

Director's message  
by Cyrus Taft

It was an exciting spring for the Power Industry Division. We held our 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual POWID Symposium in Chicago in May, we have established several new networking options, and we have begun planning for our 2010 Symposium.

Our 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual POWID Symposium was held at the Rosemount Convention Center near Chicago's O'hare Airport. The General Chair Leo Staples put together a fine event under very challenging conditions. Jim Batug assembled an excellent technical program with help from Aaron Hussey. We tried something different this year in that we co-located with another power industry event, ELECTRIC POWER. The weak economy impacted our event as it has many other events this year. The goals of the co-location were to attract a broader audience to our event and increase our exposure to the industry. While we did attract a few new attendees, the overall attendance was down considerably compared to recent years. As a result, the POWID EXCOM has decided not to co-locate with ELECTRIC POWER in 2010 and go back to having a standalone event. My personal thanks and congratulations to Leo, Jim and Aaron for a job well done.

The Power Industry Division has established several new networking opportunities using internet tools. The first is a new technical forum using ISA's list serve system. The forum will enable all POWID members to share technical information related to power plant automation. If you wish to participate in this email forum you will need to enroll by going to [www.isa.org/lyris](http://www.isa.org/lyris). This forum is for exchanging technical information related to power plant automation only and any commercial use is prohibited. See the article on page x for more details. Allan Zadiraka has also setup a POWID Group on the LinkedIn website as well as a POWID group on Facebook. If you are like me, you may be wondering how these social networking sites will work for a professional organization like POWID. Only time will tell but anything that encourages more information exchange among our members can't be all bad.

We have begun planning for our 2010 Symposium. Denny Younie has agreed to serve a fourth term as General Chair and Tom Stevenson will be our Fossil Program Chair. I am currently seeking a Nuclear Program Chair to give the nuclear side of our meeting more emphasis. As I write this in early June, the site of the Symposium has not been finalized but it will likely be in the southeast region, probably in Florida. It is not too early to start making plans to attend and/or participate in 2010. You will be hearing much more about the Symposium in the next several months.

The weak economy is having a significant impact on ISA operations this year and will force ISA to implement cost saving measures in several areas. It is important that POWID do everything it can to support ISA during this difficult period. Some things we all can do include attending ISA events such as conferences or training courses, recruiting new members whenever possible, and volunteering to serve at the Division, Section, or Society level. Hopefully the economy will improve in 2010 and ISA can return to more normal operations.

The Spring Leaders Meeting was recently held in Indianapolis and two members of the POWID Executive Committee were nominated for Society officer positions. Congratulations to Leo Staples who was selected as ISA President-Elect for 2010. This means Leo will be ISA President in 2011. Having a POWID Board member as ISA President will certainly ensure that POWID's voice is heard in the highest levels of ISA. In addition, I was in the running for Industries and Science Vice-President Elect but I was not selected. That honor went to Dr. Peggie Koon.

As I said in the opening line it has been an exciting spring for the Power Industry Division. As always, I welcome all comments and suggestions you have about POWID. Thank you for being a member and participating in the activities of the Division.

Regards,  
Cyrus Taft  
POWID Director