



**IOHA**

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# WORLD

Newsletter of the International Occupational Hygiene Association

## London Calling

LONDON 2015



**10th IOHA International  
Scientific Conference**

April 25th-30th 2015

London Metropole Hotel



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London: Building on  
Occupational Hygiene Together

[www.iohalondon2015.org](http://www.iohalondon2015.org)

## Postcard from the Editor

### Lynda M. Ewers, Ph.D., CIH



Dear Reader,

**Well, if the goal is to find a magic bullet that will improve the world, it will not be found in an industrial workplace.**

Workplaces are too complex.” A fellow industrial hygienist (or occupational hygienist), seated next to me on a long flight, made the above comment during a wide-ranging conversation. I have pondered his comment in the several years since then, and have come to the conclusion that he was correct.

In any one workplace potential hazards may range from ergonomic problems causing back pain to explosion hazards resulting in catastrophic fires to carcinogens wafting through the air to allergenic fluids resulting in severe skin rashes. Of course, possible solutions to each hazard are also complex. It is difficult to be an industrial hygienist who must anticipate, recognize, evaluate, and control all of these hazards. Many IHs resort to specialization in one area and thereby avoid the chaos of a worksite. Yet, I have a soft spot for the staggering task of the ordinary IH.

Industrial hygiene as a profession is not well known nor understood by the general public. People hearing the term for the first time frequently assume that an IH is some sort of janitor who is responsible for cleaning a factory floor – not a highly trained member of an

industrial health team. Similarly, many governmental and business entities appear also to be ignorant of the IH profession, and such lack of awareness can have a depressing effect. For example, IHs have the option of becoming certified by passing a challenging examination, which assures a basic knowledge of the field, but there is a lack of incentive to take the exam. In the U.S. only about 7000 Certified Industrial Hygienists exist in a country that has about 8 million worksites and where over 4000 workers died in 2012 due to industrial accidents. In addition to accidents, it is estimated that about three times more workers die from elusive chronic diseases attributable to industrial hazards. Many workers with chronic health conditions may not be aware of the link to their work exposures; thus, health risks may be ignored.

So, my personal goals, since retiring from 15 years of research and workplace investigations at U.S. NIOSH, have become to assist those hands-on OH practitioners in some way. Just before retiring, I moved to Taiwan for two years and taught IH classes to the students at National Taiwan University, and this very satisfying experience gave me some international viewpoints. I hope that the wide-ranging expertise gained during my career can be useful in helping to increase recognition of the field of occupational hygiene.

The reason I am so interested in working on the IOHA newsletter is because IOHA's stated goals appear to be closely aligned with my own. Putting this first newsletter online has been more difficult than I had hoped, but I remain determined. Of course, I cannot and should not do it alone. The nature of the newsletter must be decided by the IOHA membership. I hope that we can work together to produce an interesting newsletter. So, I am prepared to proofread, Skype, call, email, write, and, if necessary, scrub some factory floors to accomplish this. Please help me to make the IOHA Newsletter a success.

**Lynda M. Ewers, Ph.D., CIH**  
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#### Disclaimer

While great care is taken with the compilation of this Newsletter, IOHA, its Directors, the Editor and the authors of articles accept no responsibility for opinions, errors and omissions that may be made in this Newsletter. The responsibility for opinions expressed in signed articles rests solely with their authors and does not constitute an endorsement by the IOHA.

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## IOHA President's Report 2012-2013

### Jakob Nærheim, Norway IOHA President 2012-2013



## Highlights

IOHA celebrated its 25th Anniversary at the 9th IOHA International Scientific Conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The title of the conference was 'Growing the Seeds of Occupational Hygiene'. From its creation in Montreal, Canada in 1987, IOHA has grown to 29 member organisations from 27 countries, representing over 20,000 occupational hygienists worldwide.

### IOHA 2012 - the 9th IOHA International Scientific Conference

The Malaysian Industrial Hygiene Association did a splendid job and organised one of the best IOHA conferences ever. The conference, which was held in Kuala Lumpur 16-20 September 2012, was a great success with some 350 delegates, a lot of interesting presentations and scientific papers, many networking opportunities and side events. More information is available at [www.ioha2012.net](http://www.ioha2012.net). The conference had a high profile and a lot of Malaysian celebrities were present.

An IOHA 25th Anniversary booklet was produced and the anniversary was celebrated at a gala dinner.

Prof Michel Guillemin was presented the IOHA Lifetime Achievement Award at the conference.

### MoU with ICOH and IEA

IOHA has had a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ICOH, the International Commission on Occupational Health, and IEA, the International Ergonomic Association, for ten years. The 2008 MoU was due for renewal, and

was signed by the three organisations' presidents on 1 May 2013 for another five year period with an automatic renewal for another five years. The associations will collaborate for promotion and development of occupational health and safety at national, international and global levels.

The three organisations also presented a joint statement at the World Health Assembly in May 2013.

The IOHA board supported the ICOH Cancun Charter on Occupational Health for all, but was unfortunately not able to agree on the ICOH statement on a global asbestos ban.

### OHTA - Occupational Hygiene Training Association

The OHTA ([www.ohlearning.com](http://www.ohlearning.com)) was founded with support from IOHA in 2010 and now has a MoU with the IOHA member organisations that are represented on the NAR Committee, i.e. has an approved certification scheme. All those organisations are represented on the Qualification Group of OHTA. IOHA is represented at the OHTA board by one of the executive officers (in 2012 the president elect/president Jakob Nærheim, in 2013 by the past president Noel Tresider). OHTA has turned out to be a great success.

