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ChemChina meeting for young managers sharing experiences in Beijing

Some young managers from several dozen ChemChina companies got together in Beijing, on May 25, to share their managerial experiences in the theme of “adversities and responsibility”, with ChemChina senior executives, department heads of SBUs and other heads and personnel taking part. There were 136 young managers taking part and 10 of them spoke about their successful experience in production, R&D, marketing and management.

ChemChina’s president, Ren Jianxin, was on hand and said he had four expectations for the young managers: first, he expected them to spend time working on the shop floor to develop professionally and competently to be real managers, especially those with HQ and SBUs; second, they need to learn more in a meaningful way; third, they need to develop their own philosophy; fourth, they need to develop emotionally. And, in the face of daunting challenge, such as overcapacity in the chemical industry, young managers, who are the mainstay of tomorrow’s ChemChina, need to meet those challenges by increasing market demand for chemical products, making optimal use of the business portfolio, and speeding up business restructuring, Ren concluded. The participants commented that the meeting had a novel form and good content and gave them a deeper understanding of their career and success and feel more valued by the company (see page 8 for more details).

ChemChina Oil & Gas hydrogenation workers get youth role model award

At the recent China Youth League and State Administration of Work Safety’s “Youth role model in work safety” campaign for 2011-2012, the hydrogenation workers at the ChemChina Oil & Gas Corp Daqing Branch’s 2nd Production Dep. were singled out as national youth role models in work safety.

Workers at the hydrogenation plant’s production department No.2 are a critical part of the 700,000-t/a gasoline and diesel hydrogenation plant and shoulder major responsibilities in balancing the gas system pressure. Given the complicated production process, level of operational difficulties, and extraordinarily high risk of corrosion and leakage, their jobs are very important to safe performance, especially in the plant’s entire process. The plant went into operation in October 2010, and since then, 16 workers have provided high-quality raw materials to downstream operations through their accurate readjustment of technical indicators in the operation process, and have shown outstanding performance in reaching the production goals and ensuring safe operations. They have exhibited this and their role as an outstanding team in response to various emergencies and urgent tasks, to ensure safe operations.
Chinese ambassador to Israel visits MAI

China’s ambassador to Israel, Gao Yanping, visited Makhteshim-Agan Industry (MAI), a ChemChina company in Israel’s Ramat-Khav in the south, on June 13, in the company of the commerce counselor, Hu Ming, and MAI’s CEO Erez. Gao was shown around the production facilities, the central control room, the sewage and exhaust gas treatment facilities, and its R&D center and spoke with Erez and the Senior VP, Uri about ChemChina’s business philosophy and its latest developments and business strategy, especially after acquiring the Israeli company. Gao explained that she expects the two to make full use of the synergy brought by the acquisition, introduce good production practices, environmental technology, and R&D to the Chinese market, and contribute to the fruitful cooperation between China and Israel and to friendship between the two peoples.

ChemChina’s 1,000 team leaders program

To bring the management and performance of production team leaders to a higher level, ChemChina has planned a 1,000-team-leader program in accordance with a plan adopted at the work conference at the beginning of the year. ChemChina president, Ren Jianxin, emphasized at the introductory meeting, the need for the performance of production team leaders to reflect company management performance and to have an immediate effect on company performance and sustainability. This program is a significant initiative for capacity building among production team leaders. So a task force was assembled in the HR department to develop a phase-by-phase implementation plan to ensure program success. ChemChina’s leaders said that the program needs to be conducted in conjunction with the training of employees with a bachelor’s degree, master’s degree or PhD, using the best possible training resources.
Adisseo France invests heavily in innovation center

Adisseo put nearly 22 million euros into the Center for Innovation of AdisseoChemistry (CINACHEM), for chemical technology development, in Saint-Fons, on May 21, to improve the company's R&D ability in Alps region. This center has a close partnership with more than 80 local companies. Since 1977, Adisseo has been developing, producing, and distributing animal feed additives in the Rhone-Alps region, and with the recent addition of 112 million euros, was able to put two production complexes at Saint Clair du Rhone and Roussillon. Adisseo's president, Jean Marc, noted that its R&D is the reason Adisseo has been on the right track for more than six decades and that innovation and design are the objectives of all R&D of the center's personnel, and the key to future growth of its chemical technology research and development.

