

Norwegian Institute for Air Research |NILU



Air Quality Management Project, Dhaka, Bangladesh, 2006

Seminar on **Network Operation and QA/QC**

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Seminar on network operation and QA/QC

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Summary

This report includes four presentations held at DOE, Bangladesh, on 12 March 2006 for the AQMP project. The presentations covered the following subjects:

- Introduction to Monitoring Equipment
- Network operations
- Introduction to QA/QC systems
- The AQMP QA/QC system

The aim of the presentations was to open up to a discussion on the status and needs in the AQMP project regarding network operation and quality systems and to transfer knowledge in these areas to the AQMP staff.

Dhaka, Bangladesh, 2006 Seminar on network operation and QA/QC

1 Presentation: Introduction to Monitoring Equipment

The presentation looks at monitoring equipment. There are two main types, manual samplers and automatic monitors. Choice of type depends on use of data.

1.1 Samplers

Samplers are often preferred in background areas where the concentration levels are low. Samplers are also suitable when diurnal variations are not interesting, e.g. when looking at variations from one year to the next (trends). Typical sampling time is 24 hours and is always followed by chemical analysis in the laboratory.

Samplers are relatively cheap to buy but are labour intensive due to daily filter changes. Sequential samplers exist which allows for typically 14 days of unattended operation. The sampler switches filter automatically. In hot/humid areas the first exposed filter may change its contents after staying in the sampler for 13 days. Some sequential samplers come with a cooling system to preserve the exposed filters.

The passive sampler is an inexpensive device used for sampling of either NO_2 , SO_2 , O_3 or BTEX. It is the size of a coin and has no pump. The component of interest is collected on an impregnated filter. Typical sampling time is for 1 to 4 weeks depending upon ambient concentrations. The sampler can be used for regular measurements, detection of hot spots and for evaluation of possible measurement sites. In the latter case a number of samplers can be deployed in an area to get an estimate of the concentration levels. Based on the results the measurement sites can be decided.

1.2 Automatic monitors

Automatic monitors are used when detection of diurnal variations is important, the public shall be informed about concentration levels or to pinpoint pollution sources. In the latter case the measurements are usually combined with meteorology measurements in order to detect the source.

Data usually stored in an external data logger and automatic transferred to a data centre. Usually only one parameter per instrument can be measured. The monitors are expensive to buy and maintain and they are not easy to repair.

Automatic monitors can be found for many components, e.g. NO, NO_2 , NO_x , SO_2 , CO, O_3 , HC and BTEX. Meteorological measurements are also done automatically. Components measured can be wind speed (horisontal and vertical), wind direction, temperature, relative humidity, barometric pressure and net radiation.

Gas monitors need to be calibrated regularly. This is accomplished by using a gas calibrator. The calibration unit consists of a zero air generator, one or more gas cylinders and a dilution unit. The zero air generator takes ambient air and produces air free from the pollution component(s). The zero air is mixed with the high concentration calibration gas in the dilution unit. When the user specifies a desired output gas concentration the dilution unit will adjust the zero air and gas flows rates to get the correct mixture. Typical calibration gases are NO, SO₂, CO, CH₄, C₃H₈ and BTEX.

2 Presentation: Network operations

The presentation looks at typical tasks that have to be performed when operating a measurement network.

Due to heavy loads and none routine site visits the shelter should have easy access and car parking nearby. The shelter should be protected against theft and damage, e.g. by a fence and door lock. It has to be air conditioned. A telephone line must be available for data communication. Inlets should be at least 1.5 m above rooftop to prevent collection of resuspended dust from roof. It should not be higher due to necessary cleaning. The inlets should have free sight to the pollution source, e.g. road. Trees and constructions close to shelter/ met. tower should be avoided. Take care when mounting the air condition. It should not influence the inlets.

Regular and preventive maintenance is important. No instruments will run without problems but periodic maintenance will prevent some of them. One should do weekly zero/span checks on gas monitors, change inlet filters as necessary, check status parameters, warnings and alarms and compare status parameters with previous checks. One should look for trends in both data and status parameters.

Regarding samplers it is important to have control of pre and post conditioning and weighing of filters, filter storage as well as the balance which should be checked regularly with certified masses. The $PM_{2.5}$ and PM_{10} inlets should be cleaned and the sampler's flow rate should be calibrated regularly.

3 Presentation: Introduction to QA/QC systems

The presentation looks at quality systems in general.

A quality system is necessary to produce reliable results. When a measurement network is operated according to a quality system all activities that may influence the quality of the final results are documented. Typically all operations are described in Standard Operations Procedures (SOPs) and results from routine activities are compiled in forms and stored for later reference. This results in a transparent system in which all activities and results from doing the measurements to presenting the final results are documented. Because all operations are documented it is also easy to train new personnel. The purpose is to get reliable results with known quality. Quality depends on your needs. Before acquiring any instrumentation it is important to specify:

- 1. Monitoring Objectives: Why measure? What is the purpose, e.g. trends or daily information to the public.
- 2. Data Quality Objectives: Determine necessary data quality to fulfil the Monitoring Objectives. Detection of trends requires sensitive analysis while a high concentration alarm to the public requires only a rough measurement.
- 3. Equipment selection. Results must fulfil the DQO. Detection of trends may require a filter sampler with a sensitive post analysis while a high concentration alarm to the public requires an automatic monitor.
- 4. Site selection: Must be representative for the Monitoring Objectives, e.g. detection of trends is best accomplished in a remote area.

The quality system consists of three elements:

- 1. Quality Assurance: All planned and systematic activities which are needed to assure and demonstrate the predefined quality of data.
- 2. Quality Control: Operational techniques and activities that are undertaken to fulfil the quality requirements.
- 3. Quality Assessment: Determining the actual quality of the data and if the data fulfils the Data Quality Objectives

Quality assessment in usually performed by an external institution, e.g. an accreditation body or a reference lab. The accreditation body will audit the institution according to the requirements of the ISO/IEC17025 standard.

The European Union requires that each member state appoints a National Reference Laboratory for air quality (NRL). NRL will maintain the nation wide quality system, help other institutions in measurement network design, approve new measurement techniques, maintain the national reference calibration standards, provide traceability in calibrations to the network operators, maintain the central data base for air quality data and perform audits in the measurement networks.

In order to be able to compare measurements from different sites one must be sure that the instruments at all sites measure correctly. Correctly means that if we put the instruments side by side they will give the same results. This can be achieved only if the instruments have been exposed to and adjusted according to the same calibration standard. Because it is not practical to carry a common calibration standard from site to site a calibration standard, called a working standard, is installed at each site. The working standards are calibrated in the lab using a common reference calibration standard. So instead of using the same calibration standard at all sites one reference calibration standard is used to calibrate the working calibration standards used at each site. We now have a chain of calibrations making the calibration of the instruments at the sites traceable back to one common reference standard.

4 Presentation: The AQMP QA/QC system

The presentation looks at a proposed quality system for AQMP.

