WHAT IS API?

API is a not for profit national organization established by the electricity power industry to boost the quality and numbers of power engineering graduates and current industry professionals with the skills and motivation for a career in the energy industry. API represents 30 major Australian power companies in providing the capacity and capability in power engineering now and into the future.

API VALUE PROPOSITION:

To deliver a Sustainable Supply of highly Skilled Power Engineering Professionals working effectively to meet the challenges of Creating Australia’s New Energy Future and Underpin the Technical and Commercial Success of Member Companies in the Energy Sector. This will be provided through maximizing collaboration between Industry, Universities, Professional Bodies and Government in Power Engineering Education, Research and Training.

KEY OBJECTIVES:

- Provide a sustainable supply of quality engineering graduates to industry
- University undergraduate power engineering teaching and learning provides relevant industry skills
- Value added continuing professional development programs
- Support industry innovation initiatives through applied research
- A respected organization leading the national development of power engineering skills

In order to meet these goals, The Australian Power Institute has been setting forth positive initiatives and providing training outlets for industry advancements. The latest initiatives API has been working on are summarized below.
CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The career development program was developed due to the industry experiencing shortages and recruitment difficulties for Senior Engineers and for power engineering management nationwide.

The API Board consequently proposed a career development program for mid-career professionals (4-10 years experience) to prepare/facilitate the pipeline of future senior/experienced engineers for industry.

The program was piloted in Victoria in 2013 with six member companies (GDF Suez, Wilson Transformer Company, Aurecon, SP-AusNet, United Energy) nominating 15 participants on the program.

Key development and learning activities of the program are:

- Work Placement Exchanges between participating organisations
- Attendance at API Summer School – Residential accelerated career development program
- Business/technical workshops including undertaking a business improvement project

John Deere, the first API CDP participate to undertake a work placement, normally works for the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) and is currently doing a work exchange at GDF SUEZ Loy Yang B Power Station to broaden his industry experience. A program of work placements for other participants on the program has been planned.

“Through this experience I have gained a better technical understanding of generator operations and have benefited as I’ve been exposed to real world challenges. Since this program, I have better understood key functions and issues of management and also acquired strategies for maintaining power stations.” ~John Deere

MASTER CLASSES

API organizes a series of intensive Master Class courses, specifically designed to refresh and boost the knowledge of current and upcoming industry professionals. These courses are held at various locations across the nation, allowing for easier accessibility to all participants. The courses consist of two days of intensive training including lectures, key speaker presentations and shared insight to experience from current IPs.

API has just successfully concluded a series of Master Classes which were focused on a Systems Integration Course, IEC 61850 Systems Integration. The courses were run by James Stokes (director of Jarrah Solutions) and Pascal Schaub (director of D.T Partners) and over 75 participants attended across Australia.

“This Master Class covered a broad spectrum of technical knowledge. The case studies were practical and the presenters were great facilitators. I strongly recommend these courses.”

“A fast-paced intensive course led by well-spoken, experienced engineers. I am very grateful for them sharing personal experiences with design insights with implementation of 61850 systems.”

“A good balance of theory, practical and real world examples.”
BURSARY PROGRAM

API works to support the education and professional development of power engineers, therefore offers power-engineering Bursaries to university students interested in a career with in the industry.

The bursaries provide a cash value of $8,000 and provide a support system to help students successfully complete their degree and to provide a platform for networking opportunities to help students transition into the workforce more effectively.

Extensive promotion of the API 2014 bursary program has been undertaken at all universities with a commitment to power engineering across Australia.

SUMMER SCHOOL

API Summer School is an intensive two week residential program, hosted in a different state each year, that provides learning in a first class environment. The daily schedules include a varied blend of learning styles from lectures, presenters, case studies, syndicate work and site visits.

Consistant survey statistics from previous participants show that Delegates consider it an honor to attend the annual API Summer School program. Overall evaluation; 63+% rated the Summer School “Excellent”, with 29+% rating it “Good Value” and 100% of delegates responded that they are prepared to recommend the Program to their colleagues and managers.

2014 Participant Testimonials

“The 2014 API Summer School was a fantastic experience. It is difficult to gain a broad view and understanding of the complexities and parties involved in the power industry during the course of normal employment except through many years of experience, however the API Summer School brings this together in just 2 weeks. I have also made new friends that I would not normally have met! I cannot recommend this highly enough.”

The API Summer School was a great opportunity to look afresh at the power industry and grapple with the challenges that are emerging in the industry. Awesome networking opportunity backed up by quality presentations providing a spectrum of breadth and depth of knowledge.

“Excellent value - will be of great future use and is something I will look back on as a career highlight.”

“The 2014 API Summer School provides the delegates with a broad and valuable understanding of the Industry as well as the challenges faced in the future. The skills gained from both presentations and syndicate work will certainly help in bringing in new ideas to my workplace to improve on our work practices as well as improve my individual career development.”
POWER STATION CHEMICAL CONFERENCE

API PowerChem Conference is the biennial event for power station chemists and their suppliers. The 2014 program began on the evening of Sunday 25 May and concluded on Wednesday 28 May. The conference is composed of a diverse range of key speakers, exhibitors, and three days of lectures.

The conference dinner, sponsored by Veolia Water Solutions & Technologies, allows for an enjoyable networking opportunity and main platform to unite international industry professionals.

This event is a great way to catch up on the latest in power station chemistry, view the exhibitor showcase of technologies and review new products.

“This conference is the only forum in the PowerChem industry and therefore is the perfect opportunity to network by renewing contacts and building new relationships with nationwide and international industry colleagues.” – Colin Gwynne (Aurecon)

WOMEN IN ENGINEERING AND MENTORING PROGRAM

Since the industry is keen to increase female representation in engineering roles, API helps encourage female university students to apply for academic bursaries. In addition, API also provides mentoring support for existing female Bursary holders. Mentors are comprised of experience female industry professionals that are a part of API member companies.

API has commenced the mentoring program in VIC and WA, and will be implementing the program in other states progressively over the next six months.

Key objectives of the mentoring program are to:

- Provide students with someone in the industry who can provide them some guidance of how the theory at university links to the application in industry for power engineering related subjects.

- Provide students with some guidance of final year thesis/project topics and if appropriate assist with industry input.

- Provide students with guidance and information about the support given to female engineers within the energy industry.

CONTACT US

www.api.edu.au

Mike griffin (CEO)
McGriffin@Caloundra.net.au