



Contacts: Dom LaVigne, Methanol Institute (+65 9835 4092 / dlavigne@methanol.org)
Tim & Lhani Davies, L.I.A.M Charitable Fund (+61 404 055 163 / monty.rock@bigpond.com)

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Methanol Institute and L.I.A.M Charitable Fund Announce Program to Save Lives in Bali

Denpasar/Singapore – The Methanol Institute (“MI”), the global trade association for the methanol industry and the L.I.A.M Charitable Fund (“L.I.A.M”), an international organization formed in March 2013 and dedicated to providing alcohol poisoning prevention educational and training services to the public and medical community in Indonesia, announced today the launch of a joint pilot program and campaign to address and stem incidences of bootleg alcohol methanol poisoning in Indonesia.

The production and sale of illegal spirits is a significant problem in Indonesia. All too frequently people in Indonesia die from drinking poorly distilled local “arak” or from the addition of industrial methanol to alcoholic beverages to increase their potency.

The MI-L.I.A.M collaboration, “Community Education Program (CEP),” in Bali, which is being developed by the Public Health Department of Bali-based Udayana University’s Faculty of Medicine, will execute two community-based programs in 28 villages and 24 local health clinics in: (1) Karanggasen/Abang Subdistrict, which is the largest arak-producing region in Bali; and (2) Badung District, which covers the main tourist locations of Kuta, Legian, Seminyak, Tuban, and the surrounding Kuta Utara Subdistrict.

In these programs, MI and L.I.A.M will educate the general public, health workers, and arak producers about the dangers of alcohol poisoning, in which methanol might be added to legitimate alcoholic spirits. Healthcare and medical professionals will be taught how to quickly diagnose and treat the symptoms of methanol poisoning. The MI-L.I.A.M team will also work with traditional Indonesian alcohol (arak) producers to show how arak can be produced with safe distillation techniques that will ensure complete removal of methanol and higher alcohols during the distillation process.

The organizations will also work closely with and an alliance of other industry stakeholders – including Australian medical expert Di Brown, the Education and Research Division of Sanglah Hospital in Bali, and Udayana University’s School of Public Health – to protect consumers through engagement with government and law enforcement officials, alcohol suppliers, and local restaurants, bars, and hotels. This campaign between MI and L.I.A.M will serve as a model for implementation in other domestic and international markets facing concerns similar to those in Bali. Earlier this year, the Methanol Institute worked with NGO Project HOPE to conduct initial outreach efforts to prevent bootleg alcohol methanol poisoning in Indonesia.

“Methanol is a chemical building block for hundreds of products that touch our daily lives, from paints and plastics, to furniture and auto parts. The sale of bootleg alcoholic beverages poorly distilled or even spiked with methanol is illegal and hazardous to human health, and must be stopped. This effort by

the Methanol Institute and The L.I.A.M Charitable Fund is an important step in combating this problem in Bali and beyond,” said Hank Williams of AMPCO Marketing, L.L.C. and Chairman of MI’s Bootleg Alcohol Prevention Subcommittee.

Methanol is one of the most widely-used chemical commodities in the world. Increasingly, methanol is also being used as a transportation fuel. Also known as ‘wood alcohol,’ methanol is made from natural gas, coal, and biomass, with global demand of nearly 65 million metric tons annually (22 billion gallons or 82 billion liters).

“The L.I.A.M Charitable Fund is very happy to form this collaboration with the methanol industry, which we hope will lead directly to preventing the loss of further lives to bootleg alcohol poisoning in Indonesia,” remarked L.I.A.M founders Lhani and Tim Davies, whose son Liam died in January 2013 from methanol-tainted alcohol in Indonesia’s Gilli Islands.”

For more information on methanol poisoning and its treatment please visit the Health and Safety section of MI’s website (www.methanol.org) and the L.I.A.M Facebook page.

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About the Methanol Institute

The Methanol Institute (MI) serves as the global trade association for one of the world's most vibrant and innovative industries. Founded in 1989, MI serves its members in every corner of the globe from our headquarters in Singapore and regional offices in Washington, D.C. and Brussels. More information is available at www.methanol.org.

About The L.I.A.M Charitable Fund

The L.I.A.M Charitable Fund was founded in March 2013 by Lhani and Tim Davies, whose son Liam had died from unknowingly drinking methanol-tainted alcoholic spirits while on holiday in Indonesia’s Gilli Islands in January 2013.

L.I.A.M is an international organization dedicated to providing alcohol poisoning prevention educational and training services to the public and medical community in Indonesia.

More information is available on the L.I.A.M Facebook Page

at: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Lifesaving-Initiatives-About-Methanol-LIAM/389335401165731?sk=info>.

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For more information, contact:

Hank Williams

Marketing Manager, AMPCO Marketing, L.L.C.

and Chairman, MI Bootleg Alcohol Prevention Subcommittee (BAPS)

phone: +1 281 885 1273

e-mail: hwilliams@AtlanticMethanol.com

Dom LaVigne

Director, Government & Public Affairs (Asia Pacific/Middle East)

Methanol Institute

mobile: +65 9835 4092

e-mail: dlavigne@methanol.org

Lhani & Tim Davies

The L.I.A.M Charitable Fund

mobile: +61 404 055 163

e-mail: monty.rock@bigpond.com

Methanol Institute

Global Headquarters – 10 Anson Road, #32-10 International Plaza, Singapore 079903 * (+65) 6325 6300
Washington, D.C. Office - 124 South West Street, Suite 203, Alexandria, VA 22314 * (+1) 703 248-3636
Europe – Avenue Jules Bordet, 142, 1140 Brussels, Belgium * (+32) 276 116 59