The framework of a complete quality system was prepared for AQMP. The system consists of a loose-leaf binder from which copies are made as necessary. The following document types are used in the network:

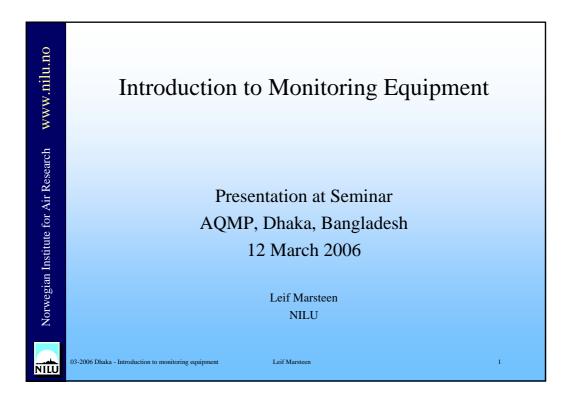
- 1. The Quality manual: The complete quality system documentation from which copies are made as necessary.
- 2. The Station manual: Includes SOPs and forms necessary at a particular station. The station manual is located at the station.
- 3. Station history log book: Includes remarks and observations about the shelter itself and forms covering results and observations from weekly site visits. There is one log book for each station. The history log book is located "at home".
- 4. Instrument history log books: Includes remarks and observations about the instrument itself and forms covering results from calibration, maintenance, service and repairs. There is one log book for each instrument. The history log book is located "at home".

SOPs will typically cover:

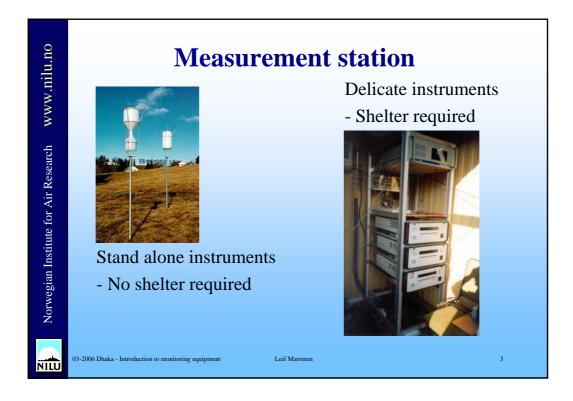
- Quality control at station (weekly)
- Operating instruments
- Data transmission and data validation
- Reporting
- Calibration of gas cylinders and analysers
- Quality Assessment

Appendix A

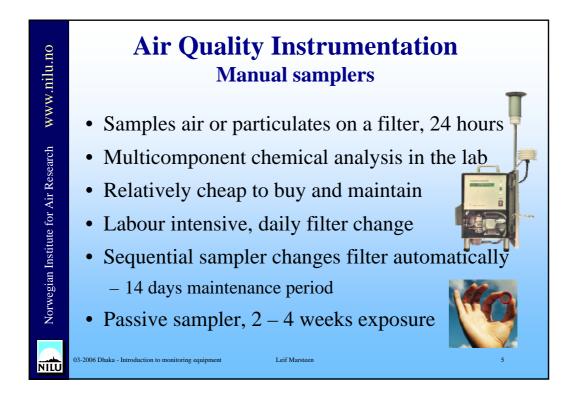
Slides: Introduction to Monitoring Equipment