Qenos Australia ethane capacity expansion project complete

Qenos completed its ethane capacity expansion project, in southern Melbourne, recently, a $195-million project to increase its high-density polyethylene capacity by 20 percent to meet growing Australian market demand for polyethylene. Taking part in the completion ceremony were the governor of the state of Victoria, Denis Napthine, members of the Bluestar board of directors, the Executive Chairman of Qenos, Ross McCann, and CEO Jonathan Clancy, along with senior shareholders, and major customers and suppliers. Qenos uses Australia's natural resources to produce world-class polymeric materials, and the products and improved added-value materials of its Australia plant are important to Qenos’s business performance. These plastic products are sold both in China and abroad and this project will guarantee a 15-year supply of 4 billion worth of raw materials to meet Australia’s polyethylene market demands. And it will lay a solid foundation for future growth at Qenos and benefit its customers. The project will increase production efficiency and at the same time contribute to safety and environmental protection. It will also help address the unemployment problem in the area by providing hundreds of jobs. Its success demonstrates the Chinese company’s recognition of Qenos’ competent employees and advanced technology and an excellent example of cooperation between Australian and Chinese companies.

Elkem wins international foundry industry awards

At a foundry expo and accompanying conference recently in the city of Saint Louis, United States, the American Foundry Society presented Elkem with awards for team, individual, and scientific contributions. The team award recognized Elkem's contributions to the foundry and iron industry and American Foundry Society. The individual award went to its new accounts manager, Michael Riabof, for his outstanding contribution to the foundry and iron industry and American Foundry Society, during his years at Elkem. The scientific award went to technical support manager, Doug White, in recognition of his contribution of his research findings. Elkem is an industry leader and supplier of high-performance grey nodular cast iron inoculant and nodularizer, with sales and service worldwide, and a customer R&D center in Norway, to provide technical assistance and support to the foundry business. It has been supporting the American Foundry Society and its projects for years.

Hebei Cangzhou Dahua works with Sweden’s International Chemical again

Cangzhou Dahua held a contract signing ceremony, on June 4, with Sweden's International Chemical Co for a technical renovation project at its 50,000-t/a TDI plant. For several years, Cangzhou Dahua has worked closely with the company on strategic reorientation and industry upgrading using its technical and managerial expertise and human resources. After the successful implementation of a 20,000-t/a TDI plant project, the two built a 50,000-t/a TDI plant and a 70,000-t/a TDI plant, both with successful trial runs and production targets. Recently, the company has become China’s largest TDI producer and one of the global top four TDI producers. This project cost 446 million yuan and was the largest TDI plant renovation project ever undertaken in China. After completion, it will be able to produce 80,000 tons of TDI annually and achieve sales of 1.8 billion yuan.
CNCE holds marketing personnel training for rubber machinery unit

Meng Yu

The China National Chemical Equipment Corporation (CNCE) held a training session for key marketing personnel in the rubber machinery business unit in Beijing from May 20-24 to take advantage of possible business opportunities. The carefully selected training content covers product knowledge, marketing case studies and strategy and international practices. At the end of each day, the trainees were asked to discuss the practical problems among frontline marketing personnel, and this got a lot of attention from CNCE. The trainees said their previous marketing activities involved no systematic marketing knowledge and that this session taught them how to base marketing activities on theory, improve their approach to marketing, and put more marketing knowledge into practice. After the session, CNCE held a simulated product presentation contest for the outstanding trainees, where they combined their new knowledge with practical experience, prepared a presentation, designed scenarios and exhibited what they had learned.

Schoolbag gifts for pre-school children

On the eve of Children’s Day, the Jiangxi Xinghuo Organic Silicone Plant gave schoolbags and stationery to several hundred pre-school children of its employees as a token of its care. The photo shows children at the Xinghuo Kindergarten receiving their new schoolbags.

Photo by Yan Qing.

