

NEWSLETTER

Contents

1	Letter from the Editor
2	IOHA Report from the IOHA Board Meeting, 23 May 2010, Denver, USA
3	8 th IOHA International Scientific Conference
4	News from Member Associations
9	News from WHO
9	News from WHO Collaborating Centres
10	News from ILO
11	News from the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA)
12	International Actions
14	Contributions from Readers

Letter from the Editor

Dear Colleagues,

Last time I asked for information on national cancer prevention activities and received one very interesting contribution from Japan, where public opinion had an impact on governmental actions. It is hoped that readers will send more news in this respect; such efforts should be encouraged and experiences shared.

The power of public opinion is often underestimated. I believe that the media could and should play a more significant role in raising awareness and sensitizing public opinion regarding workers' health. Major causes of death, such as malaria and HIV -AIDS, are given wide publicity, whereas occupational diseases and injuries seldom make the headlines. According to WHO, every year, malaria kills about one million persons, but according to the ILO there are annually more than 2 million deaths due to occupational injuries. Let's not forget that occupational diseases are greatly underestimated and that fatality statistics referring to, for example, lung diseases and cancer do include a number of occupationally-related deaths not accounted for as such.

Moreover, all occupational health professionals, as individuals, may also contribute to raising awareness on the magnitude and seriousness of workers' health problems by volunteering to talk to different groups; why not to children in schools, where minds are still so open to new information? Perhaps we have been talking mostly among us, which is, in fact, "preaching to the converted" ☺.

It does not cease to amaze me that the profession that aims

specifically at the prevention of occupational diseases does not even exist in many places, or is poorly developed and inefficiently practiced. In many countries Occupational Hygiene is not officially recognized as a profession, which jeopardizes its development, hence the prevention of many deaths and much suffering, not to mention considerable economic losses.

This brings us to a matter of great consequence. Two colleagues, Ton Spee and Darren Joubert, drew my attention to a significant breakthrough for our profession and that was the inclusion of Occupational Hygiene and associated tasks in the latest International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO -08), as can be seen in the extract presented in this issue. Although ISCO-08 is important, steps must be taken for its implementation so that its impact may be felt. Colleagues from all over the world should be aware of this development as it may help to overcome a frequently encountered obstacle, that is, the impossibility to legally establish training and competence criteria for occupational hygienists because the profession is not officially recognized. The sad result is that poor quality occupational hygiene courses are often given with no constraints, and, poorly qualified professionals call themselves occupational hygienists and practice thus discrediting the profession. To have the field of occupational hygiene properly developed everywhere is a challenge to all of us who believe in the utmost importance of our profession, if practiced at a high level of competence.

Therefore, it is encouraging to learn about international developments in this field as you will see in this issue. It should also be mentioned that there will be a session on the development of occupational hygiene through education and training in the "8th IOHA International Scientific Conference - Rome 2010". In fact, it is opportune to remind readers that there is still time to register and participate in this important event.

I take this opportunity to present my sincere congratulations to outstanding colleagues who received important awards: Danilo Cottica received the 2010 William P. Yant Award from AIHA, in Denver, May 2010, and, Brian Davies and Trevor Ogden will receive the 2009 IOHA Lifetime Achievement Award during IOHA Rome.

As always, I would like to thank all of you who contributed to this issue and encourage colleagues from all over to send us news on their work and professional concerns. Suggestions for improvement of this Newsletter are also very much welcome.

Thank you.

Best greetings to all

Berenice Goelzer

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IOHA Report from the IOHA Board Meeting, 23 May 2010, Denver, USA

Sent by Sandi Atkinson, IOHA Executive Secretary E-mail: sandi.atkinson@ioha.net

The meeting was held at the AIHce 2010 in Denver, Colorado, USA and was chaired by Dr Danilo Cottica (President). IOHA Board Members from AIHA, the Australian, Brazilian, Canadian, Dutch, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Southern African, and Taiwanese organisations were in attendance. The President gave a warm welcome to representatives from the British, French, Hong Kong, Norwegian and Swiss organisations who were attending in place of their Board Member. Sandi Atkinson from the Secretariat was in attendance and apologies for absence had been received from the Finnish, German, Irish, Malaysian and Swedish organisations.



IOHA 8th International Scientific Conference

Mr Cavallo of the Italian Industrial Hygiene Association presented an update to the Board on the progress of the organisation of this conference to be held in Rome, Italy on 28 September to 2 October 2010. The full programme can now be viewed on the conference website and bookings can now be made at www.ioha2010.org.

IOHA 9th International Scientific Conference

Unfortunately a representative from the Malaysian Association, who will be hosting this event were unable to attend the meeting. The conference will mark the 25th anniversary of IOHA and will be held at the Kuala Lumpur City Centre (KLCC) Convention Centre, Malaysia in 2012. The Conference will be preceded by Professional Development Courses.

The 10th IOHA International Scientific Conference will take place in 2014 and each member organisation of IOHA has been invited to make a bid to host this conference.

Membership

Mr Tresider of the Australian Institute of Occupational Hygiene and also chair of IOHA's National Accreditation Recognition (NAR) Committee, reported on his progress with finding contacts within China, Singapore and the Philippines. He will be exploring with them their potential in setting up their own occupational hygiene association and ultimately becoming members of IOHA. He will be supported and assisted by representatives from the Hong Kong Institute of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene.

National Accreditation Recognition (NAR) Scheme

Mr. Tresider was very pleased to announce that, in December 2009, following the approval of the IOHA President, the French Occupational Hygienist Society certification scheme (CCPHT –

OHPCC) achieved IOHA NAR status and is now represented by Marianne Bigot.

The Board recognised the reappointment onto the NAR Committee of Mr Jansen van Vuuren as the South African representative.

Collaboration with WHO

Mr Zalk the IOHA Envoy to WHO attended the meeting and gave an update of the current activities he is involved with on behalf of the IOHA Board. Specifically his involvement in the WHO Network Global Plan of Action 2 – Healthy Workplaces. Mr Zalk who is also a member of the WHO/ILO International Technical Group will be running the 6th International Control Banding Workshop during the IOHA conference in Rome.



IOHA President, Danilo Cottica, presented the French representative Marianne Bigot with their Certificate of Recognition.

IOHA Position Papers

IOHA's position on Control Banding <http://www.ioha.net/controlbanding.html> and IOHA's position on REACH implementation <http://www.ioha.net/news.html> are now published.

OHLearning.com

Steve Bailey and Roger Alesbury gave a presentation to the Board demonstrating the recently launched international training modules website www.OHLearning.com. This project has been partly funded by IOHA and the Board was very impressed with its successful outcome and congratulated Roger and Steve and their team of volunteers on an excellent job well done!

IOHA Lifetime Achievement Award 2009

The Board is very pleased to announce the award will go to two very deserving winners this year. Brian Davies of the Australian Institute of Occupational Hygiene and Trevor Ogden of the British Occupational Hygiene Society.

Both winners have accepted their invitations to present at the IOHA scientific conference in Rome, Italy in September 2010.

Farewell to Tom Grumbles (AIHA)

This was the last meeting for Tom Grumbles (AIHA) and Past President of IOHA, who now retires from IOHA after six years of dedicated service. The Board thanked Tom for his service and welcomed the new AIHA representative Lindsay Booher.



IOHA Third Annual General Meeting

The IOHA Board held its third AGM immediately after the close of business of the Board Meeting on Sunday 23 May 2010.

The business of the meeting, chaired by the President, Dr Danilo Cottica, included accepting the minutes of the second AGM, re-appointing the auditors and the election of a new President-Elect. There was only one nomination for the position of President-Elect, Noel Tresider (Australia) who was declared President-Elect for 2010-2011.

Having declared the meeting closed, Dr Danilo Cottica handed the Association's gavel over to Luc Hamelin (Canada), who will be President of IOHA for 2010-2011.

The next meeting of the Board will be held on 27 September 2010 in Rome, Italy at the IOHA conference.

The 8th IOHA International Scientific Conference – Rome 2010

Sent by Alice Gargiullo E-mail: A.Gargiullo@igeam.it

The 8th International Conference "Health, Work and Social Responsibility. The occupational hygienist and the integration of environment, health and safety", which will be held in Rome from 28 September to 2nd October 2010 organized by AIDII (Italian Industrial Hygiene Association), on behalf of IOHA, and by INAIL and ISPESL, the two Italian institutions responsible for prevention and insurance of professional risks, is generating a strong interest.