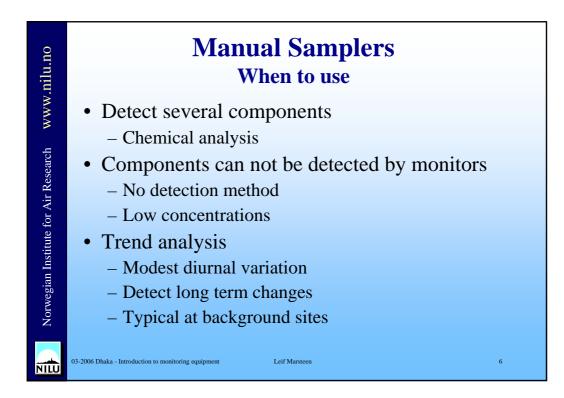




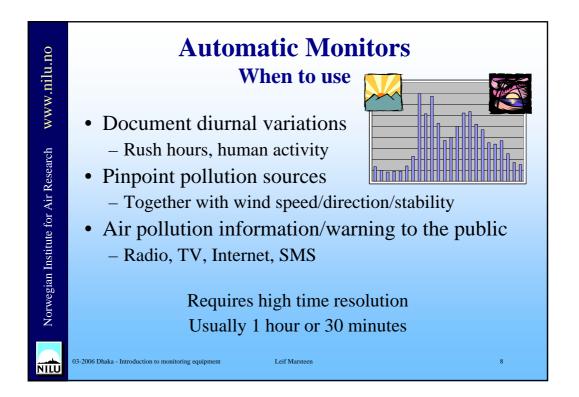


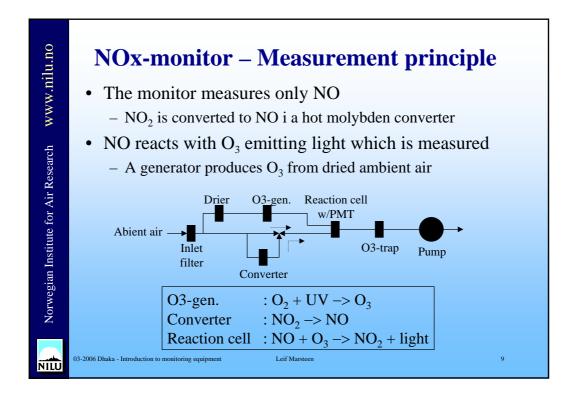


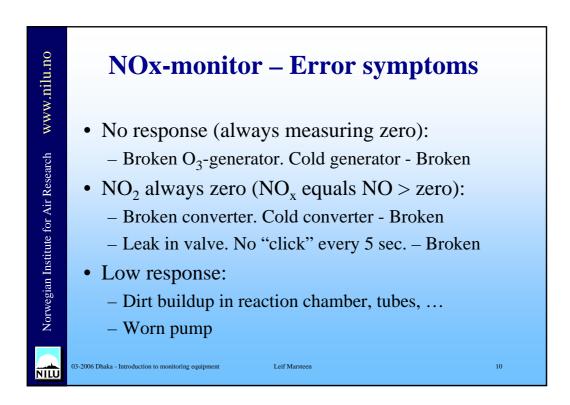


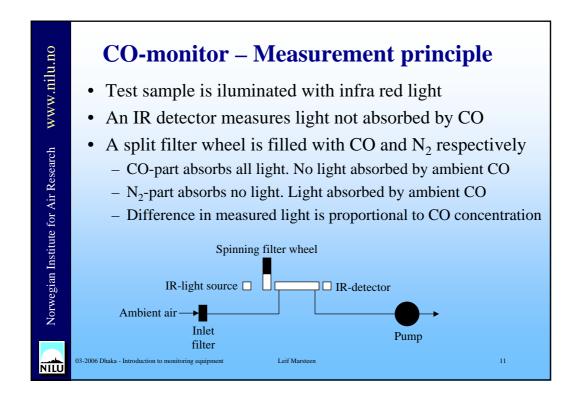


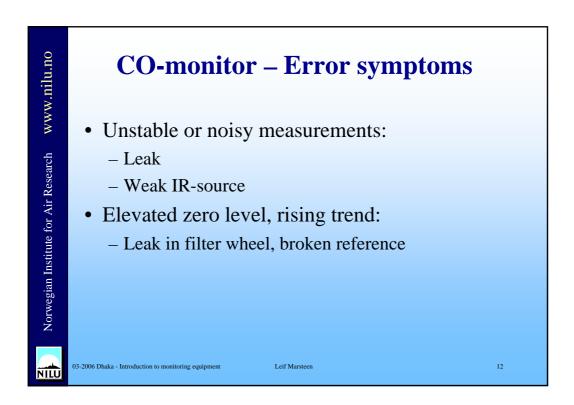


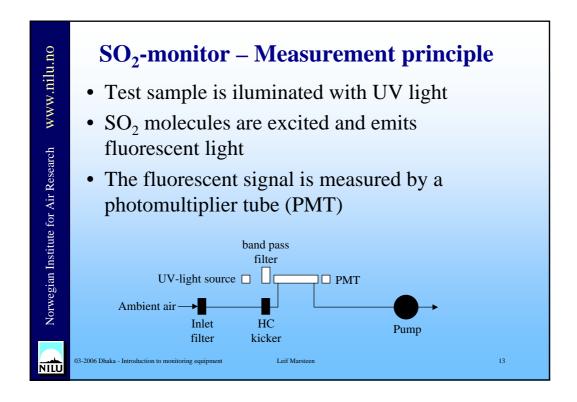


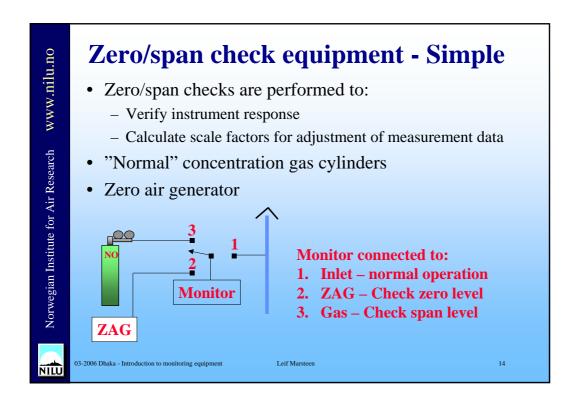


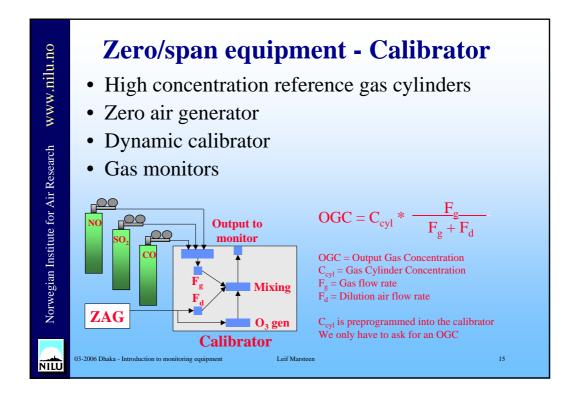


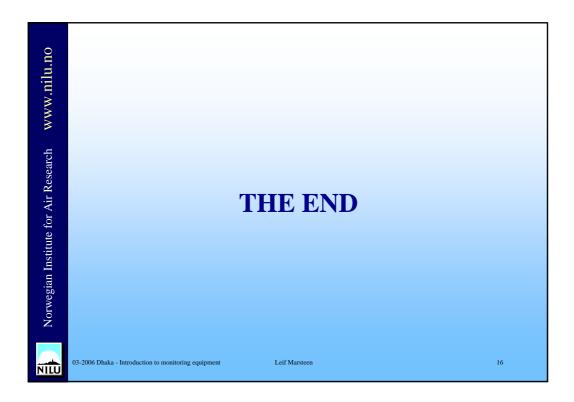






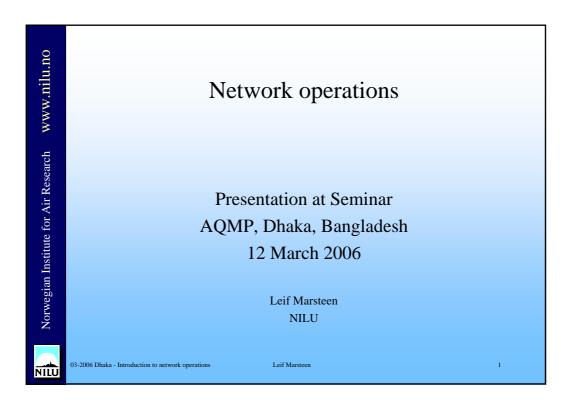




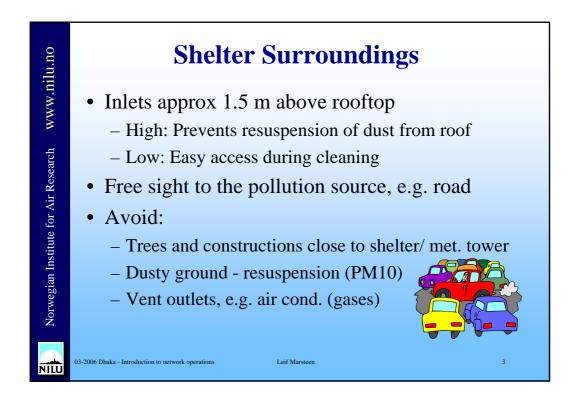


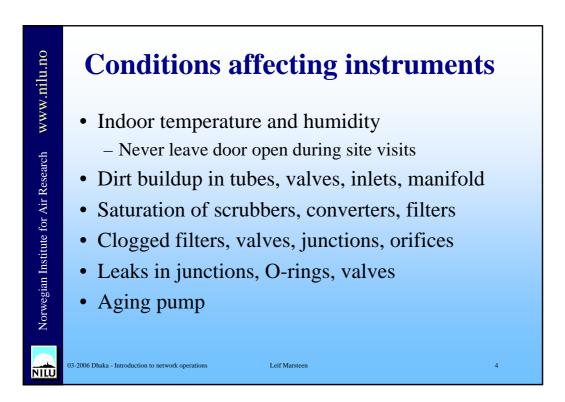
Appendix B

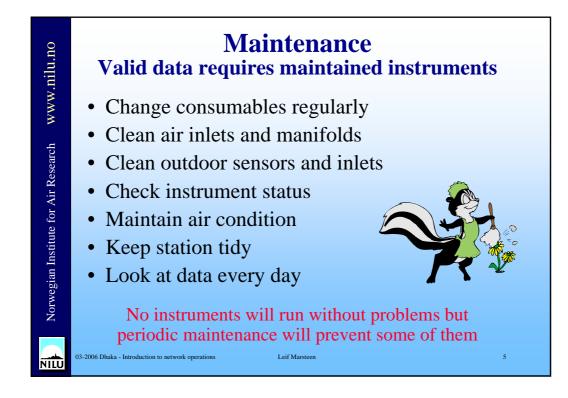
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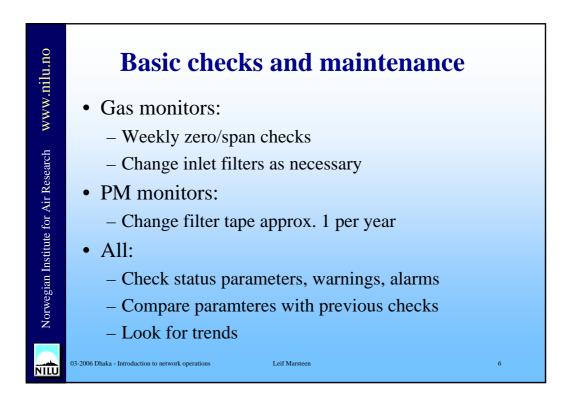


