

# 39th ASEAN Glass Conference

With *Glass Worldwide* as exclusive official journal, the annual ASEAN Glass Conference was successfully staged in the Philippines by the Glass Manufacturers' Association of the Philippines (GMAPI) this October.

Staged for the 11th time in the Philippines and for the first time in Cebu since 2002, the conference adopted the theme 'Glass Technology and Innovation: Driving Growth in Traditional and New Markets' and a combination of technical content and social events brought together approximately 300 attendees from 24 different countries in Asia, Europe, Middle East, North America and Oceania.

## TECHNOLOGY, INNOVATION AND R&D

Following a golf tournament and cocktail reception, Chai Kung Fee, Chairman of the ASEAN Federation of Glass Manufacturers (AFGM) and Executive Chairman of Glasco, welcomed attendees and emphasised the need for adaptability, responsiveness and collaboration to meet the demands of the ASEAN region. "This conference is a platform for better understanding the needs and expectations in the glass industry" he explained.

The audience was then addressed by Emmanuel Alcantara, GMAPI Chairman and Vice President and Glass Business Manager at San Miguel Yamamura Packaging Corp. Despite reporting a buoyant flat glass sector in the Philippines and growing demand for container glass, Mr Alcantara called for renewed efforts in the face of



The 39th ASEAN Glass Conference attracted some 300 attendees.



The programme included several networking opportunities.



AFGM committee members with keynote speaker Benjamin E Diokno (right).

intense competition from competitive materials. "The combination of technology on offer from equipment suppliers, innovation from R&D initiatives and access and sharing of information are all needed to produce the best glass possible. The best minds making this happen are at this conference. Mentioned in my

recent interview with official AFGM journal, *Glass Worldwide*, we hope to reinforce everyone's conscious effort to take advantage of the glass technology and innovations currently available. I am convinced that the AFGM and the glass industry can continue to prosper in the coming years with everyone's continued support" he concluded.

## REGIONAL INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

The ASEAN Federation of Glass Manufacturers (AFGM) is a 38 year old regional industry association, consisting of the national industry associations from the ASEAN member countries. Current Chairman is Chai Kung Fee and General Secretary is Nelson Hui Yuen Kin.

In recognition of its leading status in South East Asia, *Glass Worldwide* is exclusive official journal of the AFGM. "*Glass Worldwide's* enriched contents not only cover all the industry developments but also serves as an important medium to update members. I am very thankful to *Glass Worldwide* for being the exclusive official journal of AFGM and I believe this co-operation

will move on with the mutual trust that has been built so far, as well the support given to AFGM over the years" comments Chai Kung Fee.

Member associations of the AFGM include:

- **Indonesia:** Indonesia Glass Manufacturers Association (Chairman: Henry Susanto).
- **Malaysia:** Glass Manufacturers Association of Malaysia (Chairman: Chai Kung Fee).
- **Philippines:** Glass Manufacturers' Association of the Philippines (Chairman: Emmanuel Alcantara).
- **Thailand:** Glass Manufacturers Industry Club, The Federation of Thai Industries (Chairman: Somporn Bhumiwat).
- **Vietnam:** Vietnam Glass Association – Manufacturers sector (Honorary Chairman: Thai Tran Quoc).



**SPONSORS**

Sponsors of the 39th ASEAN Glass Conference included:

- **Conference kit:** *Glass Worldwide* / Fosbel Asia.
- **Souvenir kit:** Nosco Asia / Bottero.
- **Golf tournament:** Antonini.
- **Welcome cocktails dinner:** Bucher Emhart Glass / Pilipinas Shell Petroleum / SORG.
- **Opening ceremonies:** IRIS Inspection machines / MSK Verpackungs-Systeme / XPAR Vision.
- **Opening attire:** AGR Bangkok.
- **Group photo session:** Heye International / IRIS Inspection machines.
- **Lunches:** BDF / E W Bowman / Dura Temp / Elster Thermal Solutions / Fives / futronic / Graphoidal Developments / HORN / Hotwork International / Nationwide Distributors / Parkinson-Spencer Refractories / Quantum Engineered Products / Ramsey Products / SEFPRO / Sheppee International / Strutz International / ZIPPE Industrieanlagen.
- **Dinners:** AGC Ceramics / Connell Bros / Ihara Furnace Co / Tata Chemicals Magadi / TCT Alliance / TIAMA (msc & sgcc) / Toyo Glass.
- **Ladies tour:** Tropical timber Products.
- **Outdoor event:** Electroglass / FS-Elliott / Harbison Walker International / STARA GLASS.
- **Farewell gala dinner:** CDI Sakata INX / FERRO / Nihon Yamamura Glass / Petron / Vertech.

**KEYNOTE PRESENTATION**

Keynote speaker Benjamin E Diokno, a former secretary of budget and management for the Philippines government, sparked healthy debate with his views on the Philippines' growth struggle. Whereas Mr Diokno called for government reform to infrastructure, the tax system, corruption and weak institutions, Ferdinand Tumpalan, President of San Miguel Yamamura Packaging Corp countered with a summary of positive developments, including a GDP growth over the past 4-5 years in the Philippines that is second only to China.



AFGM Chairman Chai Kung Fee (left) with AFGM General Secretary Nelson Hui Yuen Kin.



Seven technical papers focused on 'Glass technology and innovation'.

**TECHNICAL SESSION**

Adopting the 'Glass technology and innovation' theme, a full day of technical presentations followed. "The theme put emphasis on technology and innovation being at the forefront of market growth" commented Jonathan Aquino, Conference Chairman and Assistant Vice President and Plant Manager at San Miguel. "Technology and innovation appeals to all stakeholders, particularly glass manufacturers, materials suppliers and technology providers because it is the lifeline of the glass industry."

Presentations included the following:

- Approach to fuel saving and quality improvement for container and tableware glass melting furnaces (AGC Ceramics Co).
- Electricity in glassmaking ... often the low cost option (Electroglass).
- Support to the glass industry

- Swabbing robot combines productivity and operator safety (Heye International).
- Glass conditioning in distributor and forehearths – solutions for future production demands (HORN Glass Industries).
- New NO<sub>x</sub> removal process from exhaust gas in the glass furnace (Nihon Yamamura Glass Co).
- The importance of design and specification for the forehearth and distributor (Parkinson-Spencer Refractories).

Accompanying events included a 'Gabosa Pinas' dinner at the Cebu Grand Convention Center, a beachfront 'Rampada' dinner and an outdoor event for all participants. The conference closed with a 'Rock & Roll' themed farewell dinner.

**2016 CONFERENCE**

The 40th ASEAN Glass Conference will be hosted in Thailand by the Glass Manufacturers Industry Club, The Federation of Thai Industries (GMFTI) in 2016. Announcement of dates and location will follow in a future issue of *Glass Worldwide*.

"We look forward to welcoming the glass community to Thailand for the milestone 40th ASEAN Glass Conference" commented Somporn Bhumiwat, Chairman of the GMFTI. Somchai Ovuthitham, CEO of L. Lighting Glass Co Ltd and advisor to the GMFTI Chairman added: "We are very pleased to be staging the conference and will strive to improve even further on the successful event in Phuket in 2011." ■



GMFTI Chairman Emmanuel Alcantara delivered a welcome address at the opening ceremony.

**FURTHER INFORMATION:**

web: [www.aseanglass.org](http://www.aseanglass.org)