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2010

# THE FLAME

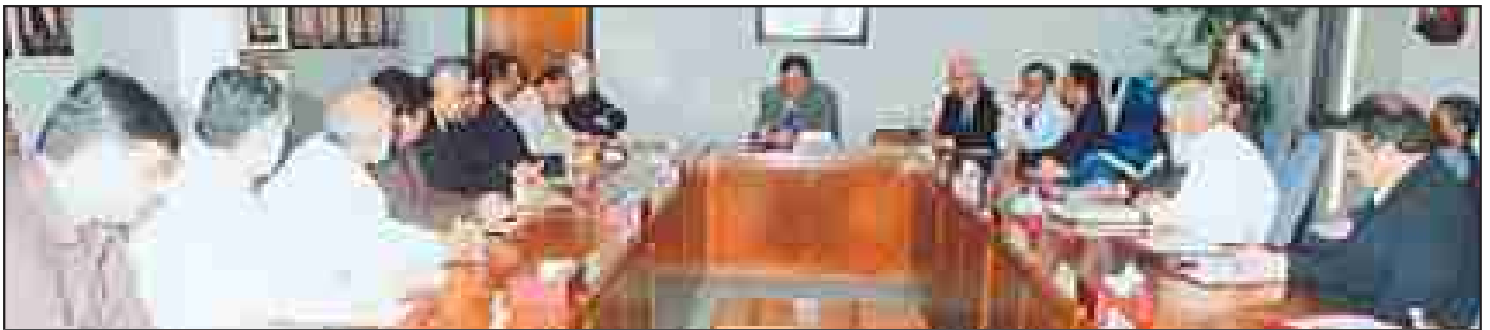
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THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF SUI SOUTHERN GAS COMPANY

## KATI gives SSGC resounding thumbs-up



Umair Khan, MD, SSGC chairing a meeting with the KATI delegation

A delegation of Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI) led by its Chairman, Razzak Hashim Paracha recently visited SSGC for a wide-ranging discussion with the Company's senior management. The meeting was held on November 26, 2009.

While appreciating its operational efficiency, Mr. Paracha underscored the point that SSGC is the vital part of a bridge between the policymakers and customers. Terming natural gas as the lifeline of the industry, Mr. Paracha said that KATI has always been impressed with the high level of customer-service demonstrated by SSGC. He stressed that his Association never had any major complaint with the gas utility.

Chairman KATI suggested that a focal person be assigned by the SSGC management to look into the industry's billing, connection and other customer-related issues.

Senator Abdul Haseeb Khan, CEO, Korangi Industrial Trading Estate (KITE), emphasized on close coordination between the industry and SSGC for taking the former into confidence in key decision-making areas and termed it indispensable for future planning.



Razzak Paracha



S. M. Muneer



Abdul Haseeb Khan



Zahid Hussain

He said that the trade bodies must be taken into confidence in any decision-making process which directly impacts the industry.

Mr. S. M. Muneer, Patron, KITE, admired Umair Khan, MD, SSGC, for his leadership abilities and called him an honest and dedicated individual. He requested the concerned Company officials to send e-mails to the KATI representatives for direct communication.

In his remarks, Executive Committee Member, Mian Zahid Hussain said that KATI's experience with SSGC has always been positive and attributed it to the gas utility's planning and operational competence.

MD, SSGC pointed out that the Company was fervently implementing a gas management plan in a scenario in which gas consumption has increased substantially.

He said that as part of its long-term strategy, SSGC has been proactively playing the role of facilitator in Pakistan 'Mashal' LNG Project for ultimate aim of bridging the demand-supply gap.

Continued on Page 9

## Highlights

- ❖ SSGC signs EWT GSPA with Hycarbex 3
- ❖ Installation of LPG Air-Mix Ground-breaking ceremony for gas to Sindh towns 4
- ❖ Book launch on self-development by HR-OD 5
- ❖ Hyderabad Regional Office celebrates Sindhi Topi Day 6
- ❖ SSGC wins Consumers Choice Award 7
- ❖ Combating diabetes 8
- ❖ Lecture on swine flu 10

## Editor's Note

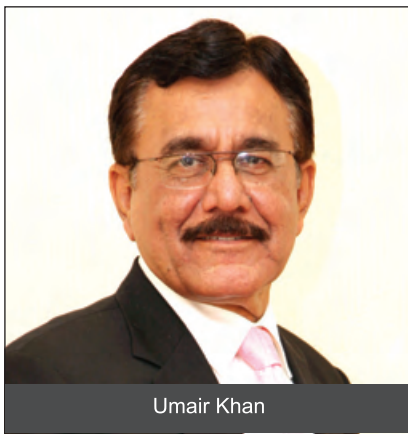
Together we can



As the first decade of this new millennium has just concluded, one feels how quickly the time has whizzed past us in a flash of an eye. It seems only yesterday when Y2K or millennium bug threatened to freeze both digital and non-digital documentations. Yet no one would have imagined that this decade will unfold unimaginable scenarios. Thankfully Y2K never materialized but the decade began with the calamity of 9/11 and its aftermath and concluded with a massive recession that threatened the global economy. Of course there had been cheerful moments during the last ten years such as restoration of bona fide democracy in Pakistan while we as a nation continue to pin hopes for the restoration of peace and cohesion in the country.