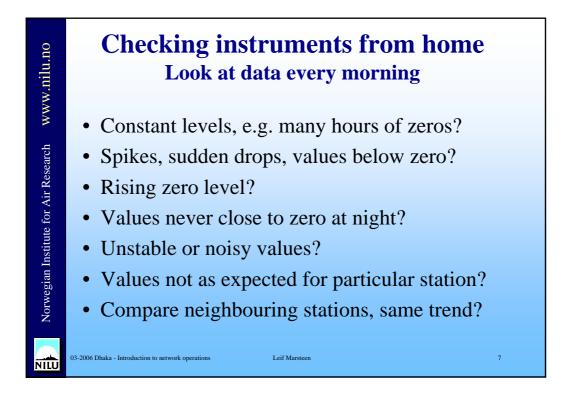


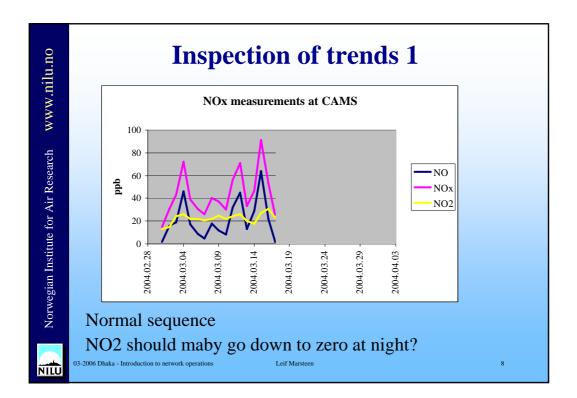


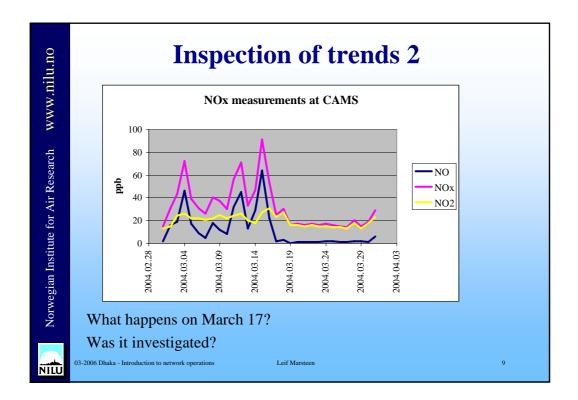


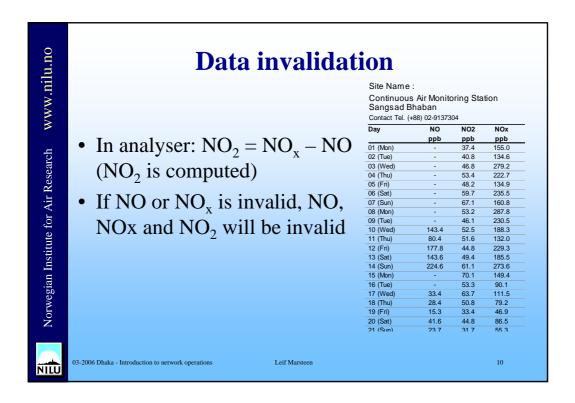


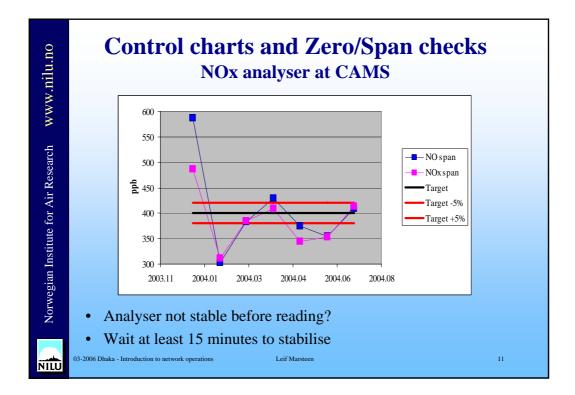


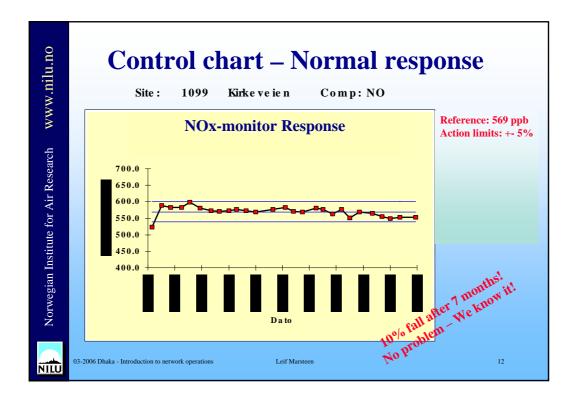


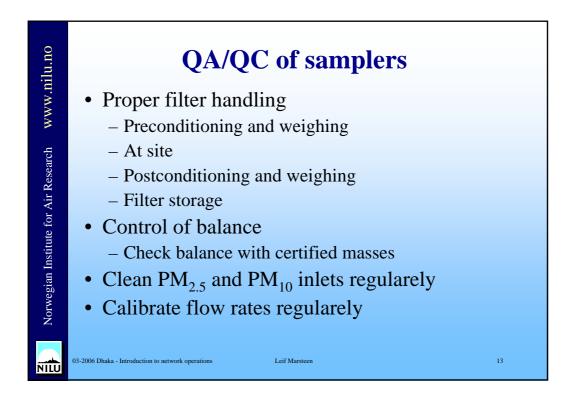


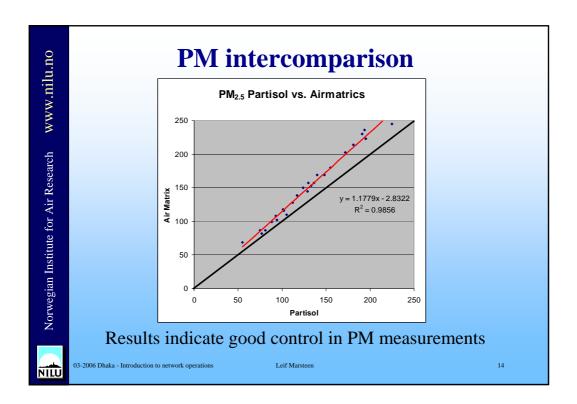






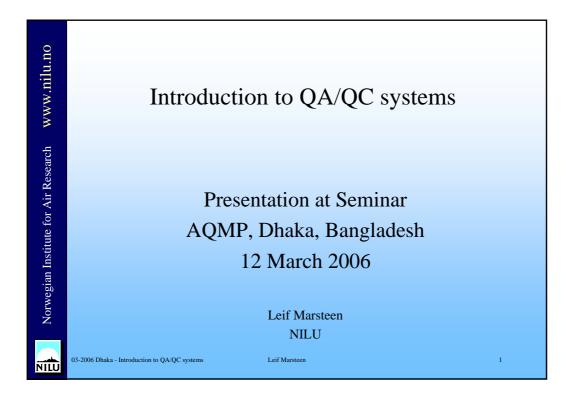




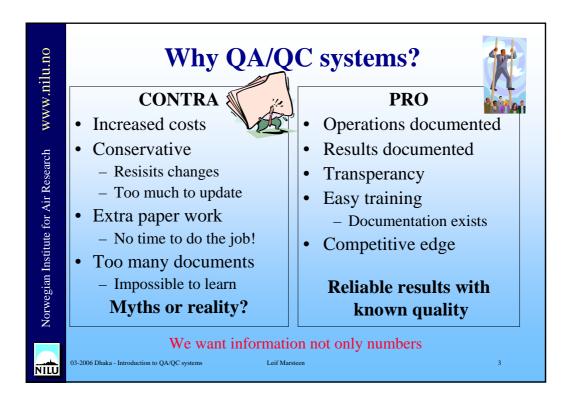


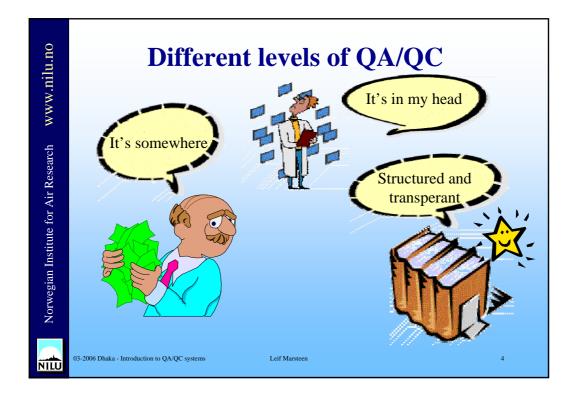
Appendix C

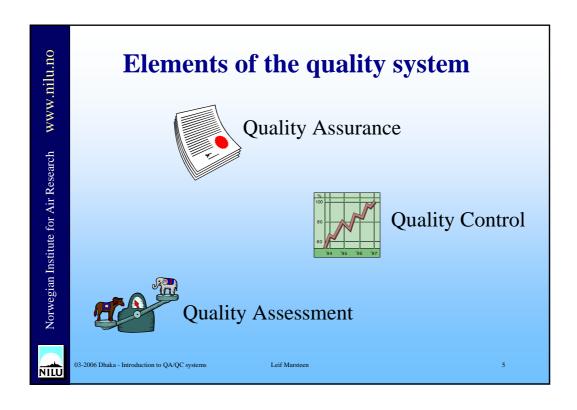
Slides: Introduction to QA/QC systems

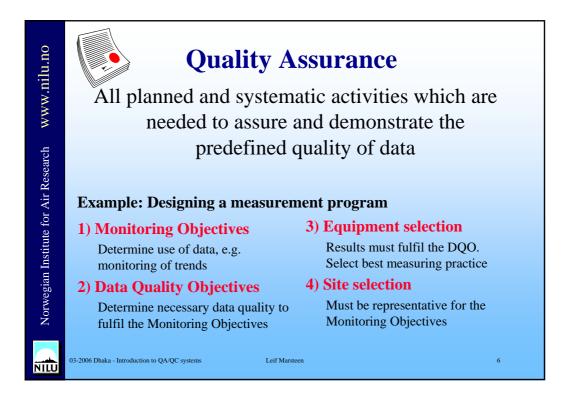


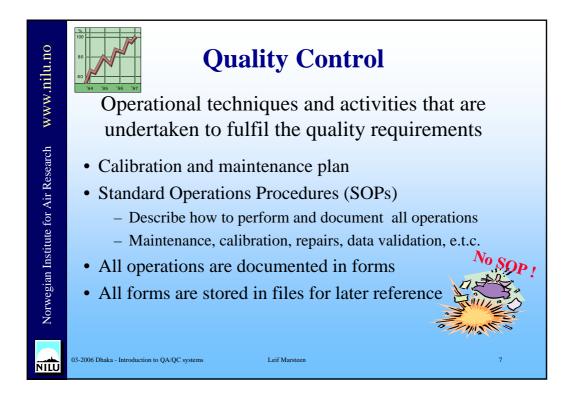


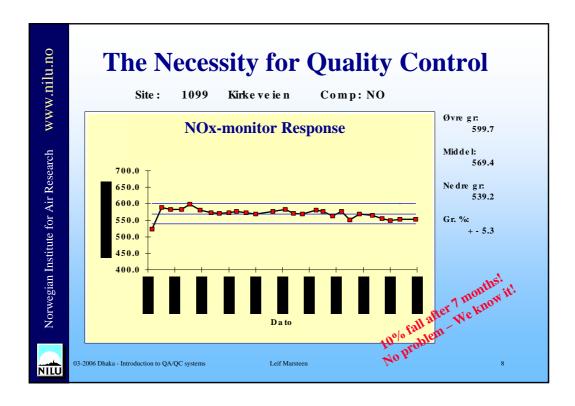


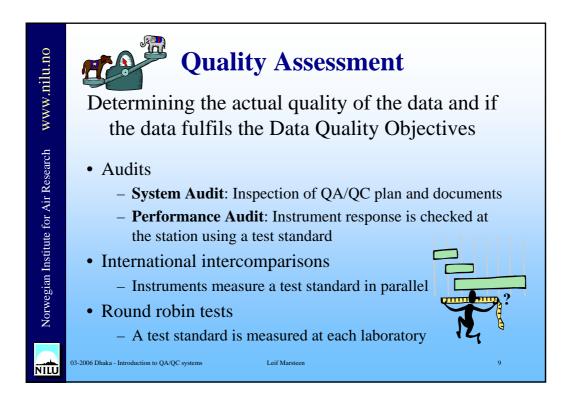


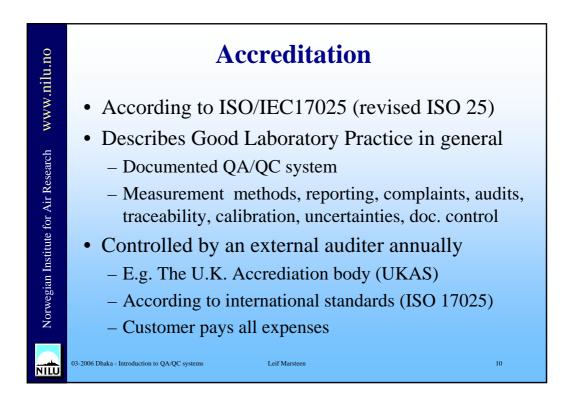


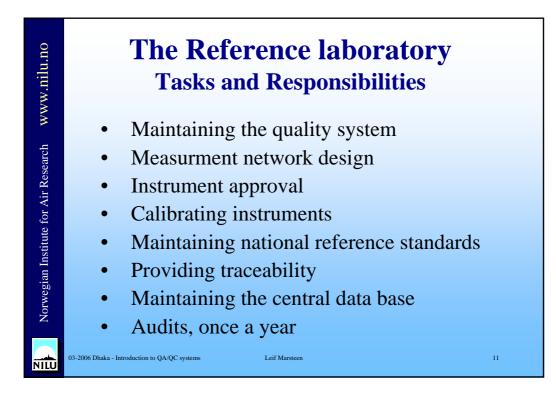


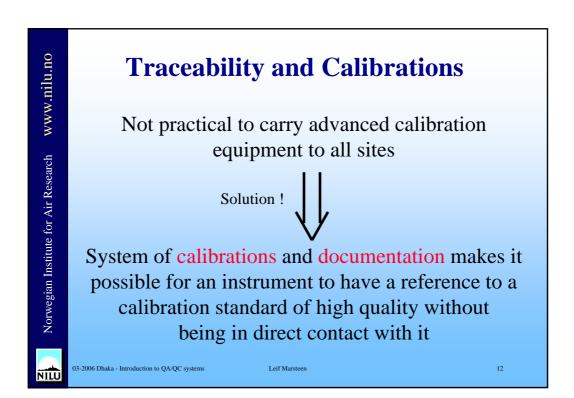


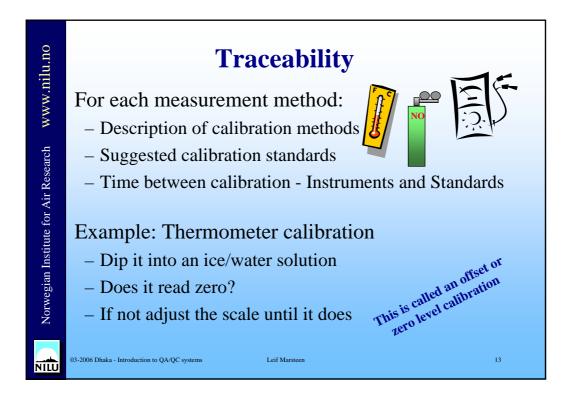