We have already received 550 registrations among the world leading scientific and professional experts in workers' health, safety, environmental issues and social responsibility. It is expected that this conference will be a major forum in the development of occupational (industrial) hygiene.

ROMA 2010 final programme it is now available online at:

http://www.ioha2010.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=10&Itemid=11&lang=it

The Conference shall involve Plenary Sessions, in the morning, and Five Scientific Parallel Sessions, morning and afternoon.

The activities will comprise:

- 10 Keynotes lectures
- 35 Oral Scientific Sessions
- 35 Poster session
- 25 Workshops
- Occupational Hygiene Exhibitions
- Meetings and side events

We are really sorry to inform you that due to insufficient registrations to Professional Development Courses (PDCs) we have to cancel all courses that should have been held on September 26th and 27th before the beginning of the 8th IOHA International Conference. *Despite the attempts made to draw the attention on PDCs, the number of registrations received before July 15th was still considerably less than what was needed to start the courses (15 participants). For more information, please visit on the conference web site www.ioha2010.org, the section Professional Development Courses.*

Don't miss ROMA 2010; there is still time to register online at:

http://www.softailor.com/ioha2010/reg_data.aspx

Important dates:

- Tuesday, 28 September: *Opening ceremony and Welcome cocktail*
 - Thursday, 30 September: *Gala dinner*
 - Saturday, 2nd October: *Closing Ceremony*

For more information, please, visit the site: www.ioha2010.org or contact Alice Gargiullo.

Organisers:



From Australia 27th AIOH Annual Conference Review

Sent by Martin Jennings, AIOH 2009 Conference Chair
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For the first time since 1998, the AIOH Conference returned to Canberra, Australia's capital – even returning to the same venue, the National Convention Centre. The conference attracted record numbers of delegates and exhibitors. Even the Sunday golfers turned out in record numbers!



Ventilations class

As usual, the weekend was taken up with CESSs. This year's conference featured 19 CESSs, which attracted a total of 405 attendees. The most popular sessions were Lasers and EMF (34 attendees), Vibration measurement (33), Nanoparticle measurement and Moulds (both 30). However, when it came to the wow factor, I think Mark Piney, of the UK HSE took the cake with his Heath Robinson-ish display of local exhaust ventilation apparatus.

The Conference formally kicked off with the Welcome Function Drinks sponsored once again by Active Environmental Solutions.



It was a great start to the conference with several delegates decked out in their Canberra politics T-shirts supplied by AES.

The selected theme for the conference was 'New and

Emerging Issues' and it was interesting to see how the various speakers approached the theme. The presentations were enhanced by some very high quality audio visual presentation. The keynote address was given by Futurist, Marcus Barber, on 'Strategic Futures and Occupational Hygiene', an entertaining and thought provoking presentation. Another fascinating presentation was given by Michael Tooma, in which he described changes in the world of work - people already can and do work from home, from a beach through their Blackberry and laptop computers; globalisation means that online warehouses may be located in the Philippines, or IT helpdesks in India, outside of Australian jurisdictions. This has obvious implications for occupational hygienists who traditionally have worked in bricks and mortar workplaces.

The SEA Speaker was the incoming ACGIH Chair, Professor Steve Reynolds, speaking on Endotoxin Exposure in Agricultural Workers. The AIOH is extremely grateful to SEA for their ongoing support, which has enabled conference delegates to hear some of the world's leading experts.

This year, in addition to the long-standing arrangements with the Presidents of the BOHS and AIHA, Council invited the

Presidents of sister organisations in South Africa (Melinda Venter), South Korea (Won Ho Yang representing the President, Dr. Jongmin Paik), Malaysia (Zainal Mubarak Zainuddin) and Hong Kong (TW Tsin). The President of IOHA, Danilo Cottica, was also in attendance. Regrettably, Cathy Cole (President AIHA) was unable to attend. Together with all Presidents, AIOH President Sharann Johnson convened a panel session in which each briefly described the activities in their respective countries.

A special mention should be made of the Poster session, with some very polished posters on display. After much deliberation, "Occupational Hygiene Education – Respirable Dust Samplers – Are You Comparing Apples and Apples?" by Dane Hansen & Terry Elms was adjudged to be the most outstanding poster. This was staged in the Exhibition Hall, and after some initial trepidation that we would have difficulty in filling such a vast space, it was great to see how slick the Trade Exhibition looked – it is the first time I can recall a truck in the Trade Exhibition! This year attracted a record number of exhibitors, 39 in all, and we thank all of them for coming along.

The 3M function is now becoming the stuff of legends, and this year further enhanced its reputation. With the theme '3M Race Night', conference delegates took to the occasion with their usual imagination and flair. The 3M aprons were again in hot demand and the auction raised another record bid with Phil Hibbs, Aleks Todorovic and Brian Eva paying \$3000 and donating the



proceeds to the Allowah Children's Hospital, a hospital which cares for children and young people up to the age of 18 with physical and intellectual disabilities.



The Conference Dinner was held in the impressive venue of the Great Hall of New Parliament House. A highlight of the evening was the presentation of the AIOH's most coveted award – the Pam De Silva medal – given for demonstrated commitment to the principles of leadership and scientific integrity in the field of occupational hygiene – to Ross Di Corleto.

On the Wednesday morning, Anita Aiezza presented her 3M Award winning paper, 'Management of Occupational Hygiene Hazards Arising from the February 2009 Victorian Bushfires'. This was a well-deserved award and of course, very topical. At the Dinner, Anita reminded us of the terrible human toll of the bushfires, and then in a rather touching gesture, she was presented with flowers





sent from her absent family. Professor Stephen Legg opened the batting on Wednesday, with 'Emerging ergonomics for future generations'. He had previously



expressed some disappointment that as the opening speaker on the 'graveyard shift' of the morning after the Dinner, he would only have a handful of delegates in the audience. I think he was very pleasantly surprised to see an almost full lecture theatre.

Over the years, as each new committee brings fresh ideas and innovations, the conference has evolved through continuous improvement to become a major international conference. This year's conference is to be held in Hobart, and I am sure that Caroline Langley and her team are working hard to deliver a memorable event. I wish them all the best and I look forward to being there.

From Brazil

Brazilian Association of Occupational Hygienists (ABHO) - participation in the III Pan American Congress of Occupational Hygiene

Sent by José Manuel Gana Soto, ABHO President E-mail: monitoring@uol.com.br

The III Pan American Congress of Occupational Hygiene was held in Acapulco, Mexico, from 10 to 12 March 2010. The Brazilian Association of Occupational Hygienists (ABHO) is part of the group of Latin American Associations that holds, every 2 years, the Pan American Congress of Occupational Hygiene. This year ABHO participated with three presentations, which were

The third speech was presented by Irene Saad, Certified Occupational Hygienist, representing the ABHO Certification Committee. Her presentation focused on the procedure for the Certification of Occupational Hygienists by ABHO that, since 2003, has been encouraging and promoting the professional improvement of occupational hygienists in Brazil. This issue had a high impact and was widely discussed.



Opening the Third Pan American Congress, with the participation of the Presidents of the 5 Latin American Associations

part of the official programme.

The first speech was presented by the ABHO president, José Manuel Gana Soto, Certified Occupational Hygienist, who presented a history of the evolution of Brazilian standards focusing on the characterization and assessment of occupational exposure to Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons, in particular to Benzene, and the related preventive measures.

The second speech, presented by Paulo Sergio de Moraes, ABHO Certified Occupational Hygienist, was about the Occupational Hygiene Management Programme in TRANSPETRO, a PETROBRAS company. This presentation was held in a special session focusing on occupational hygiene activities in petroleum and petrochemical companies, with representatives of major companies from Brazil, Mexico, Colombia and Venezuela (e.g., Petrobras, Pemex, Ecopetrol). This presentation was considered of great importance for the exchange of experiences among the companies dealing with this area of production, considered vital for the countries represented at this event.