China National Tire & Rubber holds marketing practice sharing meeting

Wang Zhenhua

The China National Tire & Rubber Corp recently held a company-wide meeting to show good marketing practices through a video- and teleconference, showing data on automobile, engineering machinery, tire and rubber products in the first four months of this year, and with three companies –- Aeolus Tire, Double Happiness Tire, and Qingdao Rubber Plant No.6 -- sharing their thoughts on marketing strategies, channel development, product mix, and marketing strategies for coal and port industries. There were also five suggestions on future marketing efforts: updating the marketing approach in three ways; improving marketing strategy, and ensuring sufficient planning for marketing activities; exploring new marketing practices, implementing a “survival of the fittest” competition, and motivating all marketing personnel to be more active and creative; strengthening team building for a highly competitive marketing team; and, sharing information, and improving market channel controls and competitiveness. The participants also expressed the need for HQs to help subsidiaries identify and solve significant problems and operational difficulties. The China Rubber Trading Co is expected to assist in increasing overseas markets with potential, while efficiently centralizing purchasing to increase business integration among subsidiaries.

Baseline survey for poverty relief

The China National Bluestar (Group) Corp had a team visit to Gulang county, Gansu province recently to explore the feasibility of poverty relief initiatives. The team members spoke with the Malan Co about possible cooperation, the better utilization of exhaust gas, and the application of poly-lactic acid (PLA), a new-type of bio-degradable material in fixing sand, and said that they will try to help Gulang get out of poverty through technological empowerment. The photo shows team members surveying the area. Photo by Chen Luxiang.
Zhonghao Chenguang Research Institute’s fluororubber project gets a pass

Lin Yang

The 4,000-t/a high-quality fluororubber high-tech industrial project of Zhonghao Chenguang Research Institute of Chemical Industry’s got the go-ahead from ChemChina and a third-party agency recently, as the institute’s first large industrialization project ever. It uses its patented technology (international level) and is China’s first ever fluororubber maker of its kind. Its acceptance means the company has gone from just a research institute to an innovative, high-tech company handling technology development, its commercialization, industrial design, and production and marketing. This puts it in the first place in China in fluororubber capacity. The company has many titles: one of China’s Top 500 in competition in the chemical industry, one of China’s Top 3 in the organic fluorne industry, a Chinese role model in performance, one of the Top 30 in chemical materials and chemical manufacturing in Sichuan province, one of the 50 profitable industrial companies in Sichuan, an environmentally-friendly company in the city of Zigong, Sichuan, and a State-level new materials center for Zigong.

NanTong XingChen Synthetic Material opens epoxy acrylic acid resin plant

Wang Xiaoning

The Nantong Xingchen Synthetic Material Co’s 35,000-t/a mixed-variety epoxy resin plant recently produced high-quality U125 epoxy acrylic acid resin, marking the successful start of the production plant, which can now move on to many varieties of epoxy resin products. They target top markets and are based on advanced technology and applications worldwide. This plant has nine production lines and 13 reactors, capable of producing 35 varieties. Its first production line started producing epoxy resin E-39D, on April 28, 2012. Currently, its high-quality epoxy acrylic acid resin has very large market demand, and has been widely used in the automobile, electric appliance, machinery, and construction sectors, thanks to its ability to preserve gloss and color, resist water and chemicals, dry speedily, and ease in applying. Quality in U125 epoxy acrylic acid resin is difficult to maintain, so the technical personnel recently produced a high-quality epoxy acrylic acid resin through better control of raw materials and operations. The Nantong Xingchen Synthetic Material Co’s epoxy acrylic acid resin plant has a fully automated DCS operation system.

Marine Chemical Research Institute holds open day

Yang Yue, Zhao Wei

The Marine Chemical Research Institute’s key national marine coatings lab held its first open-to-the-public day, on May 25, with more than 50 college students from Qingdao University and Qingdao University of Technology taking part. The deputy director of the lab, Gui Taijiang, spoke about marine coatings and some engineers showed different types of marine coatings and functional materials and provided detailed explanations of the working principles and applications of coatings and the students got involved in some in-house experiments.

