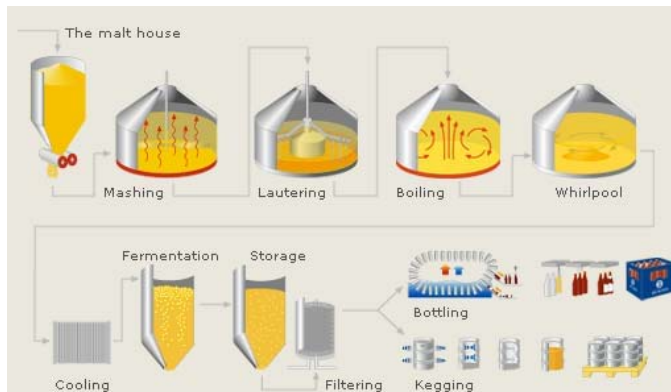


ICAAS at the OKTOBERFEST 2005

How to enter the October better than by celebrating the Oktoberfest? On Saturday the 1st of October 2005 a dozen ICAAS alumni, friends and family met at the Paulaner Brauhaus at Suntec City to participate in this traditional German beer festival. Of course, being Imperial and taking a holistic approach to the cause and effect chain we started this evening with a guided tour through the microbrewery.



Alex Buchner, the brewmaster, explained to us the eight processing stages of beer brewing prior to bottling. We started downstairs at the two brew kettles which are located right in the middle of the pub.



Then we walked upstairs in the cooling chamber where the fermentation takes place. As Paulaner adheres to the German purity law which was last amended in 1516 no other ingredients than malt, hop, yeast and water are allowed. Even the degree of sparklingness has to be regulated through the fermentation process as it is not allowed to charge the product with carbon dioxide gas. About 10 hectolitre is produced per throughput and he arranges for about 4 throughputs per week.



We thanked Alex for his brief though comprehensive introduction to beer brewing and then moved to the Ballroom where our table was waiting for us. The room was decorated like a typical Bavarian beer tent. Ordering the drinks was easy, because due to the high volume of sales at the beginning of October only one kind of beer is offered.

The colour is semi-dark and one can taste the freshness and the absence of preservatives.



Ordering the food became more complicated because the waiter claimed the pork knuckles to be of large size, whereas some German fellows considered the portions in the Paulaner rather small.



The Bavarian band was unique. Of course, being a North-German, I am somewhat biased to this South German traditional music and cannot say that I like it. Ironically, all Germans on our table have been to more Oktoberfests in Singapore than in Germany. The music was interrupted by a few breaks and little performances. For example, one of the musician played on a blown-up pink rubber glove, which made a pretty funny sound and looked as if he were milking a cow's udder.



Once the food and the band were finished some of us went home. This was a wise decision, because soon the band commenced playing again downstairs in the pub. From then the Oktoberfest became less civilized but more barbarian, ups Bavarian.

Malte Schuldt - ICAAS EXCO Member