

NEWSLETTER

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Letter from the Editor

Dear Colleagues,

One major event since our last Newsletter was IOHA 2010 in Rome. It was great and you will see many related contributions on this issue, including several photos and my personal comments (therefore I will make this letter shorter ☺). I would like to emphasize that my comments are just a glimpse at the Conference, with only a few examples. The amount of exciting information and new high level work presented was remarkable and it is impossible to mention even a small fraction.

From many presentations and “coffee break discussions” (which were so fruitful), two important points stayed with me, namely: (a) the need to make occupational hygiene more visible in the field of occupational and environmental health, as well as to have workers’ health placed at a much higher level in the development agenda, and, (b) to further develop occupational hygiene education and training.

I propose to have a discussion on these topics on the next issue; therefore I would like to ask all interested colleagues to express their views and ideas, concerns and experiences through short articles, notices or just questions.

On the first topic, please, think and share ideas on how to reach more decision-makers who are in a position to further increase the importance of our field in the development agenda as is being done, for example, for climate change. In this respect, please see the article on IPWL in this issue.

As to occupational hygiene education and training, I believe that the first step is to define the different target groups, for example, academic level occupational hygiene professionals, occupational hygiene technicians, other members of the occupational health, safety and environment team, other professionals (such as engineers, physicians, lawyers, managers and administrators) and workers. All of these are decision makers at different levels and preventive action will require some degree of decision from them. And once the decision to apply occupational hygiene principles is taken, there is a need for high level professionals to research on and/or apply them and of technicians to support their work. Moreover, the cooperation from all stakeholders is essential and this requires certain knowledge. In view of the continued shortage of adequate occupational hygiene training in many parts of the world, much action is still needed in this respect.

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.

I take this opportunity to wish to all of you a very Happy Holiday Season, followed by a 2011 (cannot believe we are already there ☺) full of personal and professional joy and fulfillment.

Best greetings

Berenice Goelzer
berenice@goelzer.net

NEWS from IOHA

IOHA Report from the IOHA Board Meeting, - 27 September 2010, Rome, Italy

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

The meeting was held at the 8th IOHA International Scientific Conference in the beautiful city of Rome, Italy and was chaired by Luc Hamelin (IOHA President). IOHA Board Members from ACGIH, AIHA, the Australian, British, Canadian, Dutch, Finnish, French, Hong Kong, Italian, Malaysian, Norwegian, Southern African, Swedish, Swiss and Taiwanese organisations were in attendance. The President gave a warm welcome to the



Japanese (JAWE) representative who was attending in place of their Board Member and also to the new Board Members appointed by AIHA, ACGIH and the Swedish association who were all attending their first Board Meeting. Sandi Atkinson from the Secretariat was in attendance and apologies for absence had been received from the Brazilian, German, Irish and Korean associations.

COH Code of Ethics Revision

Prof. Guillemain of the Swiss Society updated the Board on the progress of this document scheduled for launch at the ICOH conference in 2012. The first draft is now complete and the deadline for comments was the end of September. The document will then be reviewed and redrafted for the ICOH Board who will add their comments for the final draft. Prof. Guillemain commended the document and urged everyone to read it and use it once it is in its final form as it gives interesting perspectives from different parts of the world.

IOHA Secretariat Service

IOHA were very pleased to announce following their last meeting in Denver the unanimous decision to re-appoint BOHS as the providers of their secretariat services. The contract was formally signed by both organisations whilst in Rome by Hugh Dalrymple, Secretary Treasurer for IOHA and Steve Perkins, Chief Executive of BOHS.

Secretary Treasurer's Business

Secretary Treasurer, Hugh Dalrymple presented the final accounts which were accepted by the Board. He highlighted the need for a strategy to invest IOHA's reserves for a better return in the current economic climate. A proposal will be submitted for discussion at the next meeting in April 2011.

Membership Capitation Fees

The Board voted to introduce a change to the calculation of capitation fees for IOHA member associations, the current structure is based around the number of members within an association and the new structure has been agreed in the interest of fairness to the larger organisations. IOHA have now introduced a cap on the capitation fees which will ensure that no association will pay more than 25% of the total income from capitation fees.

IOHA 9th International Scientific Conference

MIHA's representative Zainal Zainuddin presented an update on the organisation of this conference to the Board and confirmed the revised dates of 15 – 19 September 2012. More information will be available soon on the website www.ioha2012.org

IOHA Newsletter

Berenice Goelzer, IOHA Newsletter Editor, visited the meeting and made a passionate plea to all associations to send her more contributions for the newsletter. She expressed her joy at being the editor of the newsletter and Mr. Hamelin, on behalf of the Board, thanked Ms Goelzer for her continued excellent work. Editorial guidelines for the newsletter can now be found on the IOHA website www.ioha.net/newsletter

Membership

IOHA President Elect, Noel Tresider and the IOHA Secretariat will be developing a factsheet and information package to be uploaded onto the website and distributed to those interested in joining IOHA. The package will include the criteria for joining

IOHA, the benefits of being a member, information about occupational hygiene and how to set up a national association. This information will initially be in English but could be translated.

National Accreditation Recognition (NAR)

Chairman of the NAR Committee, Noel Tresider reported the success of the Swedish Association's application for accreditation of their certification scheme. IOHA President Luc Hamelin was very pleased to present the Swedish Association representative Bengt Ståhlbom with their certificate of recognition at the meeting.



OHlearning.com

Jakob Nærheim, IOHA's representative on the OHlearning.com steering group enthusiastically urged those associations at the meeting who had not yet signed the Memorandum of Understanding with the Occupational Hygiene Training Association (OHTA) to at least consider it and to raise it with their associations. More information on the progress of OHlearning.com and OHTA can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

IOHA Strategy 2011-2015

The new IOHA Strategy 2011-2015 can now be found on the website www.ioha.net/strategy the next steps are to develop plans to deliver the goals of the strategy and these plans will be presented and finalised at the next Board meeting in April 2011.

Future Meetings

The next meeting of the Board will take place at the BOHS conference on Sunday 3 April 2011 in Stratford upon Avon, UK.

The Board is also very pleased to announce their acceptance of the very kind invitation from the AIHA to hold the second meeting of 2011 in Singapore during an AIHA seminar planned for September 2011.

