

Integrating Safety at an Oil & Gas Production Facility; loop from IUPAC-UNESCO-UNIDO Fellowship Experience.

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The demand for accountability and deployment of safe work environment gives no room for complacency in the business world today. It is key to sustainability of any viable business as negligence brings about reputation issues and can even lead to litigation. This has become more critical given the increased knowledge base across the globe on Environmental and Safety issues.

The world today depends more on chemicals and related substances more than ever before, the anxiety of the populace on safety of the process associated with production of this chemicals makes it imperative for a step change to achieve best safety and Environmental practices. An early exposure to some best practices worth replicating during my experience as an IUPAC-UNESCO-UNIDO safety fellow has sustained my interest to add value and influence safety best practice in my place of work.

As a fellow, I visited Sasol Chemical Industries in South Africa; Sasol converts coal into value-added synfuels and Chemicals through unique Fischer-Tropsch technologies. The group also refines crude oil into liquid fuels. I focused on the following:

Aspects of responsible care and integrated approach for SHE, Occupational Hygiene, Process safety management with emphasis on HAZOP awareness, Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS), Hazard Identification Risk Assessment (HIRA) and Top set accident investigation technique.

This fellowship provided a vital base and has given the impetus for my involvement on key issues of safety.

Part of my current commitment include:

- Production Facility Inspections.
- Leading Safety awareness Campaigns.
- Coordination of Hazards Management Workshops.
- Driving actions to manage the integrity of Safety Critical Equipment (SCE).
- Sharing Learning from Investigation of Incidents.

Production facilities in the Oil & Gas Industries have a lot of process Hazards, the need for asset integrity and strict compliance with Corrective and Preventive maintenance is very vital in preventing incidents. A deliberate plan for facility inspections to monitor the state of facilities & safety Critical Equipments (SCE), tracking actions that require attention has proved very useful in the deployment of the entire Hazard Management Process.

Results

Improved integration of Safety at work.