Irene Saad was invited to officially open the Expo of Occupational Hygiene Equipments and Services of the Third Congress



Participants of the Third Pan American Congress in Mexico

In summary, the participation of ABHO in the III Pan-American Congress of Occupational Hygiene was a success and should contribute to the advancement and improvement of this science in Latin American countries.

The five Associations of Occupational Hygienists in Latin America, namely ABHO (Brazil), AMHI (Mexico), AVHO (Venezuela), ACHO (Colombia) and ACHISO (Chile), also took the following decisions:

The IV Pan American Congress will be held in 2012 in Brazil, along with the ABHO Congress

The V Pan American Congress, in 2014, will be held in Chile, by ACHISO,

The "TLVs and BEIs" of ACGIH® will be translated into Spanish with the help of the five associations in Latin America. The



**ABHO President on
HO Expo III Congress**

coordination will be of ABHO, based on its experience of 13 years of translating this book into Portuguese. ACGIH® has granted the copyright for the translation into Spanish for the Brazilian association, due to the great trust that ACGIH deposits on ABHO.

Collaboration in the implementation of certification schemes by the Associations that do not have it yet, and a future project to standardize the certifications, so they have validity throughout Latin America.

The President of ABHO thanks the participants to this event and invites all occupational hygienists to the next Pan-American event, to be held in Brazil in 2012



**The three representatives of ABHO.
From right to left: José Manuel Gana
Soto, ABHO President; Irene Saad,
ABHO Certification Committee, and
Paulo Sergio Moraes,
Transpetro-Petrobras.**

From Japan

Japan Association for Working Environment Measurement (JAWE):

General Meeting of the fiscal year 2010 and the 30th Anniversary Commemorative Ceremony of JAWE

*Sent by Masayoshi Karasawa, Special Adviser, JAWEE-mail: m19419k@yahoo.co.jp
and Shigeru Asuka, Secretary-General, JAWE E-mail: sasuka@jawe.or.jp*

The Japan Association for Working Environment Measurement held an Ordinary General Meeting of the fiscal year 2010, on 27 May 2010, in Tokyo, with the objective of approving the business report and the accounting report for the fiscal year 2009, the JAWE programme and the budget for the fiscal year 2010, as well as holding a renewal election of the President and other Members of JAWE Board of Directors, as their term is to expire. The Meeting was attended by 654 full members of JAWE, including the ones who entrusted the proxy vote to the President.

At the beginning of the Meeting, Mr. Shigeru Oshita, Chairperson of JAWE, Managing Director, Nippon Steel Corporation, presented the opening address and stated that JAWE, in the fiscal year 2009, maintained good equilibrium between income and expenditure, and conducted successfully all of the planned projects, which included:

- "First Central Symposium on Work Environment Measurement and Evaluation of Results with respect to Chemical Substances and Dust";
- The continuing education course for the brush-up of the technique and knowledge with respect to working environment measurements, and the evaluation of these results and the revision of the relevant laws and regulations and others.

In addition, there was the first examination for certification by JAWE of "Professional Occupational Hygienists". In order to be certified, these professionals should have completed 93 units/ hours of "Specialized Continuing Education and Training Course on Risk Assessment and Risk Management of Chemical Substances, and other Environmental Factors including physical, biological and ergonomic factors", and been successful in the required examination.

Moreover, Mr. Shigeru Oshita stated that in the business



**Mr. Shigeru Oshita, Chairperson of JAWE,
presenting the opening address**

programme of JAWE, for the fiscal year 2010, other projects are included such as the Second Central Symposium, the continuing education course for the brush-up and the second examination for certification, as mentioned above.

Next, Mr. Shigeru Asuka, JAWE Executive Director, explained the business report and the accounting report for the fiscal year 2009 as well as the business programme and the budget for the fiscal year 2010 of JAWE. These agenda subjects were approved unanimously. In the renewal election, Mr. Shigeru Oshita was re-elected as the Chairperson of JAWE.

The Meeting end with a congratulatory message addressed by Ms. Noriko Kamezawa, Director, Office of Working Environment Improvement, Department of Occupational Safety and Health, Labour Standards Bureau, who participated as a representative of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare and as a distinguished guest.

In addition, the 30th Anniversary Commemorative Ceremony of JAWE was held in the afternoon of the same day and was attended by more than 150 guests.

Mr. Shigeru Oshita addressed the Commemorative Speech, in the presence of many distinguished guests including Dr. Yukio Suzuki, Director, Occupational Health Division, Department of Occupational Safety and Health, Labour Standards Bureau, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW), Japan, as well as Mr. Yohtaro Sawada, President of Japan Industrial Safety and

Health Association (JISHA). After the Congratulatory Address by Dr. Yukio Suzuki, in behalf of Mr. Yoshio Hirano, Director General, Department of Occupational Safety and Health, MHLW, and Mr. Yohtaro Sawada, Mr. Shigeru Oshita, as the Chairman of JAWE, granted the Award for Distinguished Service to two persons, and Awards of Diligence, to nine persons, who produced excellent achievements regarding work environment control, respectively. He also presented his letters of gratitude to twenty seven persons who contributed greatly to the activities of JAWE.

After the Commemorative Ceremony, Dr. Tsutomu Takata, Professor Emeritus of Kitasato University and also Vice Chairperson of JAWE, addressed the Commemorative Lecture, entitled “The Reminiscence and the Prospect of Occupational Health in Japan and JAWE’s 30 years history”. He emphasized the important role of occupational hygienists and other

occupational health staff, in order to realize and maintain workers’ welfare as well as success of enterprises and also industrial society. He also stressed that corporate ethics and norm of labour are two essential elements for “humane work” that leads to safety and security, fairness and justice, creative work and self-responsibility.



Dr. Tsutomu Takata, Professor Emeritus of Kitasato University, presenting his the Commemorative Lecture

From the UK BOHS has a New Website

Sent by: Anthea Page E-mail: anthea.page@bohs.org
and Sandi Atkinson E-mail: sandi.atkinson@bohs.org

BOHS launched its new website in June and we would like to invite you to take a look; the address is the same: www.bohs.org

Virtually all of the information that was on the old site has been retained, but within a clearer, structure and with much simpler, intuitive navigation which should help you find exactly what you’re looking for straight away.

We also hope you like the new design, with a cleaner, more modern look and feel. We think the content is sharper and more focused – we’ve retained the depth and breadth of what we had before, but we think the values and messages are clearer. It’s easier to use, and it does more, too. So all round it’s much, much better!

Members of the Society can log in to the Members Area and choose their ‘favourites’ to view easily each time they log in.

They also have:

- A ‘dashboard’ linking directly to areas of interest within the site;
- The option to bookmark areas of the site regularly visited and used;
- Simpler online continuous professional development (CPD) recording and submitting with a designated ‘MyCPD’ area for members of the Faculty;
- Active and simple to use discussion forums.

Please do come and visit us and if you have any comments or suggestions, please let us know. We see it as a truly useful, effective and meaningful representation of BOHS to the global occupational hygiene community.



From the USA, AIHA William P. Yant Award

This year the Yant Award was given to Danilo Cottica, Centro Ricerche Ambientali—Fondazione Salvatore Maugeri (IRCCS, Pavia, Italy), Past IOHA President.

His Yant Lecture at the AIHce 2010, Denver, USA was entitled "Occupational Hygiene: State of the Art and Development" and a summary is hereby presented, with congratulations to Danilo !

In his treatise *Il de Morbis Artificum Diatriba* ("The Workers' Diseases"), published in 1700, Bernardino Ramazzini made a distinction between two classes of risks for workers: the substances that they manipulate and what these substances emit; and the bodily positions that workers were required to assume for too long due to the organization of work. To identify risks, Ramazzini adopted an investigative method that has been standardized in the risk assessments and measurements used today by occupational hygienists worldwide.

In the years since Ramazzini's treatises, occupational hygienists have had to deal with new challenges related to new risks (nanoparticles, for example); the need to develop more specific sampling and analysis instruments with lower limits of detection (crystalline silica); the need to characterize occupational from non-occupational exposure by statistically significant data and

by easy-to-use sampling instruments (diffusive samplers); and the evaluation of skin absorption as a contributor to exposure. These challenges require environmental and occupational health and hygiene professionals to develop, implement and review programs and policies to promote environmental and occupational health and safety, and to minimize workplace and environmental pollution involving chemical, physical and biological hazards.