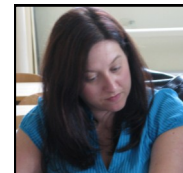


More photographs from the IOHA Board Meeting:

Danilo Cottica and Luc Hamelin



Hugh Dalrymple and Andrea Hiddinga

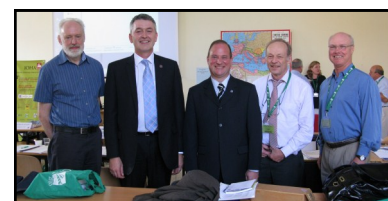


Sandi Atkinson



From Left Ponnachan Joseph, Tai Wa Tsin, Chih-Chien Chen and Jakob Nærheim

From Left Hugh Dalrymple, Steve Perkins, Luc Hamelin, Michel Guillemain and Jimmy Perkins



In September 2010, as part of the IOHA 2010 Conference, a workshop was held on Occupational Hygiene Certification Systems. It provided a brief description of some of the OH professional certification schemes around the world. The objective was to explain the IOHA National Accreditation Recognition (NAR) process for recognising national certification schemes, and to provide information to Occupational Hygiene associations who wish to achieve international recognition of their certification scheme. A number of presentations were made, namely:

1. IOHA NAR Committee – its role and operation, by Noel Tresider- Australia
2. The Italian Certification Scheme and its relationship to professional qualifications in the wider European Community, by Dr Danilo Cottica- Italy
3. The American certification scheme ABIH - Proposal for defining the knowledge and competencies of professional occupational hygienists, by Chris Laszcz-Davis- USA
4. Status of professional certification/accreditation schemes in Malaysia/the Asian region, by Azizin Zainudin - Malaysia
5. The French experience in achieving IOHA NAR status, by Guy Bourgeoisat – France
6. Future of IOHA NAR schemes and discussion, by Noel Tresider- Australia

In this article, we outline two of those presentations.

IOHA NAR COMMITTEE – ITS ROLE AND OPERATION

IOHA has 27 member associations, representing 25 different countries and speaking 12 different languages. Many of these countries have accreditation/certification schemes for their professional occupational/industrial hygienists. In order that these certification schemes can be recognised internationally, IOHA through its National Accreditation Recognition Committee (NAR) has established certain criteria for recognition by IOHA of a National Accreditation Scheme.

We currently have eleven countries that have achieved international recognition for their accreditation scheme — Australia, Canada, France, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, South Africa, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States, and recently Sweden.

The Charter for NAR Committee has as its mission statement: To promote global respect for and recognition of Occupational Hygiene Certification Programmes which meet or exceed the IOHA Model Certification Programme

The NAR Criteria for recognition by IOHA of a National Accreditation Scheme is as follows: (this is also listed on the IOHA website):

1. OH Definition and Goals

Overall OH definition and goals of organization congruent with IOHA's.

2. Code of Ethics

Organization has an appropriate Code of Ethics, and mechanism for administering.

3. Candidate Education and Experience

Education: Minimum education —Bachelor's degree (or equivalent), usually in science or engineering. This is usually a minimum of 3 years degree academic study.

Experience: Minimum 4 years of suitable experience.

Minimum NAR Criteria standard (Years academic study + years of experience) = 7

4. Testing the Candidate

Professional competence of candidate determined in a written examination.

An oral exam may be added to further test the competence and communication skills of candidate.

5. Evaluation Process

Evaluation procedures used by Certification Board are consistent and verifiable—e.g. objectivity/standardization/documentation of evaluation process.

Requirements for certifying persons – examiners shall be certified professional occupational hygienists with the appropriate qualifications and experience.

6. Maintenance Process

Maintenance of professional status requires ongoing/continuing professional experience/development - formal mechanism. This is usually a points system over a period of 3 to 5 years.

7. Interface with related discipline professional certification

Organization has provision to interface with related disciplines" i.e. input to enhance 'broadness', and expand and evolve technical expertise and influence.

Future of IOHA NAR schemes

The fundamental question is: What do people need to know and what skills to be competent, in order to be a "qualified" professional Occupational Hygienist in your country? How is it determined, and by who?

The NAR process has established the criteria by which national association certification schemes can be assessed, but it is the national certification scheme which must answer this question for their own country.

Several challenges lie ahead for 2011 and beyond.

Challenge No. 1. Does NAR accreditation make sense in a non-western culture?

The NAR criteria were based on European or North American schemes. Does it work for non-western or eastern cultures?

Challenge No. 2. Does the NAR accreditation approach work for the national professional certification program when it is the government who decides or licences 'who is competent', as in the case of Taiwan, Korea and Japan.

Challenge No. 3. Relationship with OHLearning.com advanced level

International recognition of professional occupational/industrial hygiene qualifications will become more important, particularly with the development of international training modules from OHLearning.com also known as the Occupational Hygiene Training Association (OHTA), which is supported by IOHA.

These OHTA training modules are at the technician or intermediate level, and must have a NAR accredited professional hygienist as the Course Director. So, clearly, there will be a greater role for individual NAR examination boards,

and a greater demand for professional hygienists with NAR accreditation to be involved with these training modules. While the OHLearning.com can lead to advanced professional levels, it requires that the professional hygienist will be a member of a national association which has a NAR recognised scheme, in order to attain internationally recognised professional status.

What will be the case where no such national association exists, or there is no NAR recognised scheme in that country?

Challenge No. 4. ISO 17024 Accreditation – Yes or No?

Some of the national certification schemes have been accredited to ISO 17024. The NAR Committee's view is that this is a decision to be made by the national association in their interests. So far, the US ABIH and Italian schemes have achieved ISO 17024 accreditation.

The IOHA NAR Scheme has grown from its humble beginnings in 2001, and it will continue to evolve to provide a consistent approach to the recognition of professional occupational

The 8th IOHA International Scientific Conference – Rome 2010

IOHA Rome 2010 - Health, Work and Social Responsibility

*Sent by Alice Gargiullo, AIDII, Italy (IOHA Rome Scientific Committee)
E-mail: alice.gargiullo@aidii.it*

The Conference IOHA 2010 - Health, Work and Social Responsibility - was held in the prestigious Urbaniana University, Rome, from 28 September to 2nd October 2010.

This conference, which integrated occupational hygiene, environment, health and safety, was an international success and had an outstanding attendance, as it gathered more than a thousand national and international professionals from over 50 countries. Participants included researchers and professionals, involved in occupational health and safety, from the most prestigious universities and institutions, organizations and professional associations.



During this conference 11 keynotes lectures, 25 workshops, 263 oral communications and 233 posters presented innovative studies, exclusive projects and valuable know-how in order to make work more

productive and more compatible with health and quality of life. Several professional meetings and other scientific activities also occurred during the conference .

This 5-day event was organized by the Italian Industrial Hygiene Association (AIDII), on behalf of IOHA, together with INAIL and ISPESL - the two Italian institutions responsible for prevention and insurance of occupational hazards.

As Ing. Michele Casciani, AIDII President and Chair of the Conference, proudly said: *"We have received about a thousand scientific papers from over 50 countries and had more than a thousand national and international professionals registered to the conference. We received the patronage of the most distinguished international and Italian organizations in the field, such as the International Labour Organization, the World Health Organization, the Italian Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, as well as other Ministries, universities and institutions."* He also added: *"Italy and our group of experts and researchers are in the vanguard at an international level as per environmental and health issues and this has been well proven by this conference."*



**Michele Casciani,
AIDII President
and Chair of the
Conference**

Thanks to all who participated in the ROMA IOHA 2010 Conference!