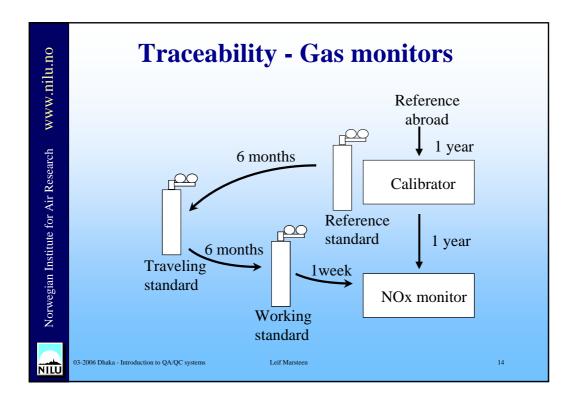


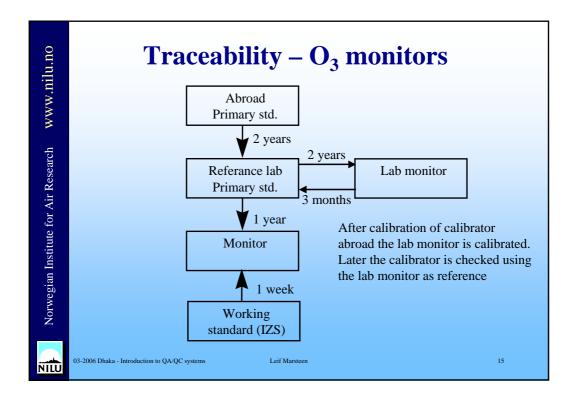


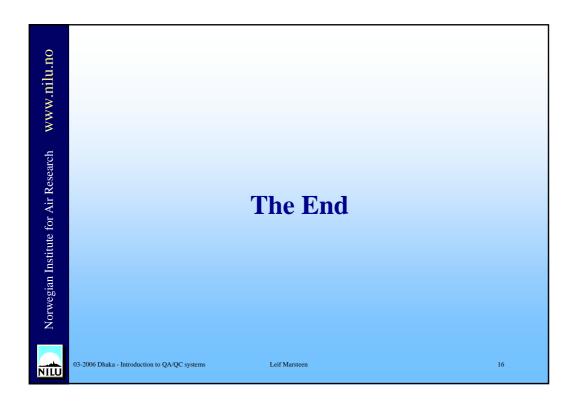






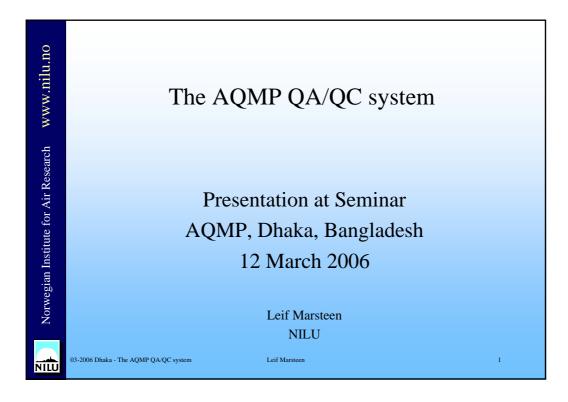


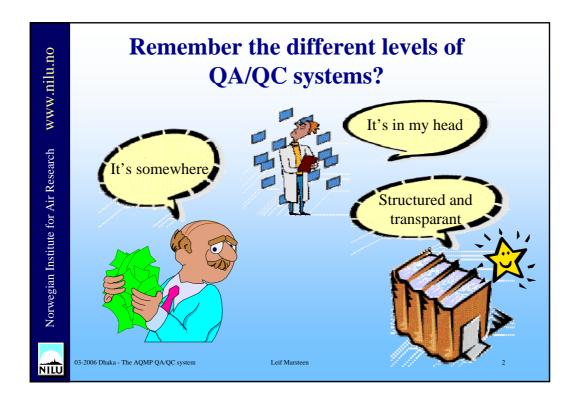


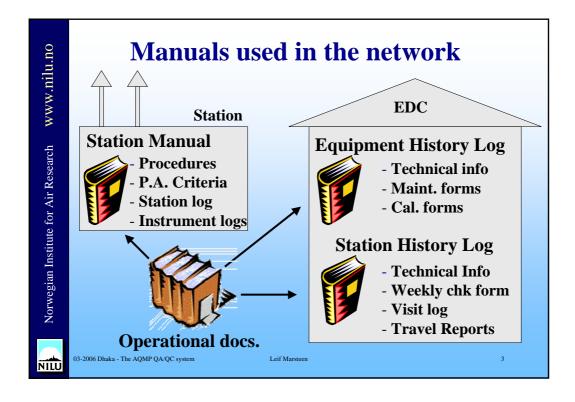


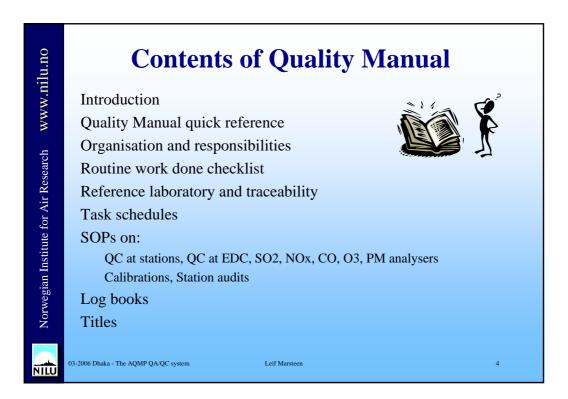
Appendix D

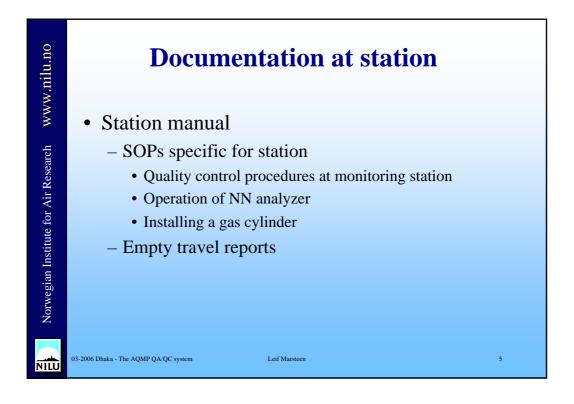
Slides: The AQMP QA/QC system

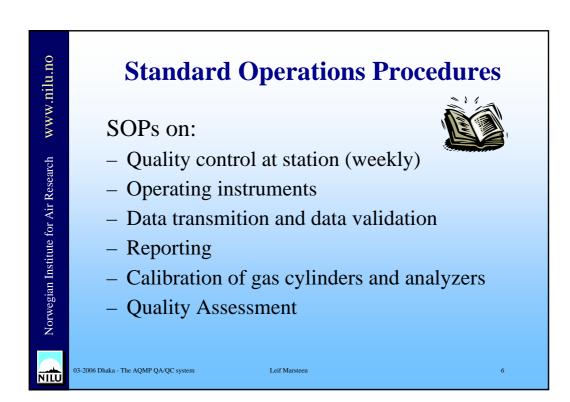


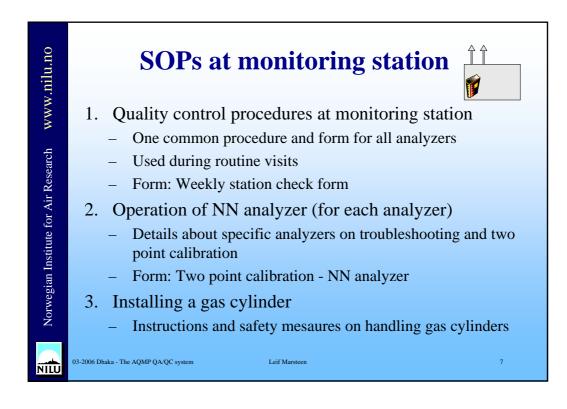


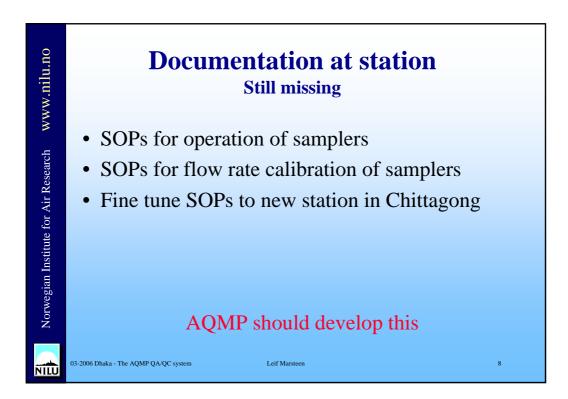


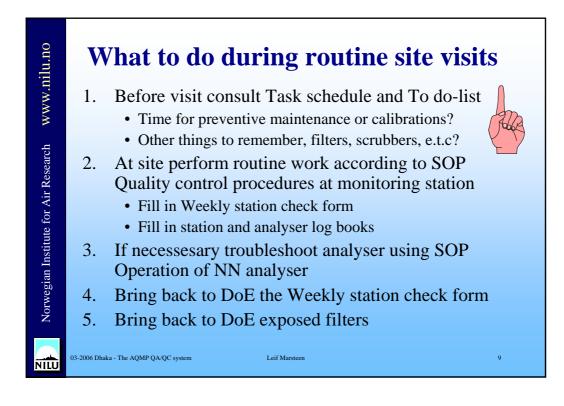


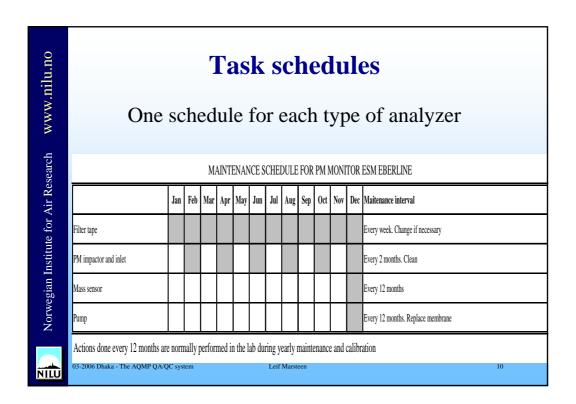




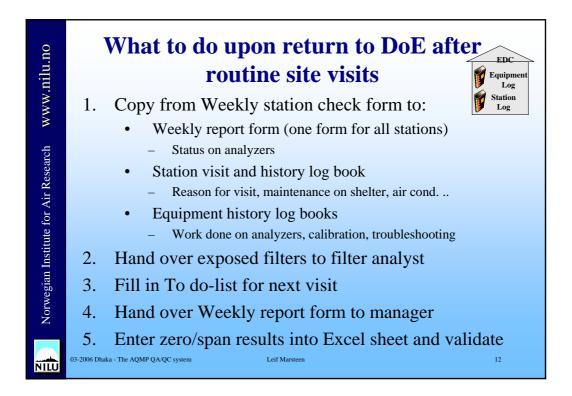


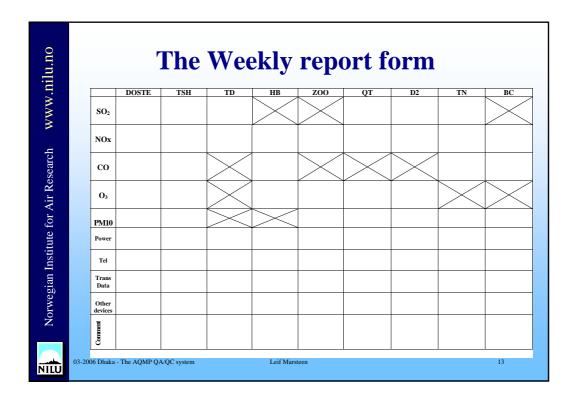






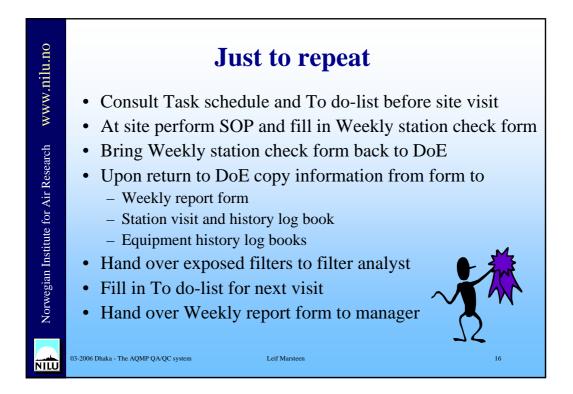
Weekly station che STATION name:	Eck form Date of visit to	station	Time of visit:	Person	conducting chec	k.	
Station exterior	Checked?	Ai	r intake manifold	Inspected?			
