

NHI'S FOOD SAFETY SYMPOSIUM

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Food safety symposium held in Muscat

Event raised awareness about food safety issues and possible solutions

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Representatives from various industries gathered to attend a food safety symposium at the Grand Hyatt Muscat last week. The aim of the event was to raise awareness about various food safety issues and possible solutions in Oman. The event was organised by the National Hospitality Institute (NHI), the commercial cleaning and food hygiene expert Johnson Diversey, and TempTrak, which makes food safety monitoring and data collection systems.

The symposium featured a lecture by Yaser Nazir, a senior consultant of Johnson Diversey Gulf. Yaser explained the different standards and approaches in food safety management systems that are adopted by countries and industries around the world, as well as explaining a bit of the history of food safety, and how "Food producers have many different standards and requirements in lots of different countries, and this is very demanding for those seeking to sell their products in foreign countries."

On a more localised level, Micro



Beutler, MD of TempTrak, spoke about how TempTrak has devised a system of sensors that help alert the owners of restaurants and hotels to any dramatic change in temperature in cold storage, or if the floor has not been cleaned. "We have created a system where people will know exactly what the temperature and hygiene level of their kitchen and fridges are, and thus the chance of spoiled food is greatly reduced."

The final speaker at the symposium was Tracey Brooker, team leader of the Food Safety Academy at NHI, who spoke about food management systems and the current challenge in Oman. "Our aim at NHI is to facilitate internationally accredited training to improve food safety management systems, ensuring confidence in the delivery of safe food to customers, and to provide awareness of food safety

and hygiene in our community."

Tracey added, "The symposium today has been instrumental in providing a platform for knowledge-exchange and to communicate our commitment to the industry with regards to food safety and training. The awareness of food safety and systems will continue to grow in Oman and we will continue to support food industry professionals in all areas of people development."