### WHO - Collaboration

IOHA has a formal position with WHO and ILO as an official NGO. Thanks to the efforts of Dave Zalk and others, IOHA has done a great job in supporting the WHO Global Plan of Actions and the WHO Collaboration Centre Work plan for many years. The report on activities for 2011-2013 was presented to the WHO in June 2013.

The IOHA president gave a presentation at the WHO/ICOH International Consultation on Healthy Workplaces in Rome, December 2012.

### Report on Strategy 2011-2015

#### 1 Promoting occupational hygiene

##### Scientific Conferences

The 2012 conference in Kuala Lumpur was a great success. The committee of the 2015 conference in London is well underway in their planning.

##### Newsletter

Our newsletter editor for many years, Berenice Goelzer, unfortunately resigned in May 2012. In April 2013 Lynda Ewers was appointed IOHA Newsletter Editor, after a process where several applicants were evaluated. There was a 'new look' template produced for an electronic version of the newsletter, which will be launched in 2014.

[Continues >](#)

## Website

The website [www.ioha.net](http://www.ioha.net) has got a new and updated Content Management System since the summer of 2013, which makes publication and content management easier. Some of the content of the website, including country profiles, has been updated, but in general the activity on the website has been at a minimum level.

## 2 Expanding membership

No new associations have joined IOHA in this period. IOHA still has 29 member organisations from 27 countries. An activity was financed by the Dutch society to strengthen links with the Latin American occupational hygiene associations, but has so far not led to any improved relationship with IOHA.

At the Kuala Lumpur conference the Asian Network of Occupational Hygiene was formed.

Work has begun to look at a way for large countries (China, India, etc.) to join IOHA without forming a nationwide association first.

## 3 Recognising national accreditation schemes

At the Montreal board meeting in May 2013 Hong Kong's certification scheme was recognised as the 12th scheme to fulfil the NAR criteria. This is the first Asian country to become recognised. The activity in the NAR committee is well on track, and the award and renewal process is according to plan.

It has always been a goal to have mutual recognition and reciprocity among the various NAR schemes. Due to globalisation and mobility this is becoming more of an issue now. A survey has been initiated to start the discussion among the certification bodies.

## 4 Provide technical support and advice

The collaboration with WHO is well taken care of. The relationship with ILO needs to be improved.

Discussions have been going on with ICOH and IEA on the development of joint guidelines etc. but so far nothing has been concluded.

It has been decided to make an IOHA position on asbestos since it turned out to be difficult for all member organisations to support ICOH's statement on a global asbestos ban.

## 5 Recognising and endorsing international occupational hygiene standards

IOHA supports the OHTA, which is in a transition from a purely voluntary based organisation to a more sustainable organisation structure.

## Strategy Update

The president initiated a strategy revision, which will be concluded during 2014.

## IOHA Governance

A structure for all of the IOHA governance documents was agreed by the Board at the Durban board meeting in August 2013.

A new structure for executive committee meetings was introduced with monthly teleconferences.

A board meeting was arranged in Montreal 19 May and in Durban 19 August 2013. The Presidents period was from the AGM in Kuala Lumpur 17 September 2012 to the AGM in Durban 19 August 2013.

The financial situation is under control, but the capitation fee structure revision in 2010 has put a pressure on IOHAs finances.

Secretariat services are still offered by BOHS, and Ms Sandi Atkinson is the IOHA Executive Secretary.

## Officers 2012-2013

- President: **Mr Jakob Nærheim** *Norway*
- President Elect: **Prof C C Chen** *Taiwan*
- Past President: **Mr Noel Tresider** *Australia*
- Secretary Treasurer:  
**Ms Andrea Hiddinga** *The Netherlands*

## Other Issues

On 17th October 2012 the British Occupational Hygiene Society was approved the grant of a Royal Charter in recognition of its unique and preeminent role as the body representing the scientific discipline and profession of occupational hygiene in the United Kingdom.

The Southern African Institute for Occupational Hygiene was in November 2012 accredited as the only Professional Registration Body in South Africa for occupational hygiene by the South African Qualifications Authority, thus making the SAIOH Professionals Certification Board's Certification Scheme a legal entity in South Africa.

## Personal Remarks

It has been a pleasure to serve on the IOHA Board and as IOHA President. Much has been achieved, much still remains. I personally think one year is too short a time to have a really efficient presidency, and advise that the current structure undergoes evaluation and revision.

### Jakob Nærheim

Stavanger, December 2013



## Japan Association for Working Environment Measurement (JAWE): General Meetings of the fiscal years 2012 and 2013.

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**Shigeru Asuka** *Secretary-General, JAWE*  
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Since the last IOHA newsletter the Japan Association for Working Environment Measurement have held two Ordinary General Meetings during 2012 and 2013.

**Please click here for a detailed review**  
[www.ioha.net/assets/files/JAWEUpdateJan14.pdf](http://www.ioha.net/assets/files/JAWEUpdateJan14.pdf)

Contributions from Readers



## Sharing Experiences – First Occupational Hygiene Seminar In Chile.

**Noel Tresider**

In November 2012, in the city of Antofagasta, the first seminar on Occupational Hygiene in Chile was held. Noel attended this meeting.

**You can find out more information here**  
[www.ioha.net/assets/files/SharingExperiencesNTresiderJan14.pdf](http://www.ioha.net/assets/files/SharingExperiencesNTresiderJan14.pdf)



## So, what exactly is occupational hygiene? Videos from BOHS reveal all.

**Sharon Brunt** *BOHS Communications and Marketing Manager*  
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BOHS, the Chartered Society for worker health protection, is pleased to announce the launch of a series of six new video clips designed to shed light on the discipline of occupational hygiene and explain what a career as an occupational hygienist is really like.

**To view the clips and for further information please visit [www.bohs.org/newvideosfromBOHS/](http://www.bohs.org/newvideosfromBOHS/)**