Further information is available at: www.ioha2010.org

Control Banding Workshops at IOHA 2010

Sent by David M. Zalk, E-mail: David.Zalk@comcast.net

The International Control Banding Workshops (ICBW) have been a centerpiece for the growth of Control Banding (CB) worldwide. CB's strategies offer simplified solutions for assessing and controlling worker exposures to constituents often encountered in the workplace.

The 6th International Control Banding Workshop (6ICBW) was held on 27 September 2010 at the Urbania University, Rome, as part of IOHA Rome 2010.

This event continued the wonderful history of the ICBWs around the world, reflecting the interest and continued expansion of CB globally:

1 st ICBW	2002	London, England
2 nd ICBW	2004	Cincinnati, USA
3 rd ICBW	2005	Pilanesburg, South Africa (at IOHA 2005)
4 th ICBW	2008	Seoul, South Korea (at XVIII World Congress Safety)
5 th ICBW	2009	Cape Town, South Africa (at ICOH 2009)
6 th ICBW	2010	Roma, Italia (at IOHA 2010)



From left to right: David Zalk (organizer of the 6th ICBW – IOHA Envoy), Wendy MacDonald (International Ergonomics Association, Co-Chair Musculoskeletal Disorders Committee), Marilyn Fingerhut (NIOSH, Co-Coordinator of the WHO Network of Collaborating Centers in Occupational Health), Kazutaka Kogi (ICOH President), Noel Tresider (IOHA President Elect)

The ICBWs have been essential as a focal point for the international research agenda on Control Banding strategies as well as its implementation, evaluation, and validation. Most importantly, the 6ICBW presented the largest international contingent of organizations and global experts on the now multidisciplinary nature of Control Banding. The role of Control Banding as Practical Primary Prevention was the focus of 6ICBW, with an emphasis on enhancing the level of feedback and improvement to aid both researchers and practitioners in presenting a viable path forward.



From left to right: Petra Beurskens (The Netherlands), Gunnar Rosén and Ing-Marie Andersson (from Sweden)

The ICBWs serve to offer a platform for the major international occupational health organizations to offer their input and vision, as well as the strengths and weaknesses of CB. At the 6ICBW we were honored to have the President of ICOH, Dr. Kazutaka Kogi, as our keynote. The opening session was dedicated to international organizations and we were honored to have IOHA, ICOH, IEA, and the WHO Collaborating Centres represented discussing their latest efforts, their history relating to CB development, and a collective vision of a very positive future. The second session had global experts from the US, Germany, and The Netherlands present research on the latest evaluating and validating research on CB toolkits and the continuing expansion has proved to quite impressive. The lunch poster session included risk management efforts in Mozambique and a CB tool for managing infectious disease. The third session presented the expansion of range for CB strategies that included a CB-based OHSMS, Construction Toolbox, Barrier Banding for Occupational Safety, and some lessons learned on CB effectiveness from South Africa. The final session looked at the burgeoning topic of CB as risk communication. Berenice Goelzer made an outstanding presentation on considerations for CB integration in the professions and as part of university programs. Also presented were consideration for an international standard of working environment, issues facing CB growth in developing countries, methods engage the health sector in CB, and opportunities for video exposure monitoring within CB approaches and guidance sheets.

A different CB Workshop was held on 28 September at IOHA 2010. This workshop focused on the lessons learned from the 6ICBW with a focus toward the future. The CB International Technical Group (ITG) has accomplished quite a bit over the last six years, however at this CB Workshop it took an opportunity to look toward CB's upcoming work plan. The central point of this workshop was to communicate significant aspects of the Control Banding ITG's 2010 - 2015 Work Plan and offer workshop participant and audience to add to the future endeavors. Presentations discussed the strengths and weaknesses of CB, both in terms of existing toolkit availability requirements and in its REACH applications. Cumulatively, insight to CB's role in the future direction of the Industrial Hygiene profession was an important highlight. As the growth of CB continues to escalate worldwide it can now be seen as becoming a common topic of conversation. First and foremost in the Work Plan was the need to capture all the available toolkits within a database that also captures their sector of focus, methods for inputting necessary factors, outcomes, validation efforts, and evaluation parameters. Some of these discussions also focused on the expansion of CB across the occupational safety, health, and hygiene professions and others took on the challenge of bringing multidisciplinary toolboxes into the mix. Clearly agreed was that the organization and accessibility of existing toolkits will continue to remain a high priority. Building on presentations at the 6ICBW, CB's increasing role in risk communication and capacity building became a growing priority over the next five years. Front and center, however, was the role of CB in REACH and what seems to be a prime opportunity for expansion and codification. Taken

together, the level of feedback and improvement as part of this CB Workshop's presentations and aiding both researchers and practitioners in presenting a viable path forward for research. In summarizing the findings and discussions of the 6ICBW, included in the 2010 – 2015 Work Plan was the need for new expansion into environmental hazard banding and the creation of readily available cell phone and smart phone CB applications, or 'apps', to increase the ease of reach for CB tools and methods to protect workers globally. Additionally, and quite important for CB's growth, were discussions on sustaining

future funding and creative avenues and opportunities for this were captured in the Work Plan. Taken as a whole, CB seeks to address the needs of 2.5 billion workers globally that have no current access to occupational safety, health, and hygiene professionals to address and reduce occupational risks. Both the 6ICBW and CB Workshop sought to address this global need and offer firm plans to achieve results.

The two following articles are based on presentations at the Control Banding Workshops

Toolkits of the Global Network of WHO Collaborating Centers in Occupational Health

***Sent by Marilyn Fingerhut, Ph.D., Co-Coordinator,
WHO Network of Collaborating Centers in Occupational Health
E-mail: maf2@cdc.gov***

It was my great pleasure to participate in the Sixth International Control Banding Workshop, held in Rome in conjunction with the IOHA 2010 Conference. I have been involved with the WHO/ILO/WHO Network control banding efforts since 2002 and have seen over the years a dramatic shift from skepticism to broad acceptance of the approach of simple guidance to assist employers to assess and to manage risks in the workplace. My presentation, '**Toolkits of the Global Network of WHO Collaborating Centers in Occupational Health**', illustrated for the audience the contributions of IOHA, ILO, and the WHO Collaborating Centers in Occupational Health in the development, implementation and evaluation of toolkits providing guidance in a wide range of settings.

These efforts are also advancing the 'Global Plan of Action for Workers' Health', a May 2007 resolution endorsed by the Ministers of Health of the 193 Member Countries of the United Nations, who gather in May of each year in Geneva as the World Health Assembly, the supreme decision-making body for the World Health Organization.

There are five main Objectives of the Global Plan of Action (GPA):

1. Devise and implement policy instruments on workers' health.
2. Protect and promote health at the workplace.
3. Improve the performance of and access to occupational health services.
4. Provide and communicate evidence for action and practice.
5. Incorporate workers' health into non-health policies and projects.

WHO and its Network of Collaborating Centres in Occupational Health have developed a global Workplan to assist countries to advance the objectives of the Global Plan of Action. The Network includes 68 Collaborating Centres located on all continents, the International Labor Organization (ILO), and three international occupational non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that have a formal relationship with the WHO

occupational program: the International Occupational Hygiene Association (IOHA), the International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH), and the International Ergonomics Association (IEA). The 2009-2012 Network Workplan contains about 200 projects, with an intensive focus on the 15 priority areas within the Global Plan of Action.) http://www.who.int/occupational_health/network/en/

The presentation described the current successes, the planned efforts, and the recognized gaps in the Network activities and products intended to advance **Priority 2.1 of the Global Plan of Action for Workers Health: Develop practical toolkits for the assessment and management of OH risks (focus: chemical, physical, biological, psychosocial risks)**. IOHA is providing leadership in advancing and sharing the various toolkits underway around the globe. Dave Zalk and Henri Heussen serve as leaders of this Priority, which includes about 30 toolkit development projects underway through IOHA and partners, ILO, and at the WHO Collaborating Centers globally. Anticipated future outputs from the Network include additional tools, an electronic resource library containing the toolkits, a framework document including definitions and common criteria of toolkits, an inventory providing the mapping of use and types of tools, guidance for implementation and evaluation of toolkits, and an active Network of experts using toolkits. Recognized gaps include technical capacity, broad acceptance of the value of 'simple guidance', and inclusion of the variety of toolkits into a 'one-stop-shopping' toolbox for coherent usage.

All participants (and all readers of this newsletter) are invited to join with IOHA and the Collaborating Centers of the WHO Network to develop, implement, evaluate and modify toolkits, so that we can better assist countries to address the traditional and newer needs of workers everywhere.

Chemical Control Banding in Germany - EMKG

A need for Control Banding

*Sent by Rolf Packroff, BAuA - Federal Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Germany
E-mail: packroff.rolf@baua.bund.de*

Chemical hazards are omnipresent at workplaces all over the world with a significant impact on workers safety and health. ILO estimated that nearly 440,000 people throughout the world died as a result of occupational exposure to hazardous substances in 2005 [1]. Even in industrialised countries significant gaps in compliance with OSH regulations can be still observed, especially in small and medium enterprises (SME). The annual report on safety and health at work still counts about 37,600 notifications and more than 6,300 new pensions granted due to chemical-related diseases in Germany 2008 [2]. Beyond this, about 4,000 annual cases of occupational accidents with chemicals are reported [3]. At a conference in November 2010 a representative from a German Federal State mentioned that only one third of the enterprises have adequate knowledge to perform the legally demanded risk assessment and risk management for chemicals used at workplaces. The others need support to identify hazardous chemicals on-site, to select effective controls and to decide on external advice. Control banding (CB) offers tools which use easy available information from safety data sheets (SDS) and workplaces to select a control strategy from a set of four for a chemical in a specific working situation. The corresponding control measures can be learned from a two-page Control Guidance Sheet (CGS) [4].

EMKG - from research to practice

Since 2005 BAuA (Federal Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Germany) offers EMKG, a CB based easy-to-use workplace control scheme for hazardous substances. EMKG is a non-binding guidance for workplace risk assessment, which meanwhile is used by a lot of OSH professionals and labour inspectorates in Germany. EMKG is based on the ideas of COSHH Essentials (HSE, UK) and follows the control banding approach laid down in the International Chemical Control Toolkit (ICCT) from ILO. The first version of EMKG was limited to chemicals without a legal occupational exposure limit (OEL), since 2008 EMKG 2.0 offers the possibility also to use OEL in the CB approach. Additionally, a dermal risk assessment can be performed with help of EMKG (www.einfaches-massnahmenkonzept-gefahrstoffe.de).

In the last ten years BAuA has evaluated the scientific background of EMKG in a number of research projects. The exposure model approach has been improved by comparison with the results from about 1,000 workplace measurements, mostly collected from BAuA field studies. Most of them were within the range or lower than predicted by the CB approach [5]. Another study investigated the correlations between hazard groups from R-phrases and legal OEL. The distribution of OEL for substances in the same hazard group ranges over 3 to 4 orders of magnitude, but the corresponding target airborne concentration range always covers the median value of the distribution [6]. In co-operation with the Workers Compensation Board of the Chemical Industry the COSHH Control Guidance Sheets have been adopted to the German legal framework and

applicability in SME [7]. Currently, a new EMKG module "fire and explosion risks" is evaluated in a field study and will be launched in 2012.

Communication, training and education

In Industry, an ongoing loss of knowledge on occupational safety and health can be observed as a consequence of the splitting of large chemical firms into small, independent units and externalisation of tasks, e. g. cleaning and maintenance of chemical plants. A big advantage of CB is the broad and comprehensive access into chemical risk assessment, using easy available information from the international GHS system of labelling and safety data sheets. Especially for firms, which use a lot of different chemicals, it is easy to gain a good feeling for risk reduction needs and priorities. A limited viewpoint is avoided, that only focuses on the minority of substances with a legal OEL.

In the German Code of Practice TRGS 400 "Risk Assessment for Chemicals at the Workplace" from 2008 EMKG is recommended as an easy available tool [8]. Three worked examples are offered on the EMKG website: use of phenolic resins for fleece production, production of chemicals for the printing industry, use of chemicals in opticians' workshops. A presentation can be downloaded for in-house training purposes (www.einfaches-massnahmenkonzept-gefahrstoffe.de). The youngest member of the product family is EMKG Compact that makes decisions on control strategies fast, simple and transparent. It includes a pocket disk for assessing exposure from inhalation and a pocket card for dermal exposure assessment.



EMKG pocket-disc

BAuA has received a lot of positive customer feedbacks on EMKG. Currently about 2,000 – 3,000 annual downloads of EMKG from the BAuA website can be observed. Students of chemistry and chemical engineering at the Technical University of Dortmund and safety engineers at the Bergische University Wuppertal learn about EMKG since 2008, a course for

advanced students will start in Dortmund in summer 2011. For them, CB will be a matter of course in their later profession. Beyond this, a lot of courses for OSH professionals have been given by members of the BAuA staff, always with great interest of the attendants.

REACH - challenge and chance for Control Banding

REACH is a new comprehensive regulation for chemical safety in the European Union. It should ensure a high level of protection of human health and the environment in the EU as well as the free movement of chemical substances, preparations and articles, while enhancing competitiveness and innovation. Workers protection should profit from qualified information on

adequate control measures laid down in exposure scenarios as a part the new extended safety data sheets. The historical challenge of REACH becomes clear after 140,000 different chemicals have been pre-registered from more than 2 million firms in 2009 [9]. Setting up individual exposure scenarios for all of them will go far beyond the limited capacities of registrants, down-stream users and member state authorities.

The expansion of EMKG to chemicals with an OEL has made it compatible to the demands of REACH registrants. They can use an EMKG Expo-Tool from the German REACH helpdesk to estimate workers exposure (http://www.reach-clp-helpdesk.de/clin_134/reach/en/Exposure/Exposure.html). A presumed control strategy and the corresponding control guidance sheet (CGS) can be used as a (safe) exposure scenario, if the Derived No Effect Level (DNEL)



Annette Wilmes, Iris Schweitzer-Karababa and Rolf Packroff, from BAuA present EMKG, at IOHA 2010

is clearly above the resulting exposure band. For risk communication CGS offers the advantage to cover about 80% of typical handling and use scenarios for chemicals at workplaces with about 40 sheets. The usual two-page CGS format allows a quick view on essential information for chemical risk management. The latest amendment of REACH explicitly allows using control banding information in safety data sheets. [10]. BAuA will support this with a contract to set up an EU series of CGS from EUPHRAC standard phrases. Beyond this, a validation project for several guidance sheets on transfer activities will be launched in 2011.

European Conference "Perspectives of Control Banding" in June 2011

An International Technical Working Group (ITG) managed by WHO and ILO supports a world-wide implementation of CB with scientific exchange, workshops and training [11].

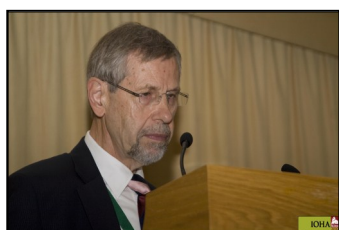
The above-mentioned developments on the German EMKG were only a small fraction of activities that were presented on the 6th International Control Banding Workshop (6ICBW) in September 2010 at IOHA 2010 in Rome, Italy (<http://www.ioha2010.org/>).

Keynote speech, at IOHA 2010, by Dr Jukka Takala, Director EU-OSHA

Present, new and emerging risks

Sent by Jukka Takala E-mail: takala@osha.europa.eu

The European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) is a decentralized European body that collects, analyses and disseminates information on safety and health at work through the network of national focal points, research institutions, and is based on continuous collaboration between national and European tripartite collaboration between governments, workers and employers. The main products are the biannually arranged campaigns, good practice information and fact finding and research on occupational safety and health issues. In addition to the 27 EU Members, we work with the EFTA countries and candidate countries. Links and contacts with institutions globally enhance the relevance of the products and services.



Dr Jukka Takala, EU-OSHA

This presentation reviewed the latest information on traditional, new and emerging risks, indicators, trends, and recent strategies to make workplaces and countries safe, healthy, competitive and productive.

For the present study, employment figures, mortality rates, occupational burden of disease and injuries, reported accidents, surveys on self-reported occupational illnesses and injuries, attributable fractions, and the most recent information on the problems from published papers, documents, and electronic

data sources of international organizations have been reviewed, and European institutions/agencies, and public websites were studied. Programs and strategies to reduce the work-related negative outcomes at various levels were identified and analyzed.

Work-related illnesses that have a long latency period and are linked to ageing are clearly on the increase, while the number of occupational accidents has gone down in industrialized countries thanks to prevention and structural changes. Globally there are 2.3 million deaths annually for reasons attributed to work, and out of those, 167 000 in the EU27.

Long term health aspects and related occupational hygiene problems will need much more attention than earlier as traditional safety issues have been taken over by "new" health problems at work. We refer to prevention methods as a "toolbox" and categorize the following as "individual tools": legislation and enforcement, information on the existing state of problems and capacities (profile), knowledge of solutions and good practices, communication and promotion to increase awareness, and collaboration and networking for exchange of good practice. Global, regional, national, and sectoral strategies and systems cover these issues, reflecting their respective priorities.

The conclusion is that in the present political situation and serious economic downturn, legal measures need to be supplemented with economic justification and convincing

arguments to reduce corner-cutting and avoid long-term disabilities, premature retirement, and corporate closures due to a poor work environment. Quality work should be made not

only a survival strategy but a successful business and society strategy at all levels.

A EU-OSHA document on this topic is available online at:

Comments on IOHA 2010, Rome

Berenice Goelzer
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This was an outstanding Conference that brought together so many colleagues from all over the world, including representatives from prominent international organizations and professional associations, including: Dr Maria Neira, Director, Public Health and Environment, World Health Organization (WHO); Dr Seiji Machida, Director of the ILO SafeWork, International Labour Office (ILO); Dr Jukka Takala, Director of the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA); Dr Kazutaka Kogi, President of the International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH); Dr Wendy MacDonald, Co-Chair Musculoskeletal Disorders Committee of the International Ergonomics Association (IEA), and, Marilyn Fingerhut, Co-Coordinator of the WHO Network of Collaborating Centers in Occupational Health. They all demonstrated appreciation for IOHA's work and the importance of occupational hygiene and prevention



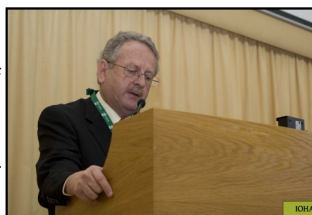
Kazutaka Kogi (ICOH), Maria Neira (WHO), Danilo Cottica (IOHA/AIDII) and Seiji Machida (ILO)

health: the effectiveness in improving small-scale workplaces" by Dr Kogi, "Global environmental change: opportunities and challenges for occupational health" by Dr. Neira, and, "National Strategies and Systems for Occupational Safety and Health" by Dr Machida.

Maria Neira (WHO) emphasized the importance of occupational hygiene in occupational and environmental health and expressed her views that occupational health and safety should have a higher place in the international development agenda, that we should further promote occupational hygiene outside our own circle, and added that there should be more visibility of workers' health problems in general, in order to motivate decision makers to take stronger action in this respect.

Seiji Machida (ILO) underlined the importance of occupational hygiene specialists, as important components of national OSH systems. The ILO has been working with its Member States for the continuous improvement of national OSH systems as described by the ILO Convention No. 187. All countries need to have a comprehensive system consisting of various sub-components, including legislation, compliance assurance mechanism, training, information and support services for

enterprise level OSH management systems. Occupational hygiene service is an area for reinforcement in many countries. IOHA is expected to contribute to such national efforts.



Brian Davies



Trevor Ogden

Brian Davies and Trevor Ogden received jointly the IOHA Life Achievement Award and gave excellent speeches, respectively on "Occupational Hygiene Education - the global approach" and "Occupational Hygiene Research Papers: A quick look at where they come from and where are they published". Both papers are published in the Italian Journal of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene (IJOEH - on-line at: www.ijoeht.it) and will be available on the IOHA website. Once more congratulations to both !

The Conference was an occasion to get acquainted with work carried out by colleagues in different parts of the world. As an example, Petra Beurskens, Jolanda Willems, Henri Heussen and other colleagues at Arbo Unie (Netherlands) have been carrying out excellent work on Video Exposure Monitoring using PIMEX (Picture Mix Exposure) developed by Gunnar Rosén and Ing-Marie Andersson (Sweden). They have prepared about one hundred educational short videos, demonstrating how exposure changes with different factors, for example, work practices; these videos are available online at the website www.ects.nl (Expert Centre of Chemical Risk Management). In this issue we have a notice about PIMEX by their creators and on the next issue we will have an article about Arbo Unie work in this respect.

It was very gratifying to have Dr K. Kogi share with us his continued work with the excellent programme "Work Improvement in Small Enterprises (WISE)", based on low cost but effective preventive interventions, designed with active participation of workers and other stakeholders. This kind of approach should be more widely followed; we will have an article in this respect.

I was impressed with all the presentations I managed to attend; you can see some examples in this issue. We will have articles on more presentations in the next Newsletter, for example, on Occupational Hygiene Training, Occupational Health in the Health Sector and Nanotechnology, among others. You may find details, including the list of topics, presentations and speakers,

as well as a complete Photo Gallery, online at: <http://www.ioha2010.org/>.

This kind of Conference also provides a unique opportunity to discuss informally with many colleagues and this interaction is incredibly useful and rewarding.

Keynote speech by Prof. Michel Guillemin, University of Lausanne, Switzerland: "The Future of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene - a science becoming more and more essential"

Prof. Guillemin spoke about the role of Occupational Hygiene in the broad field of Occupational Health and Safety and in Society, as the reference science of the chronic risk analysis and control, as well as on the challenges the Occupational Hygiene profession has to cope with.



Occupational health professionals are the core providers of the necessary scientific knowledge to adequately assess the risks of the environment (occupational and general). For example, concerning chemicals, Occupational Hygiene is of fundamental importance for the implementation of REACH.

This speech also drew attention to the obvious links between the occupational and the general environment, and the following points were mentioned:

1. Major accidents are quite often related to a failure in the occupational risk management (e.g.: Seveso, 1976; Bhopal, 1984; AZF-Toulouse, 2001) and illustrate the poor understanding of the importance of the OH&S science.
2. Emissions from workplaces into air, water or soil, as well as transport of wastes and toxic chemicals illustrate clearly the relationships between the occupational and the general environment.
3. Indoor air is both an occupational and a public health problem.

However, these links are sometimes overlooked. The public is increasingly afraid of pollution (air, water and food) and environmental protection has been given a very high priority, while "the occupational environment has been forgotten and neglected although it has provided and still provides the scientific knowledge on the health effects of pollution."

Prof Guillemin underlined the strength of the core values of Occupational Hygiene which is both "an art and a science" where the specific competencies are all related to Ethics and Transparency as illustrated by the Figure 1



Figure 1
The core functions of Occupational Hygiene around Ethics

Another point emphasized by the speaker was the importance of the multidisciplinary approach for the solution of occupational and environmental health problems, and the fact that there are many new actors in Occupational Health, such as economists, management, lawyers, human resources professionals, insurances and health psychologists.



David Zalk, Marilyn Fingerhut, Luc Hamelin and Brian Davies

Very relevant advice given in his speech was that "we should be proactive in:

- cooperating with economists to evaluate the benefits of a sound risk management;
- collaborating with human resource managers to show the positive impact of improving the working conditions;
- promoting the development of new relevant OH&S indicators in order to properly manage the risks, and,
- making the interdisciplinary team a reality in the field with the consequence of developing the cross-fertilization."

In his view, in order to further develop our profession "we should take advantage of:

- our importance in the scientific arena (for example, in relation to epidemiology);
- the good acceptance of our field by the other experts (e.g., by ICOH), and,
- the vitality and quality of our international professional association (IOHA)."



Isabel Hernández and Maria de la Paz Estevez, from the Venezuelan Association of Occupational Hygienists (AVHO), with IOHA President Luc Hamelin and IOHA President-elect Noel Tresider

All the occupational hygienists have the responsibility to communicate these specific competencies and qualities of our profession to raise the awareness of the stakeholders and the social partners about its importance and essential role.

Prof Guillemin concluded by saying: "I believe in the future of our profession because it fulfills the needs of our society to build up a healthy environment for healthy workers, in a healthy Society" and "To dare a dream of a better society is a step towards its construction !"

NEWS from Member Associations

From Australia

AIOH members contribute to an International Forum held in Brisbane, Australia - Griffith University and the Australian Institute of Occupational Hygienists host Chinese Delegation for an International Forum on "Promoting Health at Work"

Sent by David Grantham E-mail: david.grantham@justice.qld.gov.au

On 6 September, the Australian Institute of Occupational Hygienists (AIOH) participated in a free, one day international forum in Brisbane with a visiting Chinese delegation led by Prof Huang Hanlin, Vice President, Chinese National Association for Occupational Diseases. The delegation's members were mostly from Guangdong Province, with others from Shanghai, Beijing and Hangzhou. This forum was a joint effort organised between Griffith University's Centre for Environment and Population Health (CEPH) and the AIOH. This forum was organised by the Director of the CEPH, Professor Cordia Chu, whose teaching encompasses programmes and students across much of Asia in public health and promoting healthy workplaces through capacity building. It was through general promotion and capacity building in occupational hygiene that the AIOH became involved.

The event also marked the Australian launch of the adaptation and translation into Mandarin of the AIOH's "Principles of Occupational Health and Hygiene". This latter project has been underway since late 2008 and should become a reality in early 2011. AIOH signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the CEPH, which was finalised in 2009, for the use of its copyright to have this text translated into Mandarin. That work has progressed continuously since late 2008 with a team of translators and occupational health and hygiene experts in China and Brisbane making the text into a work suitable for Chinese workplaces.

Around 40-45 people attended the forum and, although the profile of many of the speakers was very high, this was essentially a grass roots undertaking but its significance should not be underestimated. Hygienists know intuitively that many major developments leading to improvement in occupational health arise from the investigations and labours of individuals and small groups who undertake investigations on topics, such as: better measurement; better standards; more appropriate controls; meaningful training, and making management more responsive.

All the visiting international speakers provided very candid assessments about occupational health issues. Professor Huang FEI noted the importance of, and the need for cooperative agreements between countries in capacity building. The medical, demographic, epidemiological and toxicological assessments provided by Professor Hanlin HUANG, Dr Jian Xun HUANG and Dr Jianming ZOU show very high medical and

scientific capacities being achieved by China. While there is ample population to study for first rate medical investigation and epidemiological study, this can inevitably produce large numbers of affected workers who have to be treated and cared for, which is now the case. Clearly occupational hygiene should find its natural constituency, as the major preventative tool, in these situations.



Ms Ariel Lou (Vice-Chief Inspector in Occupational Health), Prof Hanlin Huang (Vice President, National Association for Occupational Disease), Charles Steer (AIOH President), Noel Tresider (IOHA President-Elect), Dr. David Grantham (Acting Chief Occupational Hygienist Workplace Health and Safety Queensland, and original author of AIOH 'Principles of Occupational Health & Hygiene')

Dr Haiming MAI, from Guangdong, described his software programme containing an occupational health and hygiene risk assessment tool. It looks useful, and will find good application in any large operation, particularly plants with say thousands of workers and a range of different contaminant exposures, which will benefit from a large matrix analysis. As it is in English, it could be further explored. Dr MAI has indicated that some of the wisdom and processes of the AIOH's book have already been used to change the inspectorate practices to allow them to focus on the important content of risk management, which will help contain the high health costs to China's industry. Associate Professor Haiqing WANG from Shanghai's Centre for Disease Control said that the 14,000 revealed cases of dust disease are likely to be underestimated by a factor of about ten. Barriers to improvements are overlapping responsibility,

high levels of accumulated disease (prevalence), low awareness and weak technology for prevention. These are all intensified through imported occupational health hazards, the vast drift of migrant workers from rural areas, lack of funding and a lack of professional OHS practitioners.

Local speakers included: Mr Charles Steer, AIOH President; Dr Jeannette Young, Queensland Health's Chief Medical Officer; Dr Simon Blackwood, Executive Director of Workplace Health and Safety, Queensland; Mr Stewart Bell, Commissioner for Mine Safety and Health; Mr Noel Tresider, President-Elect of the International Occupational Hygiene Association; Dr Gaven Ballenden, representing the Australian Faculty of Occupational and Environmental Medicine; Brian Davies, Associate Professor, University of Wollongong; Dr Paul Johnson, Risk Management Coordinator from CEPH; Professor Cordia Chu, Director of CEPH,

and, Dr David Grantham, Acting Chief Occupational Hygienist, Workplace Health and Safety, Queensland.

This forum and the book translation, jointly supported by the Australia-China Council, the AIOH and the Queensland Mining Industry Health and Safety Conference, are good examples of internationalising the problems and their eventual solutions. If this project has a significant impact on improving the occupational health of workers in another country, it will be largely due to the labours of all those who contributed so freely of their time and talents to the original book, and then to those who took on the daunting task of translating its technical and philosophical content into Mandarin. Another possibility being considered by the CEPH is to have the book translated into Vietnamese.

From Brazil

The 5th Congress of the ABHO (Brazilian Occupational Hygienists Association)

Sent by Maria Margarida T. Moreira-Lima, ABHO, Brazil
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The National Congress of ABHO (V CBHO) was held in São Paulo, Brazil, from 27 to 29 September 2010. There were two hundred participants, from all over Brazil, as well as two occupational hygienists from Spain and the USA.



ABHO President, José Manuel Gana Soto, with ABHO representatives from the states of Minas Gerais, Espírito Santo, Paraná and Santa Catarina, Paraíba and Pernambuco, Rio de Janeiro, Bahia and Sergipe, and Rio Grande do Sul".

The main issue discussed was "Valuing Occupational Hygiene in Economic Growth". Other topics were also discussed including:

- Economic development and challenges in the prevention of occupational hazards;
- Chemical risk assessment using simplified methodologies;
- New technologies for assessing the representativeness of airborne particle fractions in the workplace;
- Nanotechnology: challenges for Occupational Hygiene;
- GHS: Advances and current issues;
- Origin, present and future of national legislation on unhealthy working conditions (Regulation MTE 3214/78 - NR-15).
- Assessment of exposure to pharmaceutical active ingredients and their control with the use of flexible containment;
- Occupational risks in sewing workshops in São Paulo:

what can be done by the occupational hygienist ?

- Occupational noise exposure in the activity of taxiing aircraft;
- Occupational hygiene and its contribution to the activity of professional fishing;

The professional occupational hygienist: certification and accreditation.

Short courses were offered, before and after V CBHO, as training activities and to provide information on occupational hygiene. Catherine Beaucham, from NIOSH, conducted a course on control banding, which was attended by many occupational hygienists, including the Fundacentro occupational hygiene team.

Several certified Brazilian occupational hygienists conducted courses on topics, such as: introduction to occupational hygiene, sampling strategy, audit of prevention programs, criteria for the evaluation of particulates, ventilation in confined spaces and the globally harmonized system for the classification and labeling of chemicals (GHS). One hundred and sixty professionals participated in these courses.



Course participants with Catherine Beaucham from NIOSH

From Japan

Japan Association for Working Environment Measurement (JAWE) - Second Central Symposium on Future Development of Work Environment Measurement and Control of Work Environment by enterprises as well as Universities with Respect to Chemical Substances and Dust; How to promote autonomous Management/Control of toxic substances

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

JAWE), whose Chairperson is Mr. Shigeru Oshita, Managing Director, General Manager, Personnel & Labour Relations Division, Nippon Steel Corporation, held the above-mentioned Symposium on 9 September 2010, in Tokyo. This Symposium was organized for the second time, by the Headquarters of JAWE as the part of the 24th Nationwide Campaign for Promotion of Working Environment Measurement and Evaluation of its Result, with the support of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW), Japan. It was planned to deepen the understanding of the importance to conduct measurements and, based on their results, to promote hazard control in the work environment, including for noise, illumination and other hazards, in enterprises and especially in National University Corporations. It should be noted that, whereas the Occupational Safety and Health Law was not applied National Universities, it is now applied to National University Corporations, in view of the National University Corporation Law, enforced in 2004.

The Symposium consisted of two parts, namely, special lectures and a Panel-Discussion (see photo).

The first special lecture by Mr. Shinichi Abuku, General Manager, Health Promotion Department, Personal & Labour Relations Division, Safety Enhancement Division, was entitled "How to make use of the results of Work Environment Measurement for the management/control of Occupational Health". In his presentation, by slides, he introduced first the process of production of steel in his enterprise, including blast furnace, converter and continuous-casting machine.

Next, he presented his company's basic policy for management of chemical substances used in their processes, including hazard assessment and risk control, obtaining hazard information through MSDS and other sources, before chemicals are introduced into factory sites, identifying possible unwanted chemical reactions among used substances, as well as preparing MSDS of his company's products (and attaching them), among other measures.

He presented the following priority of measures for the improvement of work environment and the prevention of occupational hazards:

1) abolition of production or use of toxic chemicals or other

- materials, or substitution by less toxic substances;
- 2) suppression of emission, release or spread of toxic chemicals or other materials by the improvement of design of processes or methods of work;
- 3) suppression of emission, release or spread of toxic chemicals or other materials by adoption of closed systems, automation, remote control or isolation of harmful processes;
- 4) suppression of emission, release or spread of toxic chemicals or other materials by local exhaust ventilation or push-pull type local ventilation;
- 5) dilution of toxic chemicals or other materials by general ventilation;
- 6) assessment of the state of control measures for toxic chemicals or other materials through Working Environment Measurement;
- 7) control of work time or work method, including the use of appropriate personal protective equipment;
- 8) special health surveillance of workers during their employment or redeployment of workers, and,
- 9) early detection of health impairment by periodical specialized medical examinations.



Moreover, he introduced his company's successful measures for prevention of exposure to noise and elimination of exposure to asbestos, among others.

The second special lecture by Dr Seitaro Dohi, M.D., Ph.D., Head of Chief Health Management Dept., Human Resources & Employee Relations Division, Mitsui Chemicals Incorporation, was entitled "Risk management for occupational safety and health, from the view point of an occupational physician".

He explained the extent and elements of employers' responsibility for workers' safety and health, and presented, by slides, a principle for management/control of toxic substances to prevent health hazards. He emphasized that, in order to comply properly with occupational safety and health laws and regulations, it is important that occupational hygiene professionals participate in the planning and design of factory equipment. Moreover, if some provisions under occupational safety and health laws and regulations are unclear, it is important to clarify them by internal company rules.

Dr Seitaro Dohi also stressed the importance of active use of OHSMS and active risk communication between workers and occupational hygiene professionals, as well as risk assessment of sensitizers, among other aspects.

Next, Ms. Noriko Kamezawa, Director, Office of Working Environment Improvement, MHLW introduced recent activities and tasks, especially with regard to two Expert Committees,

namely on “the sound management/control of chemical substances in work places” and on “measures for prevention of passive smoking”, among other aspects.

The Panel-Discussion followed and the theme was “The present state and future development of Control of Working Environment, in national university corporations as well as private universities in Japan.” There were four presentations in this Panel, by four participants (three of them were from National University Corporations and one from a working environment measurement agency.). There was also one comment by Professor Toshio Nagoya, School of Creative Science and Engineering, Waseda University.

The four presentations were as follows:

“The present state of working environment measurement in Tohoku University”, by Osamu Nakamura, Assistant to Professor, Environment Conservation Centre, Tohoku University

He introduced the present state of working environment management/control, including the record of performance and the evaluation of the results of working environment measurement, as well as the needs and problems related to working environment measurement in Tohoku University, among other aspects.

“The Present state and future development of working environment control in Ibaraki University” by Teruaki Hasegasa, Section Chief for Safety and Health, Labour Affairs Division, Department of Administrative Affairs, Ibaraki University

He introduced the system for occupational safety and health management/control as well as the purpose, the activities, the chronological history and the record of performance of working environment measurement in his university, among other aspects.

“The Present state of working environment measurement in Tokyo Institute of Technology” by Noriko Hasegawa, Associate

Professor, General Safety Management Centre, Management Centre, Tokyo Institute of Technology

She introduced the problems of safety management/control, especially as a single-subject college with regard to Science and Engineering, the system for environmental protection, safety and health, the tasks and activities for safety and health, the adoption of OSHMS, as well as the performance of the sound control of chemical substances, in her university, among other aspects.

“Present state and future development of working environment management/control in universities, from the view point of a working environment measurement agency” by Toshibumi Ashida, Director, Department of Environmental Science, Kanagawa Health Service Association

He introduced the difference between factories and universities with regard to the handling and use of chemical substances, the problems concerning availability of competent staff and the selection/procurement of items for working environment measurement, and also discussed the results and evaluation of working environment measurements, as well as the selection and use of local ventilation systems in universities, among other aspects.

These presentations were followed by a questions and answers session and a discussion on these topics, conducted by Professor Toshio Nagoya. Ms. Noriko Kamezawa, from MHLW, commented and advised in response to these questions and answers.

The symposium was attended by 150 participants, as well as guests including representatives from the Headquarters of MHLW. Among the participants, 36.8% were Occupational Hygienists in the field of Working Environment Measurement, 13.6% licensed health supervisors, 12.0% persons in charge of occupational safety and health, 6.5 % licensed occupational hygiene consultants, 3.8% entrepreneurs, 2.2% occupational physicians, 1.6% public health nurses/nurses and 0.5% governmental officials in charge of occupational health.

From KOREA

KSOEH Annual Conference 2010

Sent by Jae-Kil Jang, Board of Director of KSOEH Email: cihjj@kosha.net

The Korean Society of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene (KSOEH), whose president is Jong-Min Paik, Professor of Department of Industrial Health, Catholic University of Pusan, held its Annual Conference 2010 on 28 and 29 January, in Pusan, located at the southern part of Korea. Nearly 300 scientists participated in the general session, academic workshops and Lee Kwang-Mook sessions.

Mr. Shigeru Asuka, executive director of the Japanese Association for Working Environment Measurement (JAWME) was invited as the special lecturer of the opening session. He introduced the Japanese regulatory framework for occupational safety and health, for workplace monitoring schemes, and for occupational safety and health consultants. This was very

welcome by KSOEH as the association is trying to expand its academic territory from national to international issues. As previously published in the IOHA Newsletter, KSOEH and JAWME had a MoU signing ceremony for future bilateral cooperation. The two associations will expand their scope to include the exchange of field experiences in occupational hygiene, which are available in each country.

For the academic workshops, which were co-hosted by Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency (KOSHA), seven sessions were organized. In each session, chaired by an academic professor or professional occupational hygienist, 5 to 8 scientists presented following topics:

- Occupational exposure monitoring and evaluation
- Ergonomics and indoor air quality
- Occupational toxicology, chemical analysis, asbestos, and ventilation
- Health promotion and hazardous chemicals
- Occupational exposure assessment (for KOSHA staff)
- Occupational illnesses and toxicology (for KOSHA staff)
- Occupational safety and health statistics and policy (for KOSHA staff)

On Friday, a special seminar was held in memory of late Prof. Kwang-Mook Lee, who was a pioneer in the field and taught occupational hygiene at the Catholic University from the late 1960s to the 1990s. This seminar gathered professionals and students who are majoring in occupational hygiene and health. The topics discussed in this memorial session were the following:

- Assessment (by frequency analysis) and management of noise
- Geological approaches to asbestos
- Identification of aerobic bacteria, *Mycobacterium* sp., by GC-fatty acids method
- Control technology to prevent dust explosions in local exhaust fans

- Application of an assessment tool for musculoskeletal disorders

There was a poster session with about 40 poster presentations on topics that included:

- Quality control programmes in occupational hygiene analytical laboratories
- Biological monitoring for industrial chemicals
- Occupational toxicology experiment results
- Musculoskