



Safety

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SAFETY is something we need to apply to all aspects of our lives, both in the work environment (where we are provided with systematic tools and controls) and in the public sphere. We need to be aware at all times and to be provided with the means to gauge the current level of safety as well as the options available to keep risk within acceptable levels.

Safety must be addressed at multiple levels. Conceptual engineers can improve safety by choosing less hazardous processes or activities to achieve an aim. Design engineers need to ensure there are sufficient, practical safety systems in place. Health and Safety executives will have an eye on the procedures used in activities to make sure they do not put workers in danger. On-site management needs to make sure that intent and action meet, or as the locals say, "*cakap serupa bikin*" (freely translated as "walk the talk").

Safety should be an integral part of design. Bolting on procedures and equipment as an afterthought does not reflect an organised process. This approach can affect the bottom line too, as it is not cost effective.

This issue of *JURUTERA* gives us a taste of the different approaches to safety, used in the Oil, Gas & Mining industry. There are interviews with safety practitioners who offer their views on how to ensure safety in the industry.

Then, among others, one article introduces us to a tool that is used to gauge the safety levels of an activity or location, while another addresses the misconception of a certain piece of hardware used to provide a safe work environment.

You are welcome to dip in and take away ideas and starting points for you to look at your own work environment with a more critical eye on safety. ■