Beijing Bluestar Chemical Engineering Center growing through transformation

Zhang Li

Managers and workers at the Beijing Bluestar Chemical Engineering Center held a brainstorming session on strategic positioning, business models, personnel training, team building, for greater innovation, good marketing, cost controls and improved customer service in relation to its 12 high-tech development projects including carbon fiber, pre-oxidized thread, and 1-Bromopropane. The center was the idea of the old China National Chemical Engineering Center, Beijing Bluestar Co’s development division, and Beijing Bluestar’s Confidentiality Team, who met this past February. It has five departments, which include a carbon fiber advanced technology research lab, a high-performance material research lab, and a special equipment and engineering technology lab whose focus is on products, technology, equipment, and engineering in carbon fiber and composite materials, high-performance resin materials, and related value chains. The center concentrates on standardization and innovation and is in charge of technology development for national, local and other companies.
SRDICI gets further financial support from national development program

Yao Lu

The Ministry of Science and Technology recently announced that the Southwest Research & Design Institute of Chemical Industry (SRDICI) was granted financial support as part of a national technology development program for its “Development and Application of Filter Elements for Industrial Dust Particles and Fume” project. This project deals with such pollutants as volatile organic compounds and PM2.5 fine particles in industrial dust, and the institute is working on it with the CAS Guangzhou Institute of Geochemistry, Shandong University, Northeast China University, and the Foshan Center for the Development of Environmental Technology and Equipment, in the technology and process to establish technical standards and make industrial use of the results with demonstrations and production lines. The idea is to reduce emissions and improve resource utilization in automobile coatings, household appliances, organic synthesis, steel making, cement production, building materials, garbage incineration, and mining.

The institute has been working on technical innovation under a philosophy of putting people first and seeking innovation with a pragmatic mind, and it follows the scientific outlook on development. In the past three years, it has worked on 40 projects, including some national 973 and 863 Programs, a national technology development program and key national technological commercialization projects, as well as seven international projects, with some leading results in China that helped expand its sphere of influence, upgrade traditional industrial sectors, and encouraged emerging industries in the environmental and energy conservation.

Zhenghe Petrochemical gets wastewater pretreatment process patent

Yan Xiaqiang

The Zhenghe Petrochemical Co received the notification of a national patent recently from the State Intellectual Property Office for its acrylic acid wastewater pretreatment process. This is the first patent of invention it has received since China announced its “Implementation Rules for the Patent Law”, in 2010. This gives the company 17 patents in all. This patented process is expected to improve wastewater treatment efficiency by purifying it with a steam-stripping process, then discharging the treated wastewater into a sewage treatment plant. It is faster and more energy-efficient, with a shorter workflow, lower costs, and higher conformity rate of discharge than traditional treatment technology, and is a new way of resolving the problem of acrylic acid wastewater over a long period of time at acrylic acid plant. This patent will help the company with further innovations and improve its competitiveness through IPR.

Tianhua Institute drying technology added to national development program

Wu Zhenyun

The Tianhua Institute of Chemical Machinery & Automation recently received financial support as part of an Environmental Protection Ministry and Housing and Urban and Rural Construction Ministry water pollution control program. It involves a sludge blade drying technology that already received funding as part of the national 863 Program. Tianhua Institute was China’s first company to develop this technology, which shows a mastery of the sludge blade dryer process and technology, and it built China’s first blade sludge drying tester and special-purpose blade dryers for multiple types of sludge to deal with dehydration and drying of sludge and tail gas incineration. The technology and equipment have been used in Shenzhen, Xining, and Luoyang.
Shuguang Rubber R&D Institute acquires patents

Over the past few years, the Shuguang Rubber Industry Research & Design Institute has tried to create key technology and improve its use of intellectual property rights through inspired creation, legal protection, and scientific management, with the idea of improving its innovation capacity and patent system and resources. By the end of 2012, it had been granted 39 patents, 17 for inventions, 18 for utility models, and four for industrial design.