On the organizational front, the management intensified its efforts in combating the menace of Unaccounted for Gas (UFG) by broadening the canvas for the entire TEAM SSGC to come forward and contribute in whatever capacity one can. At the fog end of the year Mr. Umair Khan stepped down as the Managing Director and Azim Iqbal Siddiqui (DMD and former MD) once again took the reins of the organization. For the benefit of the readers, we would like to clarify that Mr. Umair Khan has been reported as Managing Director in this issue of The Flame as he was in the office for most part of December.

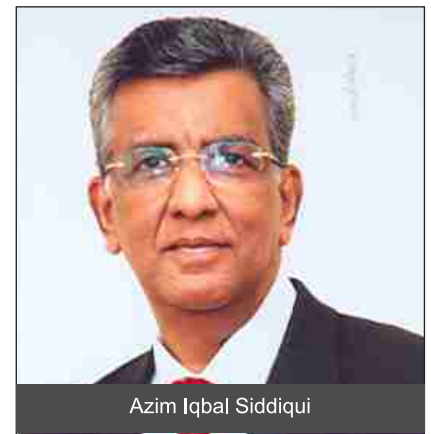
The editorial team of The Flame would like to extend its profound greetings and Nature's blessings to all its valued readers in 2010 and the years ahead. HAPPY NEW YEAR.



Umair Khan

## Change of guard

Mr. Umair Khan has resigned as Managing Director, SSGC. He held the office from July 2008 to December 2009. Azim Iqbal Siddiqui, DMD is now officiating as the MD. He has been associated with SSGC since 1974 in various capacities. ■



Azim Iqbal Siddiqui

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Designed by Manhattan Leo Burnett

## SSGC signs EWT GSPA with Hycarbex Inc.



MD, SSGC and Dr. Iftikhar A. Zaidi, CEO Hycarbex inking the agreement

**S**SSGC has inked an Extended Well Text (EWT) Gas Sales and Purchase Agreement (EWT-GSPA) with Hycarbex-American Energy Inc. (HAE) under which the latter, which is the Operator, will supply upto 28 mmmcf/d gas, for a 15-month period, from Haseeb Gas Field (Yasin Block # 2768-7). The gas delivery is expected to start by the end of December 2009 or by early January 2010.

The GSPA was signed on December 12, 2009 by Umair Khan, MD, SSGC and Dr. Iftikhar A. Zahid, President/CEO, HAE. Raja Irfan Nasr, Managing Director/CEO, Government Holdings (Pvt.) Limited, who has working interest in the field, also signed the Agreement on behalf of GHPL.

The Agreement is the result of extensive negotiations between SSGC and HAE and has been approved by the

Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA). The Audit Committee members of SSGC's Board of Directors including the Committee Chairman Nessar Ahmed and Directors Javaid B. Shaikh and Faisal Ahmed also witnessed the signing. Rahat K. Siddiqui, SGM (ES), Mian Mohammad Akram, DGM (P&D) and Khalid Ansari, CM (Legal Services), were also present at the ceremony.

It must be mentioned here that HAE is a partner and Operator of the Petroleum Concession Agreement with respect to the Yasin Block along-with Government Holdings (Pvt.) Limited and Hypak Asia (Pvt.) Limited. Haseeb Gas Field is located 4 to 5 kilometers from SSGC's Shikarpur Compressor Station within the Yasin Block where further exploration for oil/gas reserves is being undertaken by HAE. ■



MDs of SSGC and Govt. Holdings shaking hands after inking the agreement



MD, SSGC and CEO, HAC exchanging GSPA documents



Installation of LPG Air-Mix

Ground-breaking ceremony for gas to Sindh towns held



Pir Aftab Hussain Shah Jilani, Mir Munawar Talpur and Amiruddin Siddiqui addressing the audience

The ground-breaking ceremony for the installation of LPG air-mix plant in the city of Kot Ghulam Mohammad and Mir Ji Landhi village in District Mirpurkhas was held on November 21, 2009. Pir Aftab Hussain Shah Jilani, Federal Minister for Inter-provincial Coordination (the then Federal Minister for Sports) and Mir Munawar Ali Khan Talpur, Member, National Assembly, performed the honours.

The Federal Minister lauded SSGC for implementing distribution projects not just through the conventional piped gas system but also through LPG air-mix. Mir Munawar Ali Khan Talpur, MNA also appreciated the management and engineers of SSGC for completing all transmission and distribution projects in Sindh on fast track basis and hoped that in the future too, the utility will remain focused in implementing its plan.

Amiruddin Siddiqui (the then Regional Manager, Hyderabad) welcomed the high-ranking officials and apprised them about the details of the LPG air-mix plant and other projects being implemented to provide gas to every nook and corner of Sindh.

A large number of Government, SSGC officials, media persons and area citizens were present on the occasion.



Mir Munawar Talpur joins Pir Aftab Hussain Shah Jilani in unveiling the plaque



A view of the audience at the ceremony



# HR-OD launches book on self-development



Chairman, MD, DMD, SGM (MS) and GM (HR-OD) addressing the audience

An interesting self-development book entitled ‘A personal contract – I, me, myself’ was launched by HR-OD on December 16, 2009 at the Head Office Auditorium.

Prepared under the supervision of Ms. Meher Mobed, GM (HR-OD), the book is essentially a personal contract which one can review from time to time while assessing progress of self-development. It is designed to help an individual discover himself, understand the concepts, contemplate on one’s life and choices and jot down points to ponder. It has been compiled after extensive research of various international theories and sources.

Top SSGC management including Salim Abbas Jilani, Chairman, Umair Khan, MD, Azim Iqbal Siddiqui, DMD

and Zuhair Siddiqui, SGM (MS) also addressed the gathering and lauded HR-OD for the initiative. The Chairman also shared with the audience some of the selected couplets from the works of Allama Iqbal. Ms. Mobed introduced the audience to the various concepts discussed in the book.

