

COURSE OVERVIEW PE0912

Advanced Refinery Operations, Plants Process & Troubleshooting

Course Title

Advanced Refinery Operations, Plants Process & Troubleshooting

Course Date/Venue

Please see page 3

Course Reference

PE0912

Course Duration/Credits

Five days/3.0 CEUs/30 PDHs



Course Description



This practical and highly-interactive course includes real-life case studies and exercises where participants will be engaged in a series of interactive small groups and class workshops.



Refinery processes consist of many complex apparatuses involving both moving and static parts as well as interconnecting pipes, control mechanisms and electronics, mechanical and thermal stages, heat exchangers, waste and side product processing units, power ducts and many others. Bringing such a complicated unit online and ensuring its continued productivity requires substantial skill at anticipating, detecting and solving acute problems. Failure to identify and resolve these problems quickly can lead to lost production, off-spec product, equipment loss, and even catastrophic accidents. Therefore, the ability to troubleshoot refinery operations is one of the most valuable skills operations personnel can possess.



Typical refineries operate about 26 days of the month to cover costs. The remaining days in the month they operate to make a profit. If the process is down for five days, then the company cannot cover costs and no profit has been made. Engineers must quickly and successfully solve any troublesome problems that occur. Sometimes the problems occur during startup; sometimes, just after a maintenance turn-around; and sometimes unexpectedly during usual operation. A troubleshooting problem is one where something occurs that is unexpected to such an extent that it is perceived that some corrective action may be needed. The trouble usually occurs somewhere in a system that consists of various pieces of interacting equipment run by people.

Troubleshooting is the process used to diagnose the fault safely and efficiently, decide on corrective action and prevent the fault from reoccurring. Process engineering, especially troubleshooting, is different from most other branches of technology in another respect: It is not advancing very quickly. The principles of distillation, hydraulics, phase separation, and heat transfer, as they apply to process applications, have been well known for quite some time. The challenge in troubleshooting consists of untangling the influence that human error, mechanical failure, and corrosion have on these well-known principles. The aspect of the job that makes it so difficult is that most refinery problems are initiated by human error – a never-ending source of surprise.

Most Refinery troubles have a simple origin. However, this simple origin is clouded by false data, misconceptions, superficial observations, and third-hand reports. The error that most engineers often make is that they develop a theory, usually with process computer simulations, as to the cause of the malfunction. The theory is then reviewed with management and other technical personnel at a large meeting. If no one objects to the theory, it is accepted as the solution to the problem. Technical training is one tool that should be taken into the field to reveal the underlying problem, but confining the investigation to technical areas only will severely limit the chances of success.

Course Objectives

Upon the successful completion of this course, each participant will be able to:-

- Apply and gain an in-depth knowledge on advanced refinery operations, plants process and troubleshooting
- Discuss petroleum refinery process including crude processing, desalting, atmospheric distillation and vacuum distillation
- Explain heavy oils processing and bottom of the barrel upgrading covering the coking and thermal processes, delayed coking, fluid coking, flexicoking and visbreaking
- Carryout process of production that covers the fluid catalytic cracking, hydrocracking, cat cracking, isomerization, alkylation, hydrotreating and catalytic reforming
- Review process operations key operational conditions and factors as well as discuss blending for product specifications, hydrogen production, refinery gas plants and acid gas treating
- Identify process troubleshooting including troubleshooting concepts and techniques, troubleshooting tools, typical problems, flooding and its detection
- Determine refinery economics comprising of residue reduction, asphalt and residual fuel, refinery complexity and netback

Exclusive Smart Training Kit - H-STK®



Participants of this course will receive the exclusive “Howard Smart Training Kit” (H-STK®). The H-STK® consists of a comprehensive set of technical content which includes **electronic version** of the course materials conveniently saved in a **Tablet PC**.

Who Should Attend

This course provides a basic overview of all significant aspects and considerations of advanced refinery operations plants process and troubleshooting for process engineers, process technical staff, plant managers, team leaders, section heads, production managers, production engineers, operations managers, operations engineers, refinery managers, engineers, superintendents, supervisors, shift superintendents and foremen, plant supervisors, operators, lead operators, area superintendents and technical staff to improve their knowledge on refinery process unit operation and equipments used in operation and handling of process and equipments during any problem and emergency.

