
6TH ANNUAL BCM CONFERENCE - FUEL FOR YOUR BCM

10TH OCTOBER 2006

SINGAPORE

Organized by Business Continuity Planning Asia (BCP Asia) Pte Ltd the 6th Annual BCM Conference – FUEL for your BCM, held on the 10th to 12th October 2006 in Meritus Mandarin, received a positive response of more than 100 participants from all industries around the region. The key areas that encompass the conference were:

Flu Pandemic

Understanding the BCM standards updates

Exercising & training to generate interest & create BCM awareness

Learning from the experts ... Facility, technical, security

The broadening range of risks from malicious intent, natural disaster, flaws in electricity delivery, leak of personal information security and many others increased the organization sense of vulnerabilities. To be prepared in this world of uncertainty, several well-respected and experienced BCM practitioners from different industries were invited to share their BCM experience and expertise.

The conference kicked off with an opening speech by the chairman, Mr. Ian Charters, Chairman of the Business Continuity Institute's Education Committee. He said, "*Organization need to build up their resilience and update on the latest development to be always prepared for the unforeseen situations.*" Currently, more and more organizations do realize the importance and the necessity for their business continuity in times of peril.

One of the highlights in this year conference was the panel discussion that created an opportunity for the participants to raise their concerns on BCM in an open discussion. To set the direction and focus of the conference, Henry Ee, Founder and Director of Business Continuity Planning Asia Pte Ltd; Mr. Micah Tan, from JP Morgan Chase Bank, N.A., Singapore; and Mr. Terry Wong, from SingTel together with Mr. Ian, shed light on looking at BCM from different perspectives with the active exchange between the audience and the panel. Some interesting questions were thrown from the floor including avian flu planning along with the standards set up by WHO, awareness of BCM in Asia region and the role of BCM standards for various countries.

Flu Pandemic

Having killed more than 100 people worldwide, flu pandemic, the most recent natural threat, was of great concern to the world and this pressing issue grabbed the interest of most attendees. To integrate pandemic flu contingency plan into BCP has become a high priority within the BCM circle. Sharing with the audience on his opinions about the probable impact to a company, as well as the employees and customers, Mr. Ian covered topics on policy establishing, resource allocation, communication and 3rd party coordination during a pandemic outbreak.

However, more often than not, people are not always well informed or aware of the dangers of the flu pandemic and what is the cause of the virus. Dr. Edgar Frank, Malaysia BCI representative offered a medical perspective of the flu pandemic. By understanding how the Avian virus works and spreads, attendees were better equipped in planning and preparing for an avian flu outage.

With the greatest asset resting on its people, managing the human resource aspect during a pandemic is of great importance to any organization. Is the workforce prepared for the flu pandemic? Mrs. Rosaline Chow Koo, from Mercer Human Resource Consulting highlighted several key points, which include working policies and workforce planning, readiness of companies within each sector and country, crisis leadership and communications during a pandemic. She also covered policies such as quarantining and traveling that we should all take precautions on during possible flu pandemic outbreaks.

Understanding the BCM standards updates

With the new and emerging threats occurring around the world, Mr. Henry Ee said *“To be consistent in the methodology and approach and adopt the best practices that we have in this industry, the need of a global standard on BCM is imperative. The existing BCM standards for UK (BSI 25999), Business Continuity Institute (BCI standard & BCI GPG), Singapore standard (TR19 and the SS507) and other international standards gave the participants an overall picture on the global BCM standards update.”*

Exercising & training to generate interest & create BCM awareness

Most BCM practitioners would be faced with the daunting task of invoking the interest of colleagues on the importance of exercising BCM, which often is an additional responsibility out of their daily work load for the staff. With 9 fulfilling years in BCM industry, , Mr. Andrew Lee from Deutsche Bank Asia Pacific Head Office provided insight of how to conduct a BCM exercise to ensure proper BCM planning. Attendees took away with them his experience sharing of realistic case scenarios and critical pointers to remember for conducting a successful BCM test.

The conference also catered to those who were tasked to hold the reins for the dollars and cents spend for their BCM. The importance of spending the right way on the right facilities for the individual organization with different needs and requirements is of vital magnitude to the success of a BCM plan. Rounding up for the day, Mr. Micah Tan of JP Morgan Chase, covered topics on the different costs of a Business Continuity Program, the different budget allocation methods as well as how to identify the right budget amount for a business continuity program. Backed with statistics from a survey done with several companies, some interesting figures were shared with regards to the yearly amount allocated to BCM.

Generally an organization with more annual revenue that is accumulated, the percentage of money that is actually allocated to BCM is lower. BCM budget will incur a higher cost to smaller organizations as compared to larger corporations with higher annual revenue.

Learning from the experts ... Facility, technical, security

In today technology driven world, technical aspect of the BCM is of course, paramount. With the huge amount of data processed everyday (i.e. the billions of dollars flying across borders), any unexpected loss of data is a great financial lost and reputation at risk to the organizations. Hence the necessity to constantly update and keep abreast of the latest technology available to access and process data efficiently and securely, to have a time and cost effective data back-up. To share with the audience this aspect on BCM, guest speakers, Mr. Yajnish Malik of Citrix and Mr. Shaun McCaughan of HP introduced the capability of Citrix as remote access service and data backup through HP's electronic vaulting respectively. Both distinguish speakers with their years of experience in the technical field of BCM, engaged the participants with their sharing on their products knowledge playing a critical and crucial role for any company's BCM.

With the support of the sponsors, partners and supporting organization, the conference is a tremendous success. The local and overseas delegates who arrive specially for this annual event, went home satisfied. Another successful annual BCM conference filled with interesting sharing of outlook of the BCM industry, with more to expect in the upcoming year..

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