Ms. Benish Kassim, Manager, (HR-OD) presented salient features of the book and read out several thought-provoking quotations from it. An important feature of the book is a vivid description of Six Thinking Hats by Edward de Bono which explains different perspectives of decision-making. The book describes it as a tool to change and improve the thinking process to understand the complexities of a decision from all angles. ■



A view of the audience at the launch



GM (HR-OD) presenting Mohammad Mithal, (GTI Casual) with a cash award for his exemplary performance on behalf of Akbar Bros. (SSGC contractors)



HR executives and staff with the senior management

## SSGC's energy efficiency efforts appreciated

**M**r. Ainul Abedin, a regular contributor to Dawn's Letters to the Editor section has appreciated SSGC for enforcing the efficiency requirements for all commercial and industrial customers.

Expressing his views in the newspaper's Letters to the Editor section, Mr. Abedin writes, 'After many years of technical silence in the energy conservation field, we have very good news emanating from SSGC. We have always advocated the gas companies' prime role in solving the country's energy problem and what we have noted in the last few months is music to the ear! SSGC has enforced the efficiency requirements for all commercial and industrial customers seeking Sui gas supply and this is certainly changing the environment completely. It is so pleasing to hear that SSGC will help prospective customers reach minimum level of 65% thermal efficiency to enable correct use of our scarce subsidized gas.'



SSGC's Technical Advisory Services or TAS helps industrial and commercial customers achieve a high level of efficiency through the use of such energy-efficient systems as HVAC and co-generation. ■

## Hyderabad RO celebrates Sindhi Topi Day

**S**indhi *topi* and *ajrak* are the symbols of Sindhi culture and civilization for thousands of years and the people of Sindh have an emotional attachment with these cultural symbols. On December 6, as the rest of Sindh celebrated the first ever Sindhi Topi Day, SSGC also joined in to celebrate the occasion.

SSGC Hyderabad celebrated this unique cultural event at the Regional Office in advance on December 4, 2009, two days before the entire Sindh came out the streets to join in the festivity, since the day was the last working day of the week. Attired in the Sindhi *topi* and *ajrak*, the Company executives came together to express their sentiments and love with the Sindhi culture.

Muhammad Akram, DGM (F&A), Saleem Manghi, CE (CP), Muhammad Amin Patel DCM (F&A), Syed Shahryar, DCE (CRD), Manzoor Memon DCE (CP), Manzoor Kalro, Manager (CP), Akbar Korejo, AM (HSE), Liaquat Solangi and Riaz Memon, AMs (SS), Abdul Rasheed, AM (AS), Nasrullah Memon, AM, (AS), Tariq Parhiyar, AM (F&A), Nawab Alam Exec (F&A), Syed Ansar, SE (CRD), Idrees Abbasi, Executive (CRD), Younis Panhwar (Billing), Nek Muhammad, SE(CP), Abdul Qadir and Zubair Abro IT and Syed Arshad of CRD who captured the event through the camera were present on the occasion.

The event's lead manager Danish Malik, Dy. Manager (IT) enthusiastically coordinated the event. He communicated to the executives and staff the significance of the day and mobilized all executives and staff to gather at the designated point while attired in Sindhi *topi* and *ajrak*. ■

Courtesy: Regional Office, Hyderabad



Executives and staff of Hyderabad Regional Office gather to celebrate Sindhi Topi day





## Three in a row - SSGC wins Consumers Choice Award

**T**he Consumer Association of Pakistan (CAP) after adjudging SSGC as the country's best utility provider conferred on it the coveted Consumers Choice Award in recognition of the company's adherence to best business practices.

On behalf of the management, Ijazuddin Faruqi, GM (CRD) received this award from Mian Manzoor Ahmad Wattoo, the then Federal Minister for Industries and Production, at an august gathering held at a local hotel in Karachi on December 14, 2009.

This is the third consecutive year SSGC has received the honour which is an acknowledgement of the Company's commitment to "Service with a Smile".



Ijazuddin Faruqi, GM (CRD) receiving the Consumers Choice Award from Manzoor Wattoo

## Pay gas bills through Easypaisa

**L**iving up to the high expectations of its customers in offering them diverse services, SSGC recently joined hands with Telenor Pakistan and Tameer Microfinance Bank in letting customers avail the Easypaisa facility by paying their utility bills through real-time online transactions.

Easypaisa is Pakistan's largest branchless banking service. The service is totally secure as all transactions are strictly monitored through SSGC and Telenor Pakistan.

Available 24 hours a day and 7 days a week, Easypaisa's services aim to make life more convenient for customers, saving them the hassle of travelling long distances, waiting in long queues at post offices and banks or being constrained by limited working hours.

Any person can use the gas bill payment service by visiting the nearest Easypaisa authorized shop, Telenor Franchise, Telenor Sales & Service Centre or Tameer Microfinance Bank branch.



Mazhar Usman, Manager (Valued Added Services), IT played a pivotal role in implementing the facilitation arrangement.

Courtesy: Mazhar Usman, Manager (VAS), IT

## Diabetes Self-Management Education Program (DSME)

# Combating diabetes through strict dietary regimen



Dr. Naqvi and other physician consultants educating the participants about diabetes

**T**he Day 2 of the Diabetes Self-Management Education Program (DSME) was held at the Medical Services Department at the Head Office in December 2009. Dr. Shehla Naqvi, CMO and the Department's physician consultants Dr. Shaukat Ali Niyani, Dr. Raza Merchant and Dr. Adnan gave their expert views to the participants. The doctors focused on Diabetes Management Plan that essentially involved educating patients and non-patients about healthy food choices, physical activity, monitoring blood glucose and medication.

