

MEDIA RELEASE

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Thailand Mining Company takes on Australia's best from the Food and Pharmaceutical Industry

This year's 'Aussie Cup' TPM³ team competition is shaping up to be an international affair.

With 16 entries from leading companies throughout Australia, the competition has been extended to 4 finalists who will present at Australia's 12th TPM³ Annual Forum in Melbourne at the Airport Motel & Convention Centre on the 16 August 2006.

The finalists announce last week were Banpu Coal Mining Lampang Mine in Thailand, CSL Bioplasma Plasma Processing Plant in Broadmeadows Melbourne, Fonterra Australia's Cororooke Cheese Plant in Western Victoria and Simplot Australia's Bathurst Vegetable Processing Plant in Western NSW.

Each team will be given half an hour to woo the judging panel of TPM³ experts from independent companies (not competing) throughout Australia.

Last year's winner was Simplot Australia's Leggo Tomato Paste Processing Plant in Echuca Victoria

Banpu Lampang Mine commenced their TPM journey in October 2003 and in March 2006 at our New Zealand TPM³ Annual Forum they were awarded Level 3 of the 5 Level Milestone TPM³ Excellence Award. Their Maintenance Improvement Team will be sharing with the audience how they have been able to save over \$130,000 for their company by improving the management of their spare parts.

CSL Bioplasma commenced their TPM³ / Australasian Lean journey in August 2003 and are now in their 7th cycle of TPM³ activity. Their 'Tunnel Vision' team will be sharing how they made many tangible and intangible improvements including an 81% reduction in a downtime loss in their bottle preparation area.

Fonterra Australia Cororooke Site commenced their TPM³ / Australasian Lean journey in November 2005 and are now in their 3rd cycle of TPM³ with over 30% of their employees currently involved in improvement team activity. Their 'Tear It & Bag It' team will be sharing how they improved first pass quality by 20% and capacity by 70% on their cheese bagging line.

Simplot Australia Bathurst Site commenced their TPM³ / Australasian Lean journey in December 2004 and are now in their 6th cycle of TPM³ activity. Their 'Hot Peppers' team will share how they commissioned their new capsicum processing line resulting in significant gains in safety, capacity, recovery and morale.

The Centre for TPM President, Mr Ross Kennedy said each year the quality of speakers and team presentations exceed expectation and this year our 13th Forum will be no exception.

Over 35 sites in Australia, New Zealand, Thailand and Indonesia, covering some 12 industry groups, are currently progressing their TPM³ / Australasian Lean journey to World Class Performance and achieving significant improvements in safety, capacity, quality, delivery, productivity, morale and bottom line results.

For more information about the TPM³ Annual Forum please contact Debbie Kennedy at The Centre for TPM (Australia) on (02) 4226 6184, email debbie_kennedy@ctpm.org.au or visit our web site at www.ctpm.org.au.