Course Date/Venue

Session(s)	Date	Venue
1	June 22-26, 2025	Meeting Plus 9, City Centre Rotana, Doha Qatar
2	August 17-21, 2025	Safir Meeting Room, Divan Istanbul, Turkey
3	October 12-16, 2025	Boardroom 1, Elite Byblos Hotel Al Barsha, Sheikh Zayed Road, Dubai, UAE
4	December 15-19, 2025	Hampstead Meeting Room, Marriott London Regents Park, London, United Kingdom
5	January 25-29, 2026	Olivine Meeting Room, Fairmont Nile City, Cairo, Egypt

Course Fee

Doha	US\$ 6,000 per Delegate. This rate includes H-STK [®] (Haward Smart Training Kit), buffet lunch, coffee/tea on arrival, morning & afternoon of each day.
Istanbul	US\$ 6,000 per Delegate + VAT . This rate includes H-STK [®] (Haward Smart Training Kit), buffet lunch, coffee/tea on arrival, morning & afternoon of each day.
Dubai	US\$ 5,500 per Delegate + VAT . This rate includes H-STK [®] (Haward Smart Training Kit), buffet lunch, coffee/tea on arrival, morning & afternoon of each day.
London	US\$ 8,800 per Delegate + VAT . This rate includes H-STK [®] (Haward Smart Training Kit), buffet lunch, coffee/tea on arrival, morning & afternoon of each day.
Cairo	US\$ 8,800 per Delegate + VAT . This rate includes H-STK [®] (Haward Smart Training Kit), buffet lunch, coffee/tea on arrival, morning & afternoon of each day.

Accommodation


Accommodation is not included in the course fees. However, any accommodation required can be arranged at the time of booking.

Course Certificate(s)


Internationally recognized certificates will be issued to all participants of the course who completed a minimum of 80% of the total tuition hours.

Certificate Accreditations

Certificates are accredited by the following international accreditation organizations: -

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British Accreditation Council (BAC)

Haward Technology is accredited by the **British Accreditation Council** for **Independent Further and Higher Education** as an **International Centre**. BAC is the British accrediting body responsible for setting standards within independent further and higher education sector in the UK and overseas. As a BAC-accredited international centre, Haward Technology meets all of the international higher education criteria and standards set by BAC.

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The International Accreditors for Continuing Education and Training (IACET - USA)

Haward Technology is an Authorized Training Provider by the International Accreditors for Continuing Education and Training (IACET), 2201 Cooperative Way, Suite 600, Herndon, VA 20171, USA. In obtaining this authority, Haward Technology has demonstrated that it complies with the **ANSI/IACET 2018-1 Standard** which is widely recognized as the standard of good practice internationally. As a result of our Authorized Provider membership status, Haward Technology is authorized to offer IACET CEUs for its programs that qualify under the **ANSI/IACET 2018-1 Standard**.

Haward Technology's courses meet the professional certification and continuing education requirements for participants seeking **Continuing Education Units (CEUs)** in accordance with the rules & regulations of the International Accreditors for Continuing Education & Training (IACET). IACET is an international authority that evaluates programs according to strict, research-based criteria and guidelines. The CEU is an internationally accepted uniform unit of measurement in qualified courses of continuing education.

Haward Technology Middle East will award **3.0 CEUs** (Continuing Education Units) or **30 PDHs** (Professional Development Hours) for participants who completed the total tuition hours of this program. One CEU is equivalent to ten Professional Development Hours (PDHs) or ten contact hours of the participation in and completion of Haward Technology programs. A permanent record of a participant's involvement and awarding of CEU will be maintained by Haward Technology. Haward Technology will provide a copy of the participant's CEU and PDH Transcript of Records upon request.

Course Instructor(s)

This course will be conducted by the following instructor(s). However, we have the right to change the course instructor(s) prior to the course date and inform participants accordingly:



Mr. Mike Poulos, MSc, BSc, is a Senior Process Engineer with over 35 years of industrial experience within the Utilities, Refinery, Petrochemical and Oil & Gas industries. His expertise lies extensively in the areas of Process Plant & Troubleshooting, Process Equipment Design & Troubleshooting, Petroleum Processing, Process Design Specifications, Process Calculation Methods, Equipment Sizing & Selection, Piping, Pumps, Compressors, Heat Exchangers, Air Coolers, Direct-Fired Heaters, Process Vessels, Fractionator Columns, Reactors,

Ancillary Equipment, Mechanical & Safety Aspects, Cost Estimation, Commissioning & Start-Up, Production & Cost Reduction, Reactor Building Ventilation System, PVC Initiators Storage Bunkers, PVC Modernization & Expansion, PVC Reactor, PVC Plant Reactors Pre-Heating, PVC Plant Start-Up & Commissioning, PVC Plant Shutdown, PVC Driers Automation, VCM Recovery, VCM Sphere Flooding System, VCM Storage Tanks, Steam Tripping Facilities, Solvents Plant Automation Commissioning & Start-Up and Inferential Properties System. Further, he is also well-versed in Advanced Process Control Technology, Designing Process Plant Fail-Safe Systems, Quantitative Risk Assessment, On-Line Statistical Process Control, Principles and Techniques of Contemporary Management, Rosemount RS3, Polymer Additives, Polymer Reaction Engineering, Polymer Rheology and Processing, GRID Management and Batch Process Engineering.