At the AIHce 2010, Denver, Colorado, USA (May 2010), OSHA and NIOSH Pledged Cooperation on PELs and other Worker Protection Issues

Sent by Melissa Hurley, AIHA E-mail: mhurley@aiha.org

In a joint appearance at the American Industrial Hygiene Conference and Exposition (AIHce), Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Assistant Secretary of Labor David Michaels, PhD, MPH, and National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Director John Howard, MD, MPH, JD, expressed agreement on many issues related to worker health and safety, including the need to update OSHA's Permissible Exposure Limits (PELs). Responding to questions from ACGIH[®] Vice President Lisa Brousseau, Michaels and Howard described a working relationship between their agencies that includes an unprecedented level of cooperation.

Discussing his agency's efforts to ensure the relevance and quality of its research, Howard indicated that NIOSH science should provide a sound basis for OSHA regulations. "It's important for us to generate the science that can inform good policy," Howard said, adding that NIOSH is "very anxious to support" OSHA's regulatory agenda.

Michaels said that OSHA relies on NIOSH for information about emerging workplace hazards and that he intends to try to eliminate the duplication of risk assessments at the agencies. Both Michaels and Howard expressed support for the formation of a federal "clearinghouse" for risk assessments that would house all studies of workplace risks conducted by various agencies in one federal entity.

Michaels' response to Brousseau's question about the need to update OSHA PELs, many of which are based on 1950s-era science, drew applause from the occupational health and safety professionals in attendance. "OSHA has not taken leadership on this issue, and we need to," Michaels said. OSHA recently named an independent task force to study options for updating PELs. Howard indicated that NIOSH would be willing to help OSHA decide which PELs are most in need of updating.

However, Michaels said that requiring companies to institute injury and illness prevention programs is a more pressing issue than PELs. "We believe it should be required for employers to assess and abate hazards" in their workplaces, Michaels said.

Throughout the hour-long session, Michaels referred several times to the need for Congress to increase OSHA penalties for companies that willfully violate safety rules. The maximum fine that OSHA can impose on a company is \$70,000, even in cases that result in worker deaths. That figure is a fraction of fines that can be leveled for violations of many environmental laws.

For more information, please, contact Melissa Hurley, AIHA E-mail: mhurley@aiha.org or Carol Tobin, AIHA E-mail: ctobin@aiha.org

NEWS from WHO

WHO Healthy Workplace Initiative

Sent by Evelyn Kortum, WHO E-mail: kortume@who.int

The World Health Organization regards the workplace as a setting for protecting and promoting the health of workers, their families and the community. In May 2007, the World Health Assembly endorsed the Global Plan of Action on Workers Health (GPA), 2008-2017 (refer to our homepage: http://www.who.int/occupational_health/en/).

The Global Plan was adopted unanimously by 193 WHO Member States, of which many, as well as other international stakeholders, expressed a need for a globally coherent framework for planning, delivery and evaluation of essential interventions for workplace health protection and promotion.

On the occasion of the World Day for Health and Safety at Work, we launched our publication entitled Healthy workplaces: a model for action. Currently the document exists in English and Spanish. Other languages are planned for the near future.

The framework and model of healthy workplaces is based on a systematic literature review and a multi-stakeholder approach involving Trade Unions, Employers, the ILO, OHS specialists, and NGOs. Please, see the following link: http://www.who.int/occupational_health/publications/healthy_workplaces_framework.pdf

It will be followed by the enlargement of the network of experts for interventions for healthy workplace programmes, which you are invited to join at this link:

https://extranet.who.int/datacol/survey.asp?survey_id=1355

Username: healthy workplaces Password: healthy (English version)

https://extranet.who.int/datacol/survey.asp?survey_id=1540

Username: trabajo Password: trabajo (Spanish version)

The input of the network members will be required for meeting planned activities which involve development of practical global guidance; guidance for national levels, sectors, companies (organization, team, division, worker); piloting the guidance in different settings; developing training modules, as well as reviewing and developing cost-benefit models easily to be undertaken by employers to obtain Return on Investment indicators.

A global consultation on healthy workplaces is planned provisionally for the end of January 2011 in the WHO Regional Office of the Eastern Mediterranean, in close collaboration with the WHO Regional Adviser for Occupational Health.

We hope that this initiative captures your personal interest as a worker and your professional interest. Please distribute to those interested.

Link: http://www.who.int/occupational_health/healthy_workplaces/en/index.html

NEWS from WHO Collaborating Centres

National Institute for Occupational Health (NIOH), South Africa NIOH (SA) hosts academic visitor from Egypt

Sent by: Claudina Nogueira, NIOH Communication and International Liaison
E-mail: claudina.nogueira@nioh.nhls.ac.za

The National Institute for Occupational Health (NIOH) of the National Health Laboratory Service (NHLS), South Africa, hosted Dr Adel Mahmoud Zakaria, a visiting academic from Egypt, from 16 March to 1 April 2010. Dr Zakaria is a Professor of Industrial Hygiene from the High Institute of Public Health in Alexandria. His expertise includes industrial environment assessment and control, air pollution evaluation and control, and industrial safety and accident appraisal and prevention. He has an active involvement and keen interest in teaching and training in the occupational health field, with extensive lecturing and theses supervision experience.



L to R: Dr Barry Kistnasamy (NIOH Director); Ms Claudina Nogueira (Head: Communication and International Liaison Section); Dr Adel Zakaria; Prof Jill Murray (Head: Pathology Division); Mr Kevin Renton (Acting Head: Occupational Hygiene Division); Photo by Shanaz Shapurjee



Dr Adel Zakaria presenting at the NIOH on air pollution in Egypt; Photo by Kevin Renton

Dr Zakaria's visit included hands-on laboratory training in asbestos and silica measurement; to this end he spent most of his time in the Section of Occupational Hygiene, participated in the section's activities and meetings, and

was hosted by the section staff members in the following laboratories – asbestos; XRD; weighing; respirator fit testing; Polley Dust Duct; and wind tunnel.

Dr Zakaria spent one day in the Pathology Division; activities included practical time in the Electron Microscopy Unit and a visit to the museum which houses lung specimens (mesothelioma, lung cancer, asbestosis). Dr Zakaria also toured other NIOH sections and specialised laboratories – Immunology and Microbiology (with special focus on sampling methods for bioaerosols); Information Services; Epidemiology and Surveillance; Occupational Medicine (with a special focus on the Wits University / NIOH MPH and DOH teaching programmes; the Ergonomics Unit and the NIOH Referral Clinic); Analytical Services (biological monitoring and the WHO Occupational Health Modules course); Toxicology; and the National Cancer Registry (NCR). During his stay, he met with Dr Barry

Dr Adel Zakaria with Mr Rob Ferrie (former Head: Occupational Hygiene Division) in the Polley Dust Duct laboratory; Photo by Kevin Renton



Kistnasamy (NIOH Director) and heads of section to discuss proposals for collaborative research avenues between the two institutes, as well as proposed links with the NIOH projects in the current Global Network Plan of the WHO Collaborating Centres in Occupational Health (2009-2012), to foster OHS collaboration in Africa, beyond the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region.

Dr Zakaria was invited by the congress organisers to present at the SAFECONEX Africa 2010 Congress, 17-18 March 2010. The SAFECONEX Congress has become the most important annual occupational health and safety event in the SADC region, for professionals involved in the associated industries to increase their knowledge and network with colleagues. Dr Zakaria delivered one of the keynote addresses, "The state of occupational health and safety in Egypt" as well as a presentation in the occupational hygiene breakaway session, "Assessments of occupational hazards in Egyptians foundries". While at the NIOH, Dr Zakaria gave presentations on 19 and 30 March – the keynote address which he presented at the Congress, and "Air pollution in Egypt".

NEWS from ILO

New Developments on the ILO's Occupational Safety and Health Instruments

Sent by: Seiji Machida, Director, SafeWork, ILO E-mail: machida@ilo.org

At the 307th Session in March 2010, the ILO Governing Body (GB) adopted two important instruments on Occupational Safety and Health (OSH).

