from the SCDF, all the way to Denis Giordan from the French Fire Brigade and Captain Bartoleme Canovas of the Spanish Navy. It was a truly international conference, rather than a regional event.

It is unfair for us at *CBRNe World* to judge the other speakers, who are undoubtedly experts in their fields, although some areas such as human factors and biometrics do touch tangentially on CBRNE. Certainly the feedback from the delegates – admittedly the CBRN delegates – was very positive, with most seeing the event as another excellent opportunity to experience some of the capabilities in Asia.

The exhibition was also a mix of everything from small arms through to C4i systems, though (as a telling statement of how capable Singapore is)

CBRN and EOD were very well catered for. Traditional companies such as Avon, Genencor, Intelgard, Kaercher, Smiths and Remploy were there, alongside some companies that don't travel quite as much, such as Toshiba (with their new biological detector), Scent Detection Technologies (with their explosives detector) and also Veredus (with their new biological detector).

Certainly the highlight of the show, as far as we were concerned (with the exception of some of the shortest skirts known to women) was the green beer available on the *CBRNe World* stand. Coming from a local micro brewery, the Red Dot, this was brewed with the addition of spirulina algae, which turned the beer a bright green – but didn't affect the flavour. Spirulina is used by Nasa, and others, as a protein supplement, and there were a number of people who took the Editor at his word when he described it as health drink! Though no one seemed to leave disappointed that it wasn't...

Sadly, the Editor was more disappointed after he felt sure he heard fame's knock when he was invited onto Channel News Asia. Channel News Asia gets upwards of 40 million people watching every day, yet clearly film producers the world over were tuned to something else that day, as the phone



'Green beer?! But it tastes brown?!'
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has resolutely remained quiet! Gwyn has decided they are still trying to find the right part to suit his style, though comments about the lack of parts in Hollywood for the back end of a pantomime horse have not been received well.

Expect more collaboration between the organisers of Global Security Asia and *CBRNe World* next year they will be starting Global Security India (www.globalsecindia.com) – and India is *CBRNe World*'s top tip for the next big market. There are suggestions that an IED Asia show is in the offing too – we will keep you informed. Meanwhile, we will be back in Asia in December for Sispac – take that, carbon footprint!

Paches over Singapore. GSA was a further testament to how seriously Singapore takes homeland security ©CBRNe World



Book Now. CBRNe Convergence, 28th-30th October 2009, World Forum, The Hague, Netherlands. More details on www.cbrneworld.com