Static Electricity – Understanding and Controlling Hazards

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ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING TECHNICAL DIVISION

ON 7 November, 2013, EETD organised an evening talk on "Static Electricity – Understanding And Controlling Hazards" at Wisma IEM C&S Lecture Hall A. It was attended by 42 participants.

This evening talk was made possible as Mr. Grant Bowman of Newson Gale was in Malaysia and was willing to share his expertise on the subject of static electricity with our members.

Full attention given during explanation of the static electricity hazard

Presenting the token of appreciation to Mr. Grant Bowman

Mr. Bowman talked about how static electricity is generated and hazard recognition in an explosive environment in certain high risk industries such as paint, sugar industry etc. He stressed on the importance of static electricity control at these sites with risk mitigation to be deployed such as good grounding and bonding to discharge the static charge effectively. There was a video presentation on some case studies and static charge incidents to illustrate how static charge was identified and the amount of ignition energy required to trigger an explosion. He said there were international standards and guidelines available to the industries such as new IEC 60079-32: Explosive Atmospheres-Electrostatic Hazards, Guidance, NFPA 77 – Recommended Practice on Static Electricity. He then focused on available solutions to reduce static charge in the system via certain static clamps and monitoring static devices.

The talk ended with an active Q&A session as well as interactive discussions on dust accumulation in electrical switchgear and rail grounding. Then a certificate of appreciation and as well as an IEM heritage book were presented to Mr. Bowman. ■

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