1. Plan of Action to achieve widespread ratification and effective implementation of the OSH instruments (Convention No. 155, its 2002 Protocol and Convention No. 187). Convention No. 155, its 2002 Protocol and Convention No. 187 are available online at:

http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---normes/documents/genericdocument/wcms_125616.pdf

Safety and health at work has been a core area of ILO action and many OSH Conventions were adopted as a key means for achieving decent working conditions. Although progress has been made in many countries, there is still a great concern about OSH with the estimated annual work related fatalities of 2.3 million. As evidenced by the ILO General Survey in 2009, while Conventions are appreciated as effective tools to develop the powerful national framework for OSH improvement, the number of countries, which ratified OSH Conventions, is still

limited and significant implementation gaps exist in respect of ratified Conventions. In response to the need for further efforts on improving OSH through widespread ratification and effective implementation of the key OSH instruments, a plan of action (2010-16) was adopted.

Aiming at increasing awareness on OSH at global, national and workplace levels, the strategies of the plan of action focus on the development of a preventative safety and health culture, the ratification and implementation of key OSH instruments, the implementation gap of ratified Conventions, and OSH conditions in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and informal economy. The planned activities for initial phase include:

- Collection of country-specific OSH information and selection of target countries;
- Development of promotional materials to raise awareness and to facilitate ratification of the key OSH Conventions;
- Gaps analysis in implementing OSH Conventions;
- Development of a training programme on the management systems approach to OSH;

- Research on the effects of OSH on productivity and competitiveness; and
- Setting up of relevant indicators for monitoring and evaluating national OSH programme.

The plan of action will be implemented at Office-wide, in collaboration with other relevant international and regional institutions.

2. New list of occupational diseases

A new list of occupational diseases was established by the ILO and took effect on 25 March 2010; it is available online at:

http://www.ilo.org/safework/whatsnew/lang--en/WCMS_124671/index.htm.

This new list now replaces the one in the Annex to the Recommendation concerning the List of Occupational Diseases and the Recording and Notification of Occupational Accidents and Diseases (No. 194), which was adopted in 2002.

The new list reflects the state-of-the-art development at the international level in the identification and recognition of occupational diseases. It includes a range of internationally recognized occupational diseases, from illnesses caused by chemical, physical and biological agents to respiratory and skin

diseases, musculoskeletal disorders and occupational cancer. Mental and behavioural disorders have for the first time, been specifically included in the ILO list. This list also has open items in all the sections which allow the recognition of the occupational origin of diseases not specified in the list, if a link is established between exposure to risk factors arising from work activities and the disorders contracted by the worker.

The ILO, being the only international organization that establishes an international list of occupational diseases, is working with its tripartite constituents, other international organizations and professional bodies to prepare guidance material to help its 183 Member States to apply this new list. This ILO list is designed to assist countries in the prevention, recording, notification and, if applicable, compensation of diseases caused by work.



Director General of the ILO (left) and Chairperson of the GB (right) were signing to authenticate the new list, at the 307th Session, with the witness of the Legal Advisor (middle).

News from the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA)

2009 Annual Report: spending on health and safety is an investment not a cost

Sent by: Birgit Müller, EU-OSHA E-mail: muller@osha.europa.eu

EU-OSHA's 2009 Annual Report emphasizes the long-term value of workplace health and safety in difficult economic times, and encourages employers to find alternatives to redundancy. Highlights of its work in 2009 include the ESENER survey, the Risk Assessment campaign and the European photo competition.

The Press Release is available at:

http://osha.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2009_annual_report_01.15062010

The full Annual Report 2009 (English) is available at:

http://osha.europa.eu/en/publications/annual_report/2009full

The Summary is available in all EU languages; link: http://osha.europa.eu/en/publications/annual_report/ar_summary_2009/view

European Survey of Enterprises on New and Emerging Risks (ESENER) - Managing safety and health at work

The "European Survey of Enterprises on New and Emerging Risks (ESENER) - Managing safety and health at work" asked managers and workers' health and safety representatives about

how health and safety risks are managed at their workplace, with a particular focus on the newer "psychosocial risks", such as work-related stress, violence and harassment. This report presents an overview of the results from a first analysis of the data, which is drawn from 36,000 interviews carried out in 31 countries. First findings from the 'European Survey of Enterprises on New and Emerging Risks' (ESENER) provide an insight into how European companies are managing health and safety issues in practice – with a particular focus on psychosocial risks.

This study revealed that "79% of European managers identify work-related stress as a major risk, but less than a third of companies are dealing with it".

The full ESENER Report (in English), June 2010, is available at:

http://osha.europa.eu/en/publications/reports/esener1_osh_management

The ESENER Summary (available in 22 languages), at:

http://osha.europa.eu/en/publications/reports/en_esener1-summary.pdf/view

It is possible to view the results online with the [interactive mapping tool](http://osha.europa.eu/sub/esener/en/mapping_tool) (available in 22 languages); see: http://osha.europa.eu/sub/esener/en/mapping_tool

Maintenance and OSH: a statistical picture

This new report shows the main hazards, risks, health problems and accidents that maintenance workers in Europe are exposed to and suggests appropriate prevention measures. One important finding was that 10-15% of all fatal workplace accidents are related to maintenance operations. EU-OSHA's new campaign on Safe Maintenance raises awareness of the importance of proper maintenance work.

The [Factsheet](http://osha.europa.eu/en/publications/factsheets/en_90.pdf/view) on this subject is (22 languages) is available online at: http://osha.europa.eu/en/publications/factsheets/en_90.pdf/view

The full report (English) is available at: http://osha.europa.eu/en/publications/literature_reviews/maintenance_OSH_statistics/

In order to highlight an often disregarded source of occupational risk factors, EU-OSHA engages for 2010-2011 in the [Safe Maintenance Campaign](http://osha.europa.eu/en/campaigns/hw2010/maintenance); details at: <http://osha.europa.eu/en/campaigns/hw2010/maintenance>

Integrating OSH into university-level education: new report highlights challenges and opportunities

How do we ensure that young people are aware of OSH before they enter the world of employment? Future engineers, architects, medical professionals and business administrators and managers will all need to take account of OSH in aspects in their working lives. This report presents a variety of cases concerning how OSH has been included in university-level education. Of most interest were examples where OSH was embedded in the programme of other undergraduate studies, such as a general engineering undergraduate course or a business studies course. However, few examples were found where OSH/risk education had been truly embedded within the curriculum of individual courses.

A new report - ["Mainstreaming occupational safety and health into university education"](http://osha.europa.eu/en/publications/reports/mainstream_osh_university_education) - looks at the challenges of mainstreaming or integrating OSH into university courses, and at imaginative ways of meeting those challenges; it is available online at: http://osha.europa.eu/en/publications/reports/mainstream_osh_university_education

The [Factsheet](http://osha.europa.eu/en/publications/factsheets/en_90.pdf/view) on ["Challenges and opportunities for mainstreaming OSH into university education — Summary of a](http://osha.europa.eu/en/publications/factsheets/en_90.pdf/view)

[Report"](http://osha.europa.eu/en/publications/factsheets/en_91.pdf/view) (22 languages) is available online at: http://osha.europa.eu/en/publications/factsheets/en_91.pdf/view

OSH in figures: Work-related musculoskeletal disorders in the EU - Facts and figures

Musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) remain the most common occupational disease in the European Union and workers in all sectors and occupations can be affected. Recent figures, for example from Austria, Germany or France, also demonstrate an increasing impact of musculoskeletal disorders on costs. This latest report, following on from the Agency's previous research, aims to give an updated overview of the current European situation as regards musculoskeletal disorders, the trends over the years since the first campaign in 2000, and a detailed insight into the causes and circumstances behind MSDs. The report highlights the main issues and aims to provide a well-founded evidence base, helping policy makers, actors at enterprise and sector level, as well as researchers and those who record, prevent and compensate occupational diseases in the European Union to set the agenda for the next years.

["OSH in figures: Work-related musculoskeletal disorders in the EU - Facts and Figures"](http://osha.europa.eu/en/publications/reports/TERO09009ENC/view) is available (in English only) at: <http://osha.europa.eu/en/publications/reports/TERO09009ENC/view>

Contribute to future health and safety in green jobs

EU-OSHA's European Risk Observatory (ERO) has commissioned a foresight study to explore the potential for emerging risks to health and safety arising out of new technologies in green jobs by 2020. The study will use the scenario building technique to produce descriptions of a range of possible futures, which will allow decision makers to anticipate and prepare for these emerging risks. The project began in January this year and will continue until January 2012.