During his career life, Mr. Poulos held significant positions as the **Chemical Plants Technology Engineer, PVC Plant Production Engineer, PVC Plant Shutdown Coordinator, PVC Plant/CC Solvents Plants Acting Section Head and Chemical Distribution Section Head** from Hellenic Petroleum, wherein he was responsible for the development of integrated system.

Mr. Poulos has **Master's and Bachelor's degrees in Chemical Engineering** from the **University of Massachusetts and Thessaloniki Polytechnic** respectively. Further, he is a **Certified Instructor/Trainer**, a and a **member of the Greek Society of Chemical Engineers and Greek Society of Engineers.**

Training Methodology

All our Courses are including **Hands-on Practical Sessions** using equipment, State-of-the-Art Simulators, Drawings, Case Studies, Videos and Exercises. The courses include the following training methodologies as a percentage of the total tuition hours:-

- 30% Lectures
- 20% Practical Workshops & Work Presentations
- 30% Hands-on Practical Exercises & Case Studies
- 20% Simulators (Hardware & Software) & Videos

In an unlikely event, the course instructor may modify the above training methodology before or during the course for technical reasons.

Course Program

The following program is planned for this course. However, the course instructor(s) may modify this program before or during the course for technical reasons with no prior notice to participants. Nevertheless, the course objectives will always be met:

Day 1

0730 - 0745	<i>Registration & Coffee</i>
0745 - 0800	<i>Welcome & Introduction</i>
0800 - 0815	PRE-TEST
0815 - 0800	<i>Petroleum Refinery Process</i>
0800 - 0930	<i>Crude Processing</i>
0930 - 0945	<i>Break</i>
0945 - 1100	<i>Desalting</i>
1100 - 1130	<i>Atmospheric Distillation</i>
1130 - 1215	<i>Vacuum Distillation</i>
1215 - 1230	<i>Heavy Oils Processing/Bottom of the Barrel Upgrading (Cocking & Thermal Processes, Delayed Coking, Fluid Coking, Flexicoking, Visbreaking)</i>
1230 - 1245	<i>Break</i>
1245 - 1315	<i>Process of Production</i>
1315 - 1420	<i>Case Study - Example</i>
1420 - 1430	<i>Recap</i>
1430	<i>Lunch & End of Day One</i>

Day 2

0730 - 0830	<i>Fluid Catalytic Cracking</i>
0830 - 0930	<i>Hydrocracking</i>
0930 - 0945	<i>Break</i>
0945 - 1100	<i>Cat Cracking</i>
1100 - 1130	<i>Isomerization</i>
1130 - 1200	<i>Alkylation</i>
1200 - 1230	<i>Hydrotreating</i>
1230 - 1330	<i>Break</i>
1330 - 1400	<i>Catalytic Reforming</i>
1400 - 1420	<i>Case Study - Example</i>
1420 - 1430	<i>Recap</i>
1430	<i>Lunch & End of Day Two</i>

Day 3

0730 - 0830	<i>Process Key Operational Conditions & Factors</i>
0830 - 0930	<i>Blending for Product Specifications</i>
0930 - 0945	<i>Break</i>
0945 - 1100	<i>Hydrogen Production</i>
1100 - 1130	<i>Refinery Gas Plants</i>
1130 - 1200	<i>Acid Gas Treating</i>
1200 - 1230	<i>Utilities</i>
1230 - 1330	<i>Break</i>
1330 - 1400	<i>Sulfur Recovery Plants</i>
1400 - 1420	<i>Case Study - Example</i>
1420 - 1430	<i>Recap</i>
1430	<i>Lunch & End of Day Three</i>



Day 4

0730 – 0830	Utilities
0830 – 0930	Oil & Gas Measurement & Control
0930 – 0945	<i>Break</i>
0945 – 1100	Process Troubleshooting Concepts & Techniques
1100 – 1130	Troubleshooting Tools
1130 – 1200	Typical Problems
1200 – 1230	Flooding & its Detection
1230 – 1330	<i>Break</i>
1330 – 1400	Interaction of Process & Equipment
1400 – 1420	Case Study - Example
1420 – 1430	Recap
1430	<i>Lunch & End of Day Four</i>

Day 5

0730 – 0830	Saltation & Entrapment
0830 – 0930	Tower Scan & Inspection
0930 – 0945	<i>Break</i>
0945 – 1100	Refinery Economics
1100 – 1130	Residue Reduction
1130 – 1145	Asphalt & Residual Fuel
1145 – 1215	Refinery Complexity & Netback
1215 – 1230	Economic Evaluation
1230 – 1245	<i>Break</i>
1245 – 1315	Cost Estimation
1315 – 1345	Case Study - Example
1345 – 1400	Course Conclusion
1400 – 1415	POST-TEST
1415 – 1430	<i>Presentation of Course Certificates</i>
1430	<i>Lunch & End of Course</i>

Practical Sessions

This practical and highly-interactive course includes real-life case studies and exercises:-



Course Coordinator

Reem Dergham, Tel: +974 4423 1327, Email: reem@haward.org