

November Members' Corner



**Peter Bowers of
International Construction Design and Management Ltd.
BHSEA Council Member**

Topic – ‘How’s Your Han Chinese?’

Following Peter’s roaring success at a recent BHSEA/RoSPA presentation given to a Chinese Government delegation, Peter agreed to deliver a shortened version about communication, at Member’s Corner.

Peter gave us an entertaining and informative session including a number of slides used to illustrate his point. Peter began by explaining that he first encountered with the Chinese when he worked on the removal of the Longbridge plant to China. Peter soon recognised the need to learn some basic Chinese and he found that we share a similar sense of humour. Peter talked about how we all learn in different ways, using different techniques. The US military learn by rote: ‘I see it, I do it’...etc. Repeating tasks over and over again until the individual knows *exactly* what to do. The Chinese are good at accepting responsibility, and doing what they’re supposed to be doing. The Chinese employment culture and environment is dictatorial, and workers react automatically according to what they have been told. Good communication is crucial. Remember.....the designer isn’t the man on the ladder...s/he’s the one at the drawing board.

Finally, Peter commented that sometimes we are so busy looking for something that we’ve been asked to look for, that we miss the obvious! Tim thanked Peter for a lively and interesting presentation. Members thanked Peter in the normal way.