The first part of the project involves the identification of key contextual drivers of change that have the potential to influence health and safety in green jobs up to 2020, for example, socio-economic trends, which affect the labour market; trends in public attitude towards risks; and national, European and international political agendas and developments, such as globalisation or economic crises.

Further details may be obtained from the site:

<http://osha.europa.eu/en/teaser/contribute-to-future-health-and-safety-in-green-jobs>

International Actions

International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO - 08)

Sent by Darren Joubert E-mail: djoubert@haad.ae and
Ton Spee E-mail: Spee@arbouw.nl

The International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO) is one of the main international classifications for which the ILO is responsible. Its latest edition, ISCO – 08, has already been released and Occupational Hygienists have been recognized as

an official occupation, which is a great breakthrough for the recognition of this important field. Relevant extracts from ISCO – 08 are hereby presented.

2263: Environmental and occupational health and hygiene professionals

Environmental and occupational health and hygiene professionals assess, plan and implement programs to recognize, monitor and control environmental factors that can potentially affect human health, to ensure safe and healthy working conditions, and to prevent disease or injury caused by chemical, physical, radiological and biological agents or ergonomic factors.

Tasks include:

(a) developing, implementing and reviewing programs and policies to minimize potential environmental and occupational risks to health and safety;

(b) preparing and implementing plans and strategies for the safe, economic and suitable disposal of commercial, industrial, medical and household wastes;

(c) implementing prevention programs and strategies for communicable diseases, food safety, waste water treatment and disposal systems, recreation and domestic water quality, contaminated and hazardous substances;

(d) **identifying, reporting and documenting hazards, and assessing and controlling risks in the environment and workplace and advising on compliance with relevant law and regulations;**

(e) developing, implementing and monitoring programs to

minimize workplace and environmental pollution involving chemical, physical and biological hazards;

(f) **advising methods to prevent, eliminate, control, or reduce the exposure of workers, students, the public and the environment to radiological and other hazards;**

(g) promoting ergonomic principles within the workplace such as matching furniture, equipment and work activities to the needs of employees;

(h) providing education, information, training, and advice to persons at all levels on aspects of occupational hygiene and environmental health;

(i) recording and investigating injuries and equipment damage, and reporting safety performance;

(j) coordinating arrangements for the compensation, rehabilitation and return to work of injured workers.

Examples of the occupations classified here:

Environmental Health Officer
Occupational Health and Safety Adviser
Occupational Hygienist
Radiation Protection Expert

Further detailed information on ISCO – 08 is available online at:
<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/stat/isco/index.htm>

International Training Modules for Occupational Hygiene - status report July 2010

*Sent by: Roger Alesbury E-mail: roger@alesbury.net
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OHLearning.com went live on 1st May 2010, providing free access to all of the International Training Modules.

The site was previewed at the BOHS Conference in Harrogate and generated a great deal of interest. At the American Industrial Hygiene Conference and Exposition in Denver, a presentation was given at a roundtable session on training/certification models for global occupational hygiene, as well as presentations to the IOHA board, the AIHA International Affairs Committee and a workshop for stakeholders. This generated a great deal of positive feedback and enthusiasm.

You can find out more about the site by viewing an [animated demonstration](#) online. OHLearning.com has three main sections:

- The [About](#) section is for students and employers looking for information about occupational hygiene. It gives an overview of the subject, why it is important, how to get

qualified and the careers available. It also explains the background to the project and gives information about the people involved.

- The [Training](#) section has links to course providers and course materials - here you can find the first eight courses on various topics of occupational hygiene. Each course is one week duration and includes a student manual, presenters' briefing packs, PowerPoint slides, practical sessions, case studies and workshops – everything needed to run a course. Each approved course has been peer reviewed for technical accuracy and students on any approved course run by [Approved Training Providers](#) can sit a student assessment to build up credits toward intermediate international [qualifications in occupational hygiene](#).

The starting point is a “[Basic Principles in Occupational Hygiene](#)” course, which is a basic foundation level course that serves as a good introduction to the subject for individuals who have limited prior knowledge of occupational hygiene. This will be of general interest to anyone in the field of health and safety as well as students who wish to study the core occupational hygiene modules. For example, specialists in areas like health and safety, occupational medicine and nursing should



understand the basic [principles](#) of occupational hygiene so that they can deal with simple problems and know when to call in a specialist. This can lead to an international qualification at the [Foundation level](#).

Technicians and technologists working in occupational hygiene require the technical knowledge and hands-on, practical training at [intermediate level](#) that will enable them to take measurements, assess exposure and check the effectiveness of control measures. There are presently [7 courses](#) available at this level:

W501	Measurement of Hazardous Substances
W502	Thermal Environment
W503	Noise – Measurement and its effects
W504	Asbestos and Other Fibres
W505	Control of Hazardous Substances
W506	Ergonomics Essentials
W507	Health Effects of Hazardous Substances

Specialists with responsibility for designing and delivering the occupational hygiene programmes in a workplace will need to study at the [advanced](#) level. This will give them a deep understanding of the scientific basis of occupational hygiene as well as a high level of technical skills, and can lead to professional qualifications.

- The third section of the website is the [Community](#) - an interactive section for feedback and contributions. The Community is essential to the long-term success of the scheme, bringing together a global network of occupational hygiene expertise and resources. It allows hygienists to share training programmes they have developed, and to benefit from the work of others. They can collaborate in developing new programmes and contribute to improving the existing ones. It will grow into a major resource for training providers and students.

In the first three months since launch there were 8789 visits to [OHLearning.com](#) from 4944 individuals in 1147 cities from 98 countries. A total of 56,898 page views - an average of 6.5 page views per person which we are informed is very good.

Already there are 21 Approved Training Providers (ATP) who have met the criteria to offer the courses with the International awards. [Twenty six training events](#) are already advertised in 12 countries and many more are in planning. Although anyone can download and use the course materials, only ATPs and the courses they offer are listed on [OHLearning.com](#) and only ATPs can offer the core modules with the OHTA student assessment that leads to the International awards.

The process and benefits of becoming an ATP are provided on the [site](#). Providers may submit a simple [questionnaire](#), together with details of their organisation. Providing they meet the requirements (principally that the organisation can demonstrate they have the ability to run the courses and has a course director who holds and an IOHA NAR qualification), the provider can be listed on [OHLearning.com](#) and have their own page on the site listing their courses.

Funding for the development of the materials on [OHLearning.com](#) has been provided by industry and the development of the website was funded jointly by IOHA, AIOH and BOHS. Access to [OHLearning.com](#) and download of materials is entirely free of charge, subject to the [Terms of Use](#) and [copyright conditions](#). The scheme is run entirely by volunteers and users are encouraged to offer support and participate in future developments via the [community](#) section.

Ongoing support for the site requires a source of funding and this will come entirely from our [sponsors](#). [OHLearning.com](#) is proud to welcome SKC and 3M as founder sponsors and is grateful to them for their support and assistance. As sponsors, they have provided funding and offered where practicable to assist Approved Training Providers with loan of equipment. Sponsors have links to their sites from [OHLearning.com](#)

If you know of any organisation that may be interested in supporting [OHLearning.com](#) please encourage them to visit the site and get in contact. [Details on sponsorship can be found on the site.](#)

Contributions from Readers

From Brazil

A brief account of the implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) in Brazil

Sent by Roque Puiatti, Brazil E-mail: rpuiatti@via-rs.net

Actions for the implementation of the GHS in Brazil started in 2001 with the creation of the Priority Action 6 – GHS, within the scope of the National Commission for Chemical Safety (CONASQ), with the participation of more than 50 governmental and private institutions as well as universities and NGOs.

Initial activities focused on information about GHS and its objectives, as well as the importance of its implementation not only to improve human health and the environment but also to facilitate the international trade of chemical products. Furthermore, GHS is an essential instrument for a national policy on chemical safety.



GHS Workshop, November 2002, in São Paulo

Many activities for the dissemination of information on GHS in South America and MERCOSUL were carried out, including a seminar with international and national support, involving participants representing 10 countries. The final report of this Seminar included recommendations for the implementation of GHS in the region.