	Damage found?			Cleaned?			
Station interior	Checked?	AF	PI zero air generator	Pressure?			
	Cleaned?				e filter inspected?		
Air conditioner	Inspected?				e filter replaced?		
	Cleaned?		r intake teflon lines for A	in opeoteu.	Inspected?		
		an	alysers	Cleaned/replace	ed?		
Instrument		API100	API200	API300	API400	ESM PM	
		SO ₂	NO.	CO	03		
RED fault light flas	hing?						
Warning message	? (Recorded in logbook too)						
Observed test valu	e for warning parameter?						
Warning message							
	after stable signal (20 min.)						
	g after stable signal (20 min.)						
	conse witin action limits?						
Gas cylinder press							
Gas cylinder close							
	ected to sample inlet again?						
	ow before filter change? (ml/min)						
Analyser particle fil							
	ow after filter change? (ml/min)						
Box temperature?							
Instrument surface							
ESM Status LED w	/arning?						
Status code				-			
PM10 sampling he	ges in Comments box)			-			

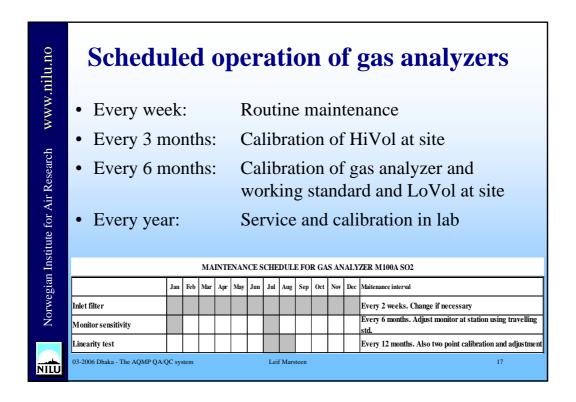


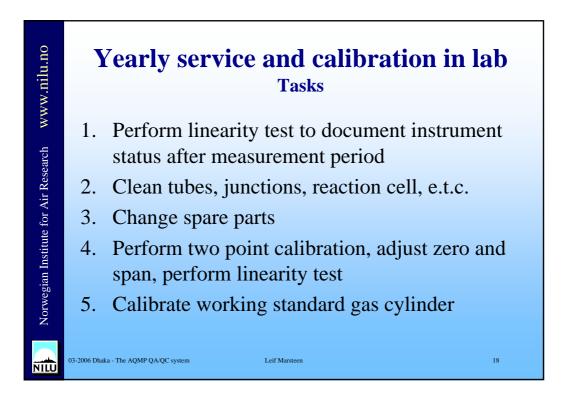


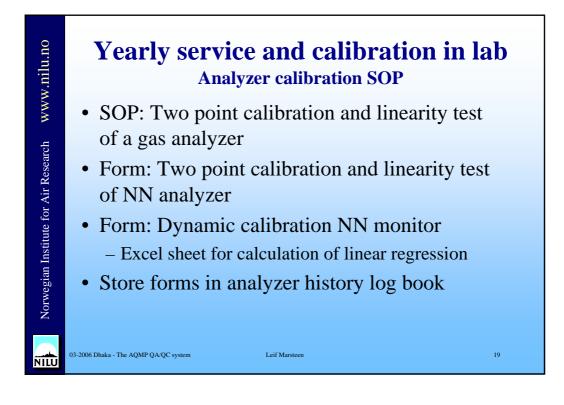
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Norwegian Institute for Air Research		CONTENTS: <u>STATION DATA SHEET</u> <u>TECHNICAL INFORMATION SHEET</u> <u>STATION VISIT AND HISTORY LOG</u> WEEKLY STATION CHECK FORM TRAVEL REPORTS	Section 1 2 3 4 5
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www.nilu.no]	EQUIPMENT HISTC	ORY LOG -	BOOK
ww		Instrument:	Serial no:	
Norwegian Institute for Air Research		CONTENTS:		Section
te for		EQUIPMENT DATA SHEET		1
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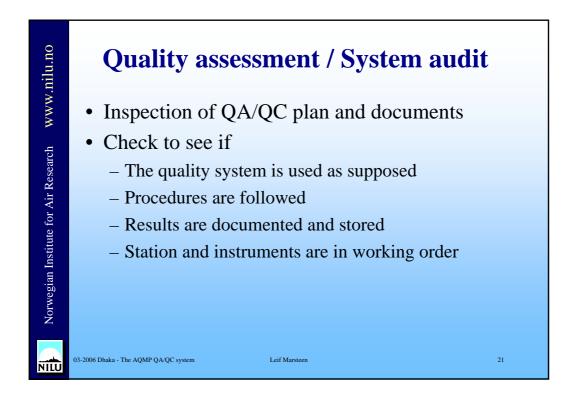








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Week:					Don e				
Task	Dost e	Hon g Ban g	Thu duc	Tan Son Hoa	Thon g Nhat	Binh Cha nh	Zoo	Distr ict 2	Qua ng Trui g
Site visit									
Update instrument history log books									
Update station history and visit log book									
Fill in weekly report									
Enter zero/span check results into AirQuis									
Evaluate zero/span check results									
Evaluate last week of data									



Activity	Quality manual
	reference
Check of instrument performance during site visit	SOP on instrument operation, Section
Quality control at EDC	Section 8
Reporting	Section 9
Maintenance and calibrations	Section 6, 15
Service, calibration and linearity test	SOP on instrument operation, Section
Internal audit of standard operation procedures	Section 16
Calibration of gas cylinders in lab	Section 15
When to do what (task schedule)	Section 6
Troubleshooting	SOP on instrument operation, Section
Log books	Section 17
Routine work checklist - work done	Section 4