They gave tips on healthy eating, especially if a patient is using insulin or some oral diabetes medication. The doctors emphasized on eating sweets and fatty foods sparingly while eating protein and dairy products in moderation and advised the patients to consume mostly grains, fruits and vegetables. They advised them to keep a food diary and maintain a strict carbohydrate, calorie and fat gram count.

The doctors also gave useful tips for safe physical activity, including taking blood glucose test before or after the activity, wearing the right attire and consuming plenty of water. Patients were also told to maintain a regular weekly record of blood glucose readings. The doctors suggested that regular lab tests, including average blood glucose tests are recommended at least twice a year.

### Day 3

The Day 3 of the Diabetes Self-Management Education Program focused on the short-term complications of the disease. The doctors stressed that people with diabetes need to learn and practice self-care skills to prevent

hypoglycemia and emphasized that diabetes education is a powerful tool to prevent hypoglycemia. They also said that people with diabetes need to know their individual symptoms of hypoglycemia and be prepared to measure blood glucose and treat this complication and underscored the point that people with diabetes need to learn and practice self-care skills to prevent hypoglycemia.

By carrying an emergency supply of carbohydrates and a blood glucose meter, people with diabetes can be prepared to treat hypoglycemia in almost any situation, the doctors stressed.

During the discussion the doctors also stressed that people with diabetes need to know when to call a health professional for guidance during times of illness.

### Day 4

On Day 4, the doctors stressed that people with diabetes should have a yearly urine test to check kidney function. With proper foot care and blood glucose control, people can reduce the risk of foot problems that can lead to amputation, they said. The SSGC doctors also stressed that carbohydrates in foods have a major effect on blood glucose levels.

### Day 5

Day 5 dealt with medication for diabetes and the timeframe for medication. Oral Medication for Type 2 Diabetes such as sulfonylureas and biguanides was suggested. ■



Low-carb diet food on display



SSGC's doctors at one of the sessions



# Diabetes self-management program lauded



Shahhood Alvi, SGM (MS) and CMO addressing the audience

**T**he final session of the Diabetes Self-management Education Program was held on December 16, 2009. Popular showbiz personality Shahhood Alvi and former Pakistan cricket team's paceman Sikander Bakht were invited on the occasion. Dr. Shehla Naqvi, CMO, dilated on the aims and objectives of the program and reviewed the important points of the previous programs.

Speaking on the occasion, the celebrity guests applauded

SSGC's Medical Services Department for especially arranging a program to create awareness about diabetes and its treatment and prevention.

Zuhair Siddiqui, SGM (MS) lauded the initiative taken by the Medical Department for arranging programs for creatness awareness about diabetes prevention and hoped that the Department will continue to educate the employees about other prevalent diseases. ■



SGM (MS) presenting a gift to a Company doctor



Medical Services team with celebrity guests

Continued from Page 1

## Thumbs-up from KATI



KATI's office-bearers and SSGC management participating in the proceedings

The KATI delegation also included Ehteshamuddin, Chairman, Standing Committee - SSGC, Amjad Ullah Khan, Vice Chairman, KATI and Committee members S. M. Yahya, Kashif Khan and Masood Naqi. The Company was represented by Umair Khan, MD, Zuhair Siddiqui,

SGM (MS), Salim A. Mughal, SGM (Distribution), Zahid Mumtaz, GM (HR), Ijazuddin Faruqi, GM (CRD), Zeeba Alvi, GM (Sales), Sultan Rasheed, DGM (Sales) and Afeef Ahmed, CE (Sales). ■

## Lecture on swine flu held



Dr. Bushra Jameel and Dr. Qurat ul Ain addressing the audience

**T**he Medical Services Department is committed to ensuring health of our valuable human resource. The ultimate goal can only be achieved by creating health awareness for disease prevention and control.

In continuation of these efforts, the Medical Services Department arranged a presentation on the H1N1 pandemic, often referred to as swine flu, on December 24, 2009. Dr. Bushra Jameel, Consultant Infectious Diseases was the keynote speaker on the occasion.

Dr. Jameel said that while only mild symptoms are experienced by the majority of people, some have more severe symptoms. Mild symptoms may include fever, sore throat, cough, headache, muscle or joint pains and nausea, vomiting or diarrhea. Those at risk of a more severe infection include: asthmatics, diabetics, those with obesity, heart disease and pregnant women. The doctor said that confirmed diagnosis of pandemic H1N1/09 flu requires testing of a nasopharyngeal, nasal or oropharyngeal tissue swab from the patient. Dr. Jameel said that people in at-risk groups should be treated with antivirals (oseltamivir or zanamivir) as soon as possible when they first experience flu symptoms. The at risk groups includes pregnant and post partum women, children under 2 years old, and people with underlying conditions such as respiratory problems.



DCMO presenting a gift bag to Dr. Jameel

Effective countermeasures to combat the virus include educating the public about simple preventive measures, such as covering mouth and nose while coughing or sneezing and washing hands frequently. The second, she said, is to ensure that medical facilities and medicines are readily available in highly populated cities for speedy diagnosis and treatment.