South America GHS Seminar, November 2004, in São Paulo

A GHS webpage was created containing information, proceedings from meetings, national documents and international links. This is available online at:

www.mdic.gov.br/sitio/interna/interna.php?area=5&menu=818

Education and training are of fundamental importance for the implementation of GHS; this was one of the main focuses of Priority Action 6 - GHS. In addition to meetings, consolidation of existing national legislation, comprehensibility testing, an event within the World Forum Social Mundial (January 2005) and sectorial conferences, the first one-week training on GHS took place in Rio de Janeiro, in November 2005. Four such one-week training activities followed in other regions of the country.



Participants of the one-week training, November 2005, in Rio de Janeiro

In June 2007 the President of Brazil signed a Presidential Decree creating the GT-GHS (Working Group-GHS) Brazil, comprising 12 governmental institutions, plus the participation of key organizations, with responsibilities related to the elaboration and proposal of strategies, directives, programmes and plans and actions for the implementation of GHS.



Participants of the one-week training, December 2009, in Montevideo - Uruguay

At the same time, Brazilian representatives have participated in international forums and events on the implementation of GHS. Brazil has been a member of the Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (SCEGHS) of the United Nations, since its creation in 2001.

Cooperation and exchange of experiences is an important aspect for GHS implementation. As a result of cooperation Brazil-Uruguay, a one-week GHS training course was held in Montevideo, in December 2009.

At present, a number of activities are being carried out in connexion with GHS implementation, for example: the GT-GHS Brazil debate on proposals for a legal framework for GHS; a revision of the Standard for GHS (NBR 14.725 parts 1 to 4) by the Brazilian Association for Standardization ("Associação Brasileira de Normas Técnicas" - ABNT); translation of the GHS Document ("A Guide to the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals"), referred to as "The Purple Book", into Portuguese, and, the dissemination of information on GHS in courses and events.



Meeting of the GT-GHS Brazil, July 2010, in Brasília

From Brazil

The National Congress of the ANAMT (Brazilian National Association of Occupational Medicine)

Sent by Luiz Carlos Morrone E-mail: morronelc@uol.com.br
and Zuher Handar E-mail: zuherhandar@yahoo.com.br

The National Congress of ANAMT was held in the city of Gramado, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, from 14 to 21 May 2010. There were two thousand participants, from all over Brazil, as well as from Argentina, Mexico, Spain, Italy and Portugal.

Although ANAMT is the occupational medicine association, there was a special session on Occupational Hygiene – an important related science - covering topics such as:

Methods for the assessment and control of hazards in the work environment - pragmatic approaches such as Control Banding and SOBANE

Methods and efficient alternatives in the control of dust in the work environment

Exposure to silica and the risk of silicosis in the ceramics industry: a study in the Santa Gertrudes industrial complex

The efficiency in the application of NR-9 and hazard control (NR-

9 is the Brazilian standard dealing with the recognition, evaluation and control of occupational hazards)

Assessment and prevention of exposure to airborne nanomaterials: the occupational hygiene vision

During the congress, there was an associated international event: the first Italian-Brazilian meeting on Occupational Medicine, which demonstrated a very positive relationship in this area of knowledge.

A new type of meeting was included in this Congress, in order to “open doors” for young practitioners: the First Scientific Meeting of Undergraduate and Graduate Students, and Residents in Occupational Medicine, where more than 80 papers were presented.

The Scientific Commission of the Congress accepted 53 proposals for oral presentations and 104, for poster presentations.

From Canada

News from the IRSST

Making work meaningful - Promoting psychological well-being

Sent by: Maura Tomi, IRSST E-mail: Maura.Tomi@irsst.qc.ca

The IRSST just published a guide intended for managers and others involved in workplace health in its broad sense, including psychological well-being. This document is also a tool for heads of human resource departments, health & safety committees, and union and employer representatives. It is based on the study, *The Meaning of Work, Mental Health and Organizational Commitment*¹, which discusses six characteristics giving meaning to work, and analyzes the links between work characteristics, mental health and an employee's commitment to the employer.

The document provides a positive and proactive approach to workplace health, and has four premises:

- The meaning that people ascribe to their work can have either positive or negative effects on their mental health and their commitment to their organization.
- Some indicators of psychological distress may be observed in organizations as well as workers. Psychological balance has a direct impact on workers' commitment to their organization.
- According to the study, six characteristics make work meaningful: social purpose/utility, autonomy, learning/development opportunities, moral correctness, the quality of relationships and recognition.
- There are ways of preventing psychological distress

(protective effects); there are also ways of promoting psychological well-being, and these may have beneficial effects.

To download the document, please visit:

http://www.irsst.qc.ca/en/publicationirsst_100536.html

Choosing the right type of protective gloves

The IRSST created a new website that provide necessary information for helping individuals and OH&S managers identify protective gloves that correspond to their needs. (<http://www.irsst.qc.ca/gants/en/index.html>)

Even if it has been designed for an occupational use, this guide can also be useful in the case of personal- and leisure-type activities. When hands are exposed to hazards, they must be protected. Injuries can be avoided when gloves are suited for the risks, are worn correctly and are maintained appropriately. The interactive selection tool allows a search of information on a specific glove model as well as a criteria-based search for glove models, in particular according to the resistance to mechanical risks, food handling compliance and cost. A help relative to the use of this selection tool is available in the top right corner of the banner.

A PDF information document (this document is currently being

translated). provides information on relevant laws and regulations, risk management process, types of gloves, manufacturing processes, materials, risks and characterization methods among others. It includes also some examples of situation scenarios.

Further information at: <http://www.irsst.qc.ca/gants/en/index.html>

Contact details: Communications Division, IRSST, <http://www.irsst.qc.ca/en/home.html>

Review of selected literature on the carcinogenicity of trichloroethylene (TCE)

The Institut de Recherche Robert Sauvé en Santé et en Sécurité du Travail (IRSST) just published a review of selected literature on the carcinogenicity of trichloroethylene (TCE). Specifically,

the remit was to review the last 15 years of the literature, a period that covers the time since the expert evaluation of TCE's cancer potential by a Working Group of the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC, 1995).

The present review focused on informative epidemiology studies published since the IARC review. In addition, searches were carried out to determine whether any post-IARC TCE cancer studies have been carried out in laboratory animals. A brief overview of the knowledge database of TCE's cancer potential (both in humans and laboratory animals) at the time of the IARC review was also included.

To download the document:

http://www.irsst.qc.ca/en/publicationirsst_100538.html

For the French version:

http://www.irsst.qc.ca/fr/publicationirsst_100539.html

From Japan

Historical background of occupational cancers and the measures for their prevention in Japan

Urinary system diseases including bladder cancers, caused by benzidine, beta-naphthylamine, or other chemical substances

Sent by: Masayoshi Karasawa, Special Adviser, JAWE, E-mail: m19419k@yahoo.co.jp

The production of benzidine, beta-naphthylamine and/or other bladder cancer causing substances as dye intermediates was started in Germany around 1879, and about 20 years after that, bladder cancer patients began to be found among workers handling these chemical substances. In Japan, it seems that the production of these dye intermediates was started during the World War I, and cases of bladder cancer among workers involved in their production were also reported in 1940. In Japan, it was reported that the production of benzidine was started around 1951.

The Ministry of Labour (at present, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare; MHLW), Japan, hammered out measures to control urinary system diseases caused by these dye intermediates in 1961. In April 1970, a notice entitled "Measures to Prevent Urinary System Diseases in the Production or Handling of Bladder Cancer Causing Substances" was issued in the name of the Director General of the Labour Standards Bureau. In November 1971, four leading dye manufacturers (private corporations) voluntarily discontinued the production of benzidine, which had caused many workers to develop bladder cancer. The production of benzidine and beta-naphthylamine was banned by the enactment of the Occupational Safety and Health Law in 1972. However, these above-mentioned measures were not necessarily systematic or legislative.

