

INSTITUTE AWARDS APPROVED CENTRE STATUS TO TRAINING CENTRE IN ABU DHABI

Another exciting development in the progress of the Institute of Fire Safety Managers occurred in January this year following a request for accreditation of three courses from a training centre in Abu Dhabi, capital of the United Arab Emirates. Two members of the Institute's accreditation team, John Cowie and Ray Colyer travelled to Abu Dhabi to assess the Basic Fire Fighting, Advanced Fire Fighting and Fire Wardens Courses run by the Emirates Technical & Safety Development Centre. Their host was Business Development Manager, Marwan S Qutishat.



The Emirates Technical & Safety Development Centre
in Mussafah, Abu Dhabi

The centre is located in Mussafah, a suburb of Abu Dhabi and is situated within a modern building, which it shares with other branches of its parent company, The Mutawa Group. Tuition takes place in 13 classrooms and there is a fire training ground, fire house located adjacent to a sea water lagoon and an indoor swimming pool in which life-raft and helicopter ditching training is undertaken.

Apart from fire related courses the centre offers numerous other safety courses for the on and off shore oil and gas industries, shipping industry and

other related industries and includes helicopter under water training. The centre is currently accredited by OPITO, the Oil & Petroleum Industries Training Organisation and ISO 9001 2000.

The Institute's accreditation team observed both classroom theoretical presentations and practical fire-fighting and breathing apparatus search and rescue sessions for both the advanced and basic fire fighting courses and a presentation of the fire warden's course. Workers in these industries in the Emirates are from many countries including Pakistan, India, the Philippines and many other Asian, European and American countries. The courses are all taught in English, which is spoken most widely in the Emirates, but the instructors are multi-linguistic and can communicate in most languages if clarification is needed.



Instructor, Salman Majid Khakwani outlines the
course objectives to students

Tuition is of a very high standard, theoretical presentation observed was interspersed with anecdotes, humour and questions to reinforce the learning. Personal Protective Equipment and fire-fighting equipment is excellent and its correct use well demonstrated by the instructors. Most of the standards and procedures are based upon British practice and therefore familiar to the accreditation team. Feedback obtained from the students was very positive.

Students are given comprehensive notes for the courses they attend and the Centre has a range of booklets and documents outlining the courses available. The students are continually assessed during tuition and must also pass a theoretical paper to successfully complete their course.



Hose drills take place on the training ground

The centre has good facilities including a dining room, catering for various regional tastes, changing room with showers and separate facilities for female students and a private car parking area.

The accreditation team were impressed with the professionalism of the centre and its staff. It had no hesitation in recommending that the centre be granted Approved Centre Status and is anticipating the recruitment of new members to the Institute.



Vice President Ray Colyer congratulates ETSDC

Left to right: Back - Mahmoud Mallah (Marketing Executive) Salman Khakwani (Senior Instructor) Front - Ramiz Ali-Hilloo (Operation Manager) Ray Colyer (Vice-President IFSM) Fahed Al Mutawa (General Manager) Marwan Ouitishat (Business Development Manager)