People who are not from the at-risk group who have persistent or rapidly worsening symptoms should also be treated with antivirals, Dr. Jameel stressed. ■

## Free health check-up camp at H0



**T**he Medical Services Department, in collaboration with Novartis, organized a free medical check-up camp for the benefit of SSGC employees. A large number of executives and employees availed the opportunity. The day camp was held on December 8, 2009. ■



## SSGC proud winner of 6th PFF League

**S**SGC won the 6th Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) League, 2009 (Departmental 'B' Division) by beating Pakistan Television 1-0, in the final on December 14, 2009 at the Pakistan Steel Football Ground.

The SSGC team's run-up to the final was characterized by some impressive display of football by its playing Eleven.

In a game played on November 19, 2009 the team convincingly beat Pakistan Steel 2-1. Three days later,



A group photo of SSGC and PTV teams



Col.(R) Rashid Ahmed, ADGM (Sports) presenting a gift bag to Wing Commander (R) Pervez Saeed Mir, Tech. Director (Operations), PFF

in a closely contested game, SSGC drew with Sindh Government Press.

On November 25, SSGC earned a berth in the semis by beating PWD's squad 2-1. In doing so, it also became the Pool Leader, and met Higher Education Commission's team in the semi final and emerged the eventual winners by a margin of 4-0. ■

Courtesy: Sports Department

## High in the sky - Nisar wins 1st National Cycle Race

**S**SGC continued its dominance of national cycling by winning the First National Cycle Race, 2009 held from Abbotabad to Nathia Gali on November 26, 2009. The Company's veteran cyclist Nisar Ahmed won the gruelling 32-km Race, held at an altitude of 8,000 feet, in 1 hour, 30 minutes and 9 seconds.

Another experienced SSGC cyclist, Sabir Ali finished fifth by making it to the finishing line in 1 hour, 33 minutes and 18 seconds. It must be mentioned here that our riders had no prior experience and practice of riding at a high altitude of 8,000 feet. Yet it was their tenacity and determination to cross the finishing line in the fastest possible time that contributed to their sublime performance.

Pakistan Army's Ismail attained second position by covering the distance in 1 hour, 30 minutes, 10 seconds. Balochistan's Habibullah and Army's Muhammad Rafiq were third and fourth, respectively. The Race was organized by the Pakistan Cycling Federation. ■

Courtesy: Sports Department



Nisar Ahmed proudly holding the winner's shield



Sabir Ali receiving the cheque at the conclusion

# MD greets executives and staff on Eid-ul-Azha



**U**mair Khan, MD, SSGC personally greeted Company executives and employees on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha. Senior managers, executives and staff gathered in the Head Office atrium on December 1, 2009, the first working day after returning from Eid holidays, to greet the MD, senior managers and their colleagues. The MD informally enquired about the progress of the work of the managers and other employees and wished them well in their respective projects.

The get-together which also provides the office colleagues a chance to greet each other and exchange notes, is an old Company tradition that encourages a sense of togetherness and camaraderie amongst the members of Team SSGC. ■





# Farewell to an officer and a gentleman

**Captain (R) Arif given a deserving tribute**



Captain (R) Arif with senior management and other staff members



Ijaz Faruqi, GM (CRD) presenting a memento to Captain (R) Arif

**C**aptain (R) Mohammad Arif, SGM (Customer Services) bid farewell to the Company after an illustrious career spanning thirty-two years. The Customer Services Division comprising Surveillance & Monitoring, Customer Relations, Sales and Billing Departments as well as members of the senior management paid glorious tributes to Captain (R) Arif and praised his managerial skills. On his last working day, Captain (R) Arif also visited different departments where the executives and employees presented him with mementos, bouquets and parting gifts. ■



Captain (R) Arif with SSGOA members and other executives



Captain (R) Arif with S&M staff



Captain (R) Arif with drivers and other subordinate staff



Nasreen Hussain, DGM (CCD) presenting a memento to Captain (R) Arif



Yusuf J. Ansari, Company Secretary, presenting a gift to Captain (R) Arif

# Distribution Department pays rich tribute to the veterans

## SGMs T & D feted

The executives of Karachi Distribution Department gave a hearty dinner in honour of its former divisional head, SGM Mohammad Hashim while welcoming to the fold Salim A. Mughal, the new SGM (D).

Shoaib Warsi, GM (D) - Ops, acknowledged the valuable services of both the gentlemen and praised Mr. Hashim for being a true team man. He assured Mr. Mughal of full cooperation and support and admired his competent record in various capacities at SSGC.

GM (D) - Ops also presented gifts to the two Senior General Managers. The dinner program was held in November, 2009. Mr. Mughal is also the Company's official focal person for resolving the issue of UFG.

Aminullah Khan, GM (Materials Management), Shaukat Fazalani, GM (Transmission), Aftab Memon, AGM (P&C) and Nihal Ahsan, AGM (UFG) were among those present at the dinner.

## Bidding farewell

Karachi's Distribution Department hosted a farewell dinner in honour of Muslim Hussain, DGM (UFG) and Hatim H. Alqamari, CM (MCU) in October, 2009. The two veterans had bid farewell to the Company after reaching superannuation.

On the occasion, Shoaib Warsi, GM (D) - Ops, acknowledged the valuable services of both the gentlemen and wished them well in their future endeavours. He also presented gifts to the retiring officers. ■

*Courtesy: Distribution Department, SITE*



Shoaib Warsi, GM (D) – O presenting a memento to Muslim Hussain



GM (D) – (O) presenting a memento to Hatim H. Alqamari



Retired officers with the Distribution team



M. Hashim, SGM (D) being presented a topi and ajrak by GM (D) – (O)



Salim Mughal, SGM (T) being presented topi and ajrak by GM (D)–(O)



## Zeeba Alvi calls it a day

**A** lady with a rich academic background and sound knowledge of legal matters, Ms. Zeeba Alvi, GM (Sales) added considerable value to the Company in various positions she held during her stint at SSGC. She also took part in promoting the interests of all female professionals working for the Company.



Zeeba Alvi, GM (Sales) speaking at her farewell

Executives and employees of the Sales Department arranged an impressive farewell party for Ms. Alvi at Arena Club on December 15, 2009 on the eve of her retirement. Sultan Rasheed, DGM (Sales) paid glorious tributes to Ms. Alvi and said that his Department has benefited hugely from her professional skills. He said that as a lawyer par excellence, Ms. Alvi assisted the Company in solving numerous legal problems.



AGM (Sales) and General Secretary, SSGOA presenting gifts to Ms. Alvi

In his remarks, Shahabuddin Siddiqui, General Secretary, SSGOA praised Ms. Alvi for her affable nature and said that she took extreme care of the subordinate staff.

In his remarks, Shahabuddin Siddiqui, General Secretary, SSGOA praised Ms. Alvi for her affable nature and said that she took extreme care of the subordinate staff. ■

### Human Resources

**Hisfa Rani** d/o Liaquatullah Sheikh, Staff, City Zone secured 2nd position (94.8%) in her J. P. Class from Little Folk's School, Gulistan-e-Jauhar, Karachi.



**Kiran Kumar** d/o Lashman Das, Superintendent, SSGC Dokri secured 80% (A-1 Grade) in her Matriculation examination from Government Girls High School, Dokri.



### Transitions

- Nisar Ali Soomro, Meter Reader, Sehwan Shareef and a PLU worker breathed his last on November 11, 2009. PLU office-bearers including Ejaz Baloch, President and Aslam Rajput, Vice President attended his funeral held in Naudero, Larkana.
- Mother of Yusuf Jamil Ansari, Company Secretary, passed away on December 17, 2009.
- Mother of Haq Nawaz, Driver, CCD, passed away on December 25, 2009.

## Global energy giants win contracts for 2 Iraqi oil fields

Some of the world's leading energy companies won rights to develop two major oil fields in Iraq at an auction held in December 2009.

Royal Dutch Shell and Malaysia's Petronas were awarded the contract to exploit the Majnoon oil field in southern Iraq, one of the world's largest untapped oil fields with more than 12 billion barrels of proven reserves. They accepted a fee of 1.39 U.S. dollars per barrel.

Meanwhile, a consortium led by China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC), China's largest oil and gas producer, together with Petronas and France's Total, won the contract for the Halfaya oil field, also in the south. It offered a remuneration fee of 1.40 dollars per barrel in the deal for the Halfaya oil field, which has estimated reserves of 4.1 billion barrels of oil.

A CNPC staff said that the competition was fierce, and that the final contract is likely to be signed within a month.

More than 40 world oil companies from 23 countries, including BP and Total, are seeking investment in 10 Iraqi oil fields over two days in Iraq's second round of bidding since 2003.

The first auction round was held in June this year, in which the CNPC joined hands with BP to win the Rumaila oilfield service contract. Estimated at 115 billion barrels, Iraq holds the world's third largest proven oil reserves, only after Saudi Arabia and Iran. ■



## Qatar Emir calls for linking gas with oil prices

Qatari Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani has called for the linking of gas prices with those of oil at the opening of a forum bringing together top gas exporting countries.

"In the aftermath of the sharp fall in gas and oil prices at the beginning of this year, the increase in oil prices during the same year has not been matched with a similar increase in gas prices," Sheikh Hamad was quoted as saying at the opening of the 9th ministerial meeting of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) in the Qatari capital of Doha. "Accordingly, the price of the gas thermal unit has become far less than the price of its oil equivalent," he told the forum aiming to discuss ways to stabilize global prices of natural gas.

The GECF, a gas cartel equivalent of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), features Algeria, Bolivia, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Iran, Libya, Nigeria, Qatar, Russia, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela. The 11 countries hold about three quarters of world's gas reserves. ■





# Are you driving your boss crazy?

## Eight behaviours bosses dislike

**I**n today's workplace, it goes without saying that it's a good idea to remain on the boss's good side. Your relationship with this person can be a major factor in not only your on-the-job happiness but also your career success. Unfortunately, your manager may not always tell you if your behavior is driving him or her nuts. Here are eight actions to avoid:

### 1. Turning down new assignments

Your supervisor comes to you to say that you'd be the ideal person to mentor a new staff member. She wants to know if you have the time to take on this task. You do, but you're not interested in the responsibility, so you decline the offer. Bad move. It's unwise to build a reputation as someone your boss can't count on. Plus, it's a good rule of thumb to accommodate your boss's wishes, as long as you have room on your plate for the extra work. A pattern of "no's" can convince your manager to stop offering you opportunities, including ones you might be interested in.

### 2. Being "high-maintenance"

Do you require constant feedback or positive reinforcement to remain productive? Must you check in with your boss every hour to ensure you're on the right track? This constant need for attention may prevent your manager from attending to important tasks or getting into a good work flow, which is enough to drive even the most patient professional up the wall.

### 3. Communicating poorly

You're working on a high-profile project and just left your supervisor a voice-mail message with a quick progress update. He calls back, asking to be e-mailed the information. And, given the importance of the assignment, more detail would be nice. It's critical you understand your boss's communication preferences and adjust your style accordingly to ensure the two of you remain on the same page. In addition to preferred mode of communication, consider how much-or how little-information your manager would like.

### 4. Asking too many questions

Everyone knows the saying "In one ear and out the other." Don't embody it when interacting with your manager. Repeatedly asking the same question ("Whom should I follow up with again?") is a sure-fire way to annoy your supervisor. To avoid this situation, always listen carefully when your boss is speaking and try to seek clarification on new projects from the get-go. If you must follow up, be sure to approach your manager with a specific list of

questions and take notes so you don't need to bother him or her again.

### 5. Failing to follow through

You're rushing to finish a presentation for your boss. After reviewing it, he notes a few typographical errors that you should have caught. To build your manager's confidence, you must think ahead and pay attention to details. As you tackle a project, think about the types of concerns your boss is likely to have, questions he or she may ask, and stumbling blocks that could get in your way. For example, if you're in charge of organizing an important meeting, have you tested the necessary technical equipment ahead of time? Prepared and proofread any handouts? Made arrangements to arrive early so you can set up? Even when things are hectic, keeping a keen eye on every detail is necessary to impress your supervisor.

### 6. Refusing to admit your mistakes

Creating an excuse to justify poor performance is dishonest and unprofessional. Plus, chances are your ploy won't stand the test of time. If you make a mistake, step up to the plate; then go further by devising a plan for both correcting and avoiding similar incidents in the future. For example, if you included the wrong subject line in a mass e-mail, set it up with a colleague to review any

memos with large distribution lists before hitting Send. Employees who accept ownership demonstrate professionalism, maturity and confidence.

### 7. Waving the red flag after the ship has sunk

Your manager has asked you to compile a complicated report by the end of the week. Friday afternoon, you realize you can't finish it in time and break the news to your boss. She's furious! If you had just let her know earlier, she would have been able to provide you with extra resources to complete the project by the deadline. The lesson here: Let your supervisor know as soon as you sense a problem growing. With advanced notice, your manager can often work with you to stave off disaster.

### 8. Fueling the rumor mill

Above all, supervisors seek employees with a positive outlook, especially given all of the negative news about today's economy. Enthusiasm is contagious, and these individuals are able to influence the attitudes of others. You don't want to be the one at the water cooler who spreads gossip or complains. ■



Source: Robert Half International

# Defining a successful personality

Once I was watching an interview of a very famous personality in a leading news channel when the anchor asked him an interesting question, "Can you define a successful personality?"

This was an unexpected question and his reply was not to neither the anchor nor my complete satisfaction.

After that, for a number of days, I tried to find a clear definition for a 'successful personality', be he a businessman, industrialist, manager, supervisor or somebody else.

As a result of careful observation of several leaders and many successful personalities, I arrived at four major criteria to assess a successful personality. The assessment is based on answers to the following questions:

- Does he have proper mental peace and happiness?
- Is he physically fit, considering his age?
- Is he well accepted in society?
- Is he financially stable?

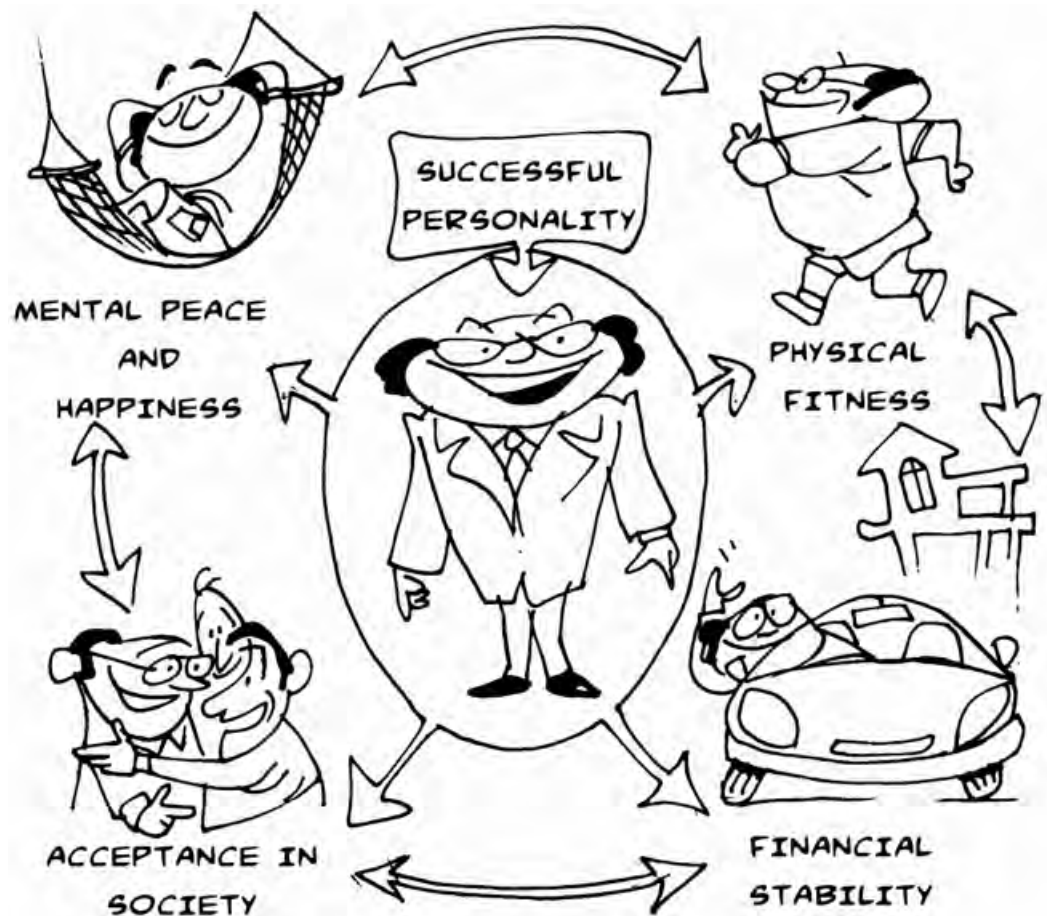
If the answers to all the four questions are 'yes', then he is definitely a successful person. If the answer is negative to even one of these questions, he is not a successful person.

Many people wrongly think that money is the main criterion to judge whether a person is successful or not. In my opinion, money has only a one fourth role in a successful man's life. I have come across a beautiful sentence in a book, 'The richest man in the world is he who is happy with the least comfort.'

Some people you know may be immensely rich. But they may not have mental peace and happiness. The costliest

bed in the world cannot offer them good sleep. Of what use is it to you, if you capture the entire world but are unable to sleep in peace?

Another category of people run after money without caring for their health. They may be having a very good bank balance, which will be useful for the next generation. But in the process of making money, these poor people acquire



many illnesses like blood pressure, peptic ulcer, cervical spondylosis, etc.

Can we say that they are successful? Definitely not. Yet another category of people earn money through ways like smuggling, black marketing or corruption. They may score three of the four points in the checklist. But what about their acceptance in the society?

Examine yourself. Where are you rated? ■

Courtesy: Khawaja Naveed, DM (IT)



# THE FLAME *Life*

## 5 secrets for happiness

### 1. Avoid overthinking

Get rid of pessimism. One of the most effective ways to cope when things are difficult is to adopt a positive thinking strategy. "What can I learn from this? Times are tough, I've been furloughed at work, but I can spend more time with the kids, adopt a new hobby, or learn a new set of skills."



### 2. Practice acts of kindness



Now more than ever we need each other to survive. Doing good things for friends, family, or strangers can make you happier. Think of practical, everyday gestures that can make someone's

life a little bit easier.

### 3. Focus on your relationships

Not being the bread-winner anymore or not being able to fulfill your kid's needs can weigh down



hard on your family life. But the trick is to stop feeling guilty and focus on nurturing your loved ones.

### 4. Pick a goal

Commit yourself to a project. But it's also important to be flexible in these times. Don't get frustrated if circumstances are stopping you from meeting your goals. Adopt and change!



### 5. Take care of your body

When times are tough, it's easy to get skip your regular workouts in favor of watching TV and eating a bag of chips. But carve out a small part of your day to give your body some TLC. It will go a long way in boosting your happiness.



Source: Sonja Lyubomirsky, author of *The How of Happiness: A Scientific Approach to Getting the Life You Want* (Penguin Press, 2008)

## The amazing cucumber

- Cucumber has a cleansing action within the body by removing accumulated pockets of old waste material and chemical toxins. It might help in the treatment of arthritis since it helps eliminate uric acid.
- Its poor content in calories make it the perfect food for diet.
- We say that its juice is nourishing for our skin and hair. Its liquid has the reputation of being rejuvenator and makes us feel and look youth. If you want to try, pure or slice a cucumber and apply it on your face.
- Cucumber also has have the power to relax and alleviate the sunburn's pain.



**SSGOA-Management Meeting**



Sui Southern Gas Officer Association (SSGOA) office-bearers recently met with the senior management to discuss the issue of revised compensation package. Syed Irfan A. Jafri, SSGOA's Acting President, Shahabuddin Siddiqui, General Secretary and other office-bearers called on Salim Abbas Jilani, Chairman and Zuhair Siddiqui, SGM (MS). The office-bearers also felicitated Azim Iqbal Siddiqui, DMD on his return from the Haj pilgrimage

**Contact Centre's Monthly Monetary Incentive Program**



Ijazuddin Faruqi, GM (CRD) presenting certificates to the top 3 agents of the Contact Centre's monthly Monetary Incentive Program, namely Fazeela Laeeq, Aqeel Saleem and Nuzhat Nadeem





**Base Commander, PAF Masroor visits SSGC Head Office**



Air Commodore Rashid Kamal, Base Commander, PAF Masroor, recently met Umair Khan, MD, SSGC at the head office to discuss matters of mutual interest

**Leading industrialists meet MD**



Industrialists led by Siraj Kasim Teli discussing gas-distribution matters with the senior management in the Company's board room in December 2009

**PACRA delegation visits Head Office**



A PACRA delegation recently visited SSGC for a meeting with Azim Iqbal Siddiqui, DMD. Pictures taken on the occasion

**Training on Corrosion Control**



Mr. Shaukat Baloch, GM (Sindh) seen here with the participants of training workshop on Corrosion Control held recently at Regional Office Hyderabad. The training program was arranged by GTI

**Health awareness program at Karachi Terminal**



Dr. Saad Niaz, Consultant Gastroenterologist speaking on the topic of 'Hepatitis' at a presentation arranged by the Medical Services Department for Company employees in December 2009 at Karachi Terminal

**Meeting on UFG**



Newly designated SGM (D), Mr. Salim Ahmed Mughal visited office of the Karachi Distribution SITE. He stressed on the reduction of UFG and appreciated achievements made by Karachi Distribution Department

**Farewell for M. Farooq**



Peon Mohammad Farooq, recently bid farewell to the Company after a long service. Farooq's colleagues can be seen garlanding him on the last day of his service