Lung cancer, mesothelioma, or other health hazards due to asbestos

Because of its excellent properties, asbestos had been widely used for heat-resistant materials, gaskets, packing, asbestos-cement, ducts, and many other purposes both at home and abroad. Asbestos came to be heavily used for industrial purposes, such as insulating materials for boilers and steam pipes, vehicle brakes, and fire-proof or heat-insulating covering

materials, in Japan, during the World War II. After 1963, the amount of asbestos imported by Japan rapidly increased, and up to 250 thousand to 350 thousand tons of asbestos were imported per year at a peak period. Asbestosis, a pneumoconiosis, has been well known as a health hazard caused by asbestos for a very long time. With progresses in medical diagnosis, lung cancer, mesothelioma and other health hazards caused by asbestos have been increasingly observed.

In January 1994, the Ministry of Labour banned the production, use and other handling of crocidolite (blue asbestos) and amosite, the most hazardous types of asbestos. In October 2003, asbestos cement cylinders, extruded cement boards, decorative slates for roofs, fibre-reinforced cement boards, ceramic siding, clutch facings, clutch linings, brake pads, brake linings and adhesives containing asbestos were listed as hazardous materials that must not be produced. Moreover, in October 2006, MHLW banned the production, use and other handling of all kinds of asbestos, as well as preparations containing more than 0.1 % of asbestos in weight. Afterwards the number of cases of workers' exposure to asbestos dust has been gradually reduced. However, there is fear that workers may be exposed to asbestos dispersed when buildings or fire-resistant coverings containing asbestos are dismantled, and that workers previously exposed to asbestos may develop diseases such as lung cancer and mesothelioma. In fact, in Japan, according to the related yearly statistics released by MHLW from the fiscal year 2006 to 2009, more than 1000 workers were compensated by the Workers' Compensation Insurance Law, due to this group of asbestos-related diseases.

Other occupational cancers

In addition to the health hazards described above, other occupational cancers have been reported. In 1975, it was found that slug containing a high level of chromium had been illegally

dumped from the site in Tokyo where a chemical factory producing chromium acid compounds and bichromic acid compounds once stood, and that those working in the factory had developed perforation of the nasal septum, lung cancer, or other respiratory cancers; many of them had died. Moreover, liver angiosarcoma was reported among workers engaged in production of polyvinyl chloride, as it has happened in the United States.

The amendment of the Occupational Safety and Health Law for the strengthening of measures for the prevention of occupational cancers and the ratification of the Occupational Cancer Convention, 1974 of ILO

The Government of Japan, especially the Ministry of Labour (at that time) was criticized for a lack of adequate measures including legislation to prevent occupational cancers. In response to this criticism, MOL (Ministry of Labour, at that time) proposed the amendment of the Occupational Safety and Health Law, including the establishment of the provision of Investigation of Toxicity of Chemical Substances and the implementation of Epidemiological Survey by the Minister of Labour (at present, MHLW) as well as the ratification of the Occupational Cancer Convention, 1974 of ILO to the Japanese Parliament, and moreover, requested the Ministry of Finance necessary budget for the establishment of the New Research Centre which carries out long term inhalation Carcinogenicity Studies, with regard to potential carcinogens which are used or going to be used in the work place, using SPF (Specific pathogen free) mammalian experimental animals (for example, mice and/or rats) and other bioassay studies such as mutagenicity tests. All of these proposals were approved finally by the Parliament, and the provisions of the amendment mentioned above were enforced in June, 1979. Some examples of these provisions are hereby presented; further details may be obtained from the author.

Example from Article 57-3. (Investigation of Toxicity of Chemical Substances)

“To prevent impairment of workers’ health, an employer who intends to manufacture or import chemicals (hereinafter in this Article referred to as “new chemical substance”) other than the ones defined by Cabinet Order as the existing chemical substances, shall, in advance, undertake an investigation of toxicity provided for by the Ordinance of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW), including mutagenicity tests, and shall notify the said Ministry the name of the new chemical and the results of the toxicity investigation. The number of notified new chemicals according to this provision reached 19,238 (of which 16,266 chemicals were produced in Japan and 2,972, imported from 1979 to 2008). Between the new chemicals notified to the Minister, according to this provision, plus the results of the mutagenicity tests conducted by the Ministry, there were 738 highly mutagenic chemical substances, which require adequate control according to the “Guideline for the prevention of workers’ health hazard due to such chemical substances as evaluated highly mutagenic” (published in May 1993, by the Director General, Labour Standards Bureau).

Article 57-5. (State Assistance): In order to contribute to the adequate implementation of the investigation of toxicity of chemicals, under the preceding two Articles, the State shall endeavour to ensure the required facilities as well as the

provision of information and other necessary assistance. Moreover, the State (through the MHLW) will also carry out toxicity investigations.”

The establishment of the new Research Centre for long term (two years) carcinogenicity studies with regard to potential carcinogens and other bioassay studies such as mutagenicity tests in 1977.



The Japan Bioassay Research Centre (in Hadano City, Kanagawa Prefecture, close to Tokyo) was established by the MHLW as the New Research Centre in April, 1982, and is operated by the Japan Industrial Safety and Health Association (JISHA). Since then the Japan Bioassay Research Centre finished long term carcinogenicity studies with regard to 35 kinds of potentially carcinogenic chemicals, under the trust of MHLW and published these results internally and externally. This Research Centre is a distinguished Institute in the field of long term Carcinogenicity Study and other related studies on the safety of chemical substances in the international community, therefore the results of the said researches and studies were evaluated by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), SIDS (OECD), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA, USA), DFG (Germany), AFSSET (France) and other international organization and/or countries. And, 26 chemical substances among them were controlled as the carcinogens or the potential carcinogens under the related guidelines published by the Minister or notifications notified by the Director General of the Labour Standards Bureau, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Japan.

The amendment of the Occupational Safety and Health Law in 2005 (enforced in April, 2006), introducing autonomous risk assessment and risk management with respect to occupational safety and health, to be carried out by Employer

In Japan, based on the international and domestic background with respect to the introduction of the occupational safety and health management system, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) published “Guidelines on Occupational Safety and Health Management Systems” as the Ministry of Labour Notification No. 53, April 30, 1999 (amended in March, 2006). Moreover, the International Labour Organization (ILO) issued Guidelines on occupational safety and health management systems (ILO OSH 2001). These trends promote employer’s autonomous risk assessment and risk management with respect to occupational safety and health. Taking into consideration these trends, in 2005, the MHLW proposed the amendment of the Occupational Safety and Health Law, including the introduction of such provision as the one presented here as an example.

From Article 28-2. (Investigations to be carried out by employer): “The employer shall, as requested by the Ordinance of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, investigate the danger or harm, due to buildings, facilities, raw materials, gases, vapours, dust, etc., and those arising from work actions and other duties; thereafter, based on the results of these investigations, the employer shall take the necessary measures to prevent impairment to workers’ health as required by this Law and amendments (approved by the Japanese Parliament and enforced in April, 2006).

In order to enforce these provisions, the MHLW published two guidelines, namely, Guidelines for Risk Assessment (10 March 2006) and Guidelines for Risk Assessment on Chemicals (30 March 2006). These guidelines for risk assessment of dangerous and/or toxic chemical substances should be conducted in accordance with international standards, and with the four steps: Hazard identification, Dose-response assessment, Exposure assessment and/or Risk characterization.”

Whenever needed, MHLW itself should conduct risk assessment with regard to selected toxic or potentially toxic chemical substances including carcinogenic substances or potential carcinogenic substances, and for this purpose, the provision of the Ordinance on Industrial Safety and Health, on reporting by employers on exposure to harmful chemicals (selected by an

MHLW expert committee) was enacted and enforced in April 2007. Since then MHLW has conducted risk assessment with regard to more than 120 such substances. According to the results of risk assessment, if and when necessary, depending on the extent of the evaluated risk, the Ministry regulates the substances in question and publishes the necessary guidelines for the prevention of hazards to workers’ health.

Future tasks with respect to the prevention of occupational cancers in Japan

As mentioned above, in Japan, the necessary systematic legislative measures have been somehow established. However, there are still several tasks ahead, as follows:

1. Prevention of lung cancer, mesothelioma and other related health hazards due to exposure to asbestos, by completely avoiding workers’ exposure to any kind of asbestos.
2. Strengthening the cooperation with International Organizations as well as other countries in the field of identification of carcinogenic substances and exchange of related information;
3. Improvement of accuracy and precision of the activities concerning identification and risk assessment of carcinogenic or potentially carcinogenic substances.

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