The number of patent applications it filed in 2011 was up 67 percent from the previous year, which was followed by another increase of 36 percent in 2012, to 15 applications. In 2011, it got seven patents, and eight in 2012, the same year that it received ChemChina’s annual patent award and the patent application organization award from the city of Guilin. The patents it has received reflect high-tech, practical development. For example, a tire with abrasion identification film that solved a problem that had plagued the global aviation industry for years, involving the replacement of tires. Tests showed that aviation tires made with this patented technology could last through a significantly larger number of landings and takeoffs than conventional tires. The patented technology has been used by the air force and can also be applied to special-purpose tires for giant engineering machines and military cross-country vehicles to increase operational safety and cost effectiveness.

Jiangsu Huaihe Chemicals signs technical renovation contract

Sun Xiaoyong

The Huaihe Chemicals Co reached an agreement recently with a foreign partner on the renovation of a methyl aniline reduction plant. The methyl aniline liquid-phase hydrogenation project uses top return circuit reaction technology with many advantages, such as high product quality and low energy consumption and high applicability of plant. This project is expected to fuel the growth of the company.

Zhuzhou R&D Institute makes breakthrough in technical cooperation

Li Honglan

The Rubber & Plastics Industry Zhuzhou R&D Institute recently completed technical service work on medical latex balloon products for a Shenzhen medical equipment company, which is a significant achievement in working with companies and universities and providing superior services. The project has required the institute to solve a number of technical problems by finding the best formula and process by testing various types of latex suited for medical applications. These medical latex balloons freed the customer from a long dependence on imported materials, broke the monopoly of foreign suppliers of medical latex balloon products, and increased the cooperation between the institute and various companies.

Shandong Huaxing Petrochemical removes plant automation bottleneck

Liu Yan

Since the beginning of this year, Huaxing Petrochemical has had some success in increasing the level of automation of all its plants to 95 percent, and increasing the level of automation at less automated plants, such as the FCC plant. As a result, 12 of its plants now have an automation rate of 97 percent on average, and many other plants are at 100 percent. Its 1-million-t/a FCC plant was only around 80 percent in its automation before this breakthrough, and required a task force to identify the specific problematic control circuits before coming up with a plan that took into account actual plant operations. This helped the automated circuits to go from 133 to 139, and the automation level of the FCC plant to 97 percent. There was another low level of automation with a 50,000-t/a sulfur recovery device but, after a careful analysis of the problems with the less automated circuits, the task force found the source and eliminated it in the first attempt. A pneumatic amplifier installed at the regulating valve positioning device, significantly increased the speed and production requirements were met, significantly increasing the level of automation and reducing safety hazards.
A group of young manager representatives from 77 ChemChina companies got together in Beijing, on May 25, to share experiences in the theme of “adversity and responsibility”. All 136 of the participants were below the age of 40 and have been production team leaders or in higher-ranking positions with bachelor’s degrees or higher and more than two years of experience on the shop floor. To help them with their career success and identify and cultivate more young managers, ChemChina asked its various companies to choose qualified candidates for the meeting, from production, R&D, marketing, and management and then asked an HR service provider to rate the candidates, after which, 129 manager representatives and seven overseas manager representatives were chosen for the meeting thanks to their professionalism, competence, success, growth potential and position. At the gathering, seven Chinese manager representatives - Lian Wentao, Tu Shijian, Bai Fan, Zheng Heng, Luo Xiongxiang, Jiang Yongfu, Guo Yanfei - and three overseas manager representatives - Lionel Arras (BSI, France), Magnus Lindén (Elkem, Norway) and Rioni Allon (MAI, Israel) - shared their experiences from different perspectives and talked about things related to their careers and success such as groundwork, training, responsibility, and challenges. Their views were echoed by other participants. After a computer-aided random selection of participants, for inclusion in a discussion group, 18 of them shared their thoughts on the meeting’s theme and the key speeches at the meeting. One HR service provider was present to observe and measure the performance of each participant and, afterwards, commented on the performance of each. All the participants said that this meeting had allowed them to get a greater understanding of their career and success and to sense the expectations that the company has for them. They said they expect more meetings of this type to help young managers of ChemChina grow professionally.