Director of WSO National Office for India Wins International Green Apple Award

The Green Organisation was established in 1994 as an international, independent, non-profit, non-political, non-activist, environment group dedicated to recognizing, rewarding and promoting environmental best practice around the world.

The International Green Apple Awards
The Green Apple Awards campaign was one of the first to be accepted by Britain’s RSA Environmental Awards Forum as meeting the high standards and criteria to be approved as an automatic conduit into the Brussels-led European Business Awards for the Environment. It is still one of the few schemes that has this honor.

Mr. C. Kannan, Chief Engineer (Health & Safety), Deputy General Consultant for Chennai Metro Rail Project Phase 1, and Director of the WSO National Office for India, won a 2016 Green Apple Environment Award in the International Campaign to find the greenest companies, councils, and communities.

Mr. Kannan competed against more than 100 other nominations in the Green Apple Awards for the Built Environment Awards, and he was presented with their trophy and certificate at the glittering presentation ceremony in the House of Parliament in London on November 11.

As a result of this Green Apple award, he was invited to have his winning paper published in The Green Book, the leading international work of reference on the Built Environment, so that others around the world can follow his example and learn from his achievement.

He could also progress to represent his country in the Green World Awards, and the European Business Awards for the Environment.

The Green Apple Awards are supported by the Environment Agency, the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, the Chartered Institution for Waste Management, and other independent bodies.

WSO Sets Theme for 30th Annual Symposium, Call for Speakers Now Open

Enhancing Knowledge, Professionalism, and Networking

In this 42nd year of the WSO, we continue to evolve and adapt to the demands of our ever-changing world: how we live our lives and how we work, how we learn, how we share new information, and how we comply with new laws, regulations, and other changes in global trade.

We must always remind ourselves of the WSO Objectives: to encourage the effective exchange of information and experiences between and among the members of the WSO; to collaborate with other international organizations in conducting activities of mutual concerns, interests and directions; to promote the continuous upgrading of the safety and accident prevention technology and these fields related to loss of lives, property, and environment; to strive for a universal level of professionalism and competence among its members and WSO non-members whose functions are related to safety; to perform such other necessary acts and functions relevant to the WSO overall theme of “Making Safety A Way of Life ... Worldwide.”

In Las Vegas, you can expect presentation topics from such areas as occupational safety and health, environmental safety and health, ergonomics, systems safety management, security, industrial hygiene, hazardous materials management, transportation safety, construction safety, off-the-job safety, recreational safety, safety of the workplace, disaster preparedness, as well as legislative topics on the national and global scale.

You may download the Call for Speakers, Outline/Abstract Form, and Registration Form from the WSO website, or you may submit an Abstract or complete your Registration online. As always, you may also contact the WSO World Management Center for more information.

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Space Coast Area Transit Holds Annual Bus “Roadeo”

Reported by Gennaro Saliceto WSO-CSSD/CSI(SL)

Space Coast Area Transit is a transportation agency located in Brevard County, Florida, close to Cape Canaveral. SCAT is a small-sized agency with 67 buses, 18 fixed routes, and para-transit routes.

Each year, around the end of February, SCAT sponsors a safety and skills competition for bus operators and mechanics. This “Bus Roadeo” is an occasion not only to test personal skills and limits, but to also meet other professionals in the field, create a network with other colleagues, and enjoy family activities, which include a chili cook-off and cake decorating contest. The Roadeo winner is awarded a plaque and a reserved parking space for a year.

To be eligible to compete in the Roadeo, contestants must meet the following criteria:

- Be employees of the transit system not working in a supervisory position;
- Have worked, full-time or part-time, in the field in which they are competing for more than one year prior to the date of the Roadeo;
- Meet the transit system’s guidelines on sickness and absenteeism;
- Not have any preventable or chargeable accidents during the year prior to the Roadeo date;
- Not have any disciplinary action against them during the year prior to the Roadeo date.

The Competition

The competition starts by scoring the driver appearance (correct use of the uniform, neat and clean, proper location of the ID/badge, etc.).

After this, the driver proceeds to the 7-minute pre-trip inspection, generally checking pre-set safety criteria.

Next, the driver moves on to the Wheelchair Securement Skills. In this section the competitor has to properly secure a passenger in wheelchair and verbalize the procedures step by step in accordance with ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) mandates.

Once this section of the competition is completed, the competitor can start the driving portion of the course.

Each competitor must complete the following maneuvers in order to score:

- **Offset Street:** the driver drives through two narrow lanes that are offset to the right one full lane’s width from each other.
- **Right and Left Hand Reverse:** the operator reverses the bus to the right or left between a set of cones (without touching any cones), and stopping with the rear bumper within 36 inches of the cone in the rear.
- **Passenger Stop:** the operator stops the bus with the front wheels within six inches of the curb and the rear wheels within 15 inches of the curb.
- **Right Hand Turn:** tests a driver’s ability to negotiate a right 90-degree turn. The corner is marked with cones and the rear tire of the bus is to pass within six inches of the corner pivot cone.
- **Left Hand Turn:** tests a driver’s ability to make a tight left turn in a close situation. The driver steers the bus into a 90-degree turn without hitting any of the cones outlining the obstacle.
- **Serpentine:** the driver enters a gate, steers in and out through three cones, and exits through another gate. The bus is not permitted to touch any portion of any cone.
- **Right Tire Clearance:** the driver drives through a line with their right dual tires. The lane is only slightly wider than the total outside width of a pair of rear duals and is marked out with large flat washers and tennis balls. It is wider at the entrance and narrower at the exit.
- **Diminishing Clearance:** the driver drives through a narrowing V-shaped channel outlined with barrels, while obtaining a minimum speed of 20 miles per hour.
- **Judgment Stop:** the driver must show ability to judge stopping distances between the bus and a small object directly ahead. An 18-inch cone is placed on the finish line. The bus must stop with the front bumper within six inches of the cone.

Roadeos take place all around the country each year, generally from February through August. Each Transportation Agency that wishes to participate will organize their own Roadeo with the format described above. The winner for each category will participate in the State event. The State winners advance to compete in the National event. There is also an international version where national winners from all over the world compete against one another.

A charter member/officer of the WSO Southwest Florida Chapter, Gennaro Saliceto is the former Safety, Security, and Training Coordinator for SCAT. He is currently Safety and Security Auditor for the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) at the University of South Florida in Tampa.
Concerned Professional Awardee 2015 Mr. Leo Dote delivered a talk at the College of the North Atlantic Qatar April 5, 2016, at the CNAQ Health Sciences Campus. The topic was all about Stress Risk Assessment in line with the International Labor Organization’s Theme on World Day for Safety and Health at Work with the theme: Workplace Stress: A Collective Challenge.

Mr. Dote emphasized on how stress takes place in the life of a working individual and gave some helpful tips on how to do the stress risk assessment. Mr. Dote expounded that the most straightforward way of managing personal stress is to carry out the following steps:

1. An individual must learn how to identify the stress risk factors emerging from unmanaged workplace pressures.
2. Who can be affected if these stress starts to affect the working individual?
3. Evaluation of the level of stress is so important so that control measures can be started as early as possible before stress results to unfavorable things in one’s life especially at the workplace.
4. The individual who realized that he is already suffering from stress must take note or observe himself in order to ensure that he set boundaries from more pressures and to start remediating the effects of stress.
5. Finally, the stressed out person must learn how to monitor and re-assess himself constantly so as to prevent recurrence of stress.

He also gave a simple technique of identifying stress risk factors in the form of an acronym WORRIED which means:

W – Work type that the person is engaged in
O – Organizational set up where support is vital for the working individual
R – Roles and Responsibilities that is placed upon the worker
R – Relationship with the people at the workplace
I – individual coping mechanism with stress
E – Environmental atmosphere
D – Demand of the work against life balance

According to Mr. Dote, in managing stressful situations, it is important to remember that the elements of safety and health which are the People, Equipment, Materials, and work environment can get affected resulting to unsafe acts and unsafe conditions which often times are the result of unmanaged stress. At the personal level, it can lead to physical and psychological effects which will eventually end up to an unproductive work-life.

The event was attended by the faculty lead by the Dean of Health Sciences Ms. Irene O’Brien staff and students of CNAQ who appreciated the talk as he delivered it from his personal experience having been in the safety leadership and management for more than a decade.

Earlier in the month he also delivered similar talk to the members and officers of the Philippine Association of Safety Engineers–Qatar a local Filipino safety organization whose members are also members of WSO.

Mr. Dote was proud to share the message of stress risk assessment as part of his advocacy in Occupational Health and Safety and speaking in front of various nationalities goes hand in hand with the motto of WSO which is “Making Safety A Way of Life....Worldwide.”

With years of experience from being a safety professional alongside spreading awareness on the importance of safety to different organizations in several countries, Mr. Dote is the epitome of a WSO Concerned Professional Awardee due to his desire to make the importance of protecting people, property, resources and the environment known to numerous professionals around the globe. Among his credentials are being a key initiator of the WSO Education and Training program on Road Safety, Advanced Fire Safety Management & Construction Health and Safety, representing Qatar in the United Nations Environment Program Workshop on the Effects of Lead and Mercury in Products, being Hamad Medical Corporation’s representative in the Gulf Cooperation Council in formulating Occupational and Environmental Health Standards for accredited hospitals & other healthcare facilities. More than being an established professional, Mr. Dote’s support to World Safety Organization’s objectives truly makes him worthy of the WSO Concerned Professional Award.
Submitted by Robert Trapani, WSO-CSS/CHME, CET, CIT

This article first appeared in the Journal of Environmental Management Arizona.

Environmental Green Shop Program
The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) Equipment Services’s Green Shop program began in 2006 with the development of a best-practices manual offering guidelines on subjects including keeping shops clean and organized for efficient operations and properly containing spills. It has become an important part of daily operations at all ADOT service shops.

More than 40 government agencies contract with ADOT Equipment Services, including the Arizona Game and Fish Department, Arizona Department of Public Safety, police departments and school districts. The shops perform preventive maintenance and major repairs on light trucks, snowplows, watercraft, snowmobiles, school buses, and more.

Environmental Green Shop Awards
In 2008, ADOT Equipment Services implemented the Environmental Green Shop Award Program. The program supports equipment repair shops in exceeding national environmental compliance standards and encourages each shop to move beyond compliance in its own way.

ADOT’s goal for the program is to promote “green” operational practices, reduce waste, and improve sustainability. The program evaluates the impact of a shop’s operations on the environment with measurable results and provides an opportunity to apply environmental best management practices reducing cost, carbon footprint, and energy consumption of infrastructure state-wide. As a result of this program, the repair shops have realized savings on chemical purchases; disposal costs, regulatory monitoring, reporting, and permit fees; water, electricity, and sewer use charges. The Green Shop Award Program is an important way ADOT can recognize its own people and reward the “Top Shop” for their commitment and for being great stewards of the environment. Every two years, one full-service shop and one satellite location are honored following three inspections, one of which is unannounced, to see how operations are following the Green Ship Guidelines.

2016 Green Shop Awards Recipients
In April 2016, ADOT Equipment Services held a ceremony to present the Green Shop Award for the “Main Shop” winner to the Tucson Equipment Shop Green Team. A second ceremony, for the “Satellite Shop” winner Green Team was held in May 2016 in Springerville, AZ, to honor the Springerville Equipment Shop.

The Tucson facility, where the Arizona Department of Transportation repairs and maintains its vehicles, has significantly reduced the amount of trash it generates by recycling scrap metal, batteries, automotive fluids, paper, and more. In addition, converting to LED lighting has reduced energy usage.

The Green Shop Awards for both ADOT’s repair facility in Springerville and the Tucson operation recognize the facilities’ achievements to minimize environmental impact, cut waste, and increase recycling at 22 ADOT Equipment Services locations. “We’re reducing the cost to the state because we’re keeping waste down,” said Nathan Carroll, the fuel, scales, environmental, and training manager for ADOT Equipment Services. “The end result is increasing productivity. For the taxpayer, that’s a good thing.”

Robert V. Trapani, WSO-CSS/CHME, CET, CIT, is an Environmental Engineering Specialist with the Arizona Department of Transportation. If you would like more information about ADOT’s Green Shop Awards Program, contact the Arizona Department of Transportation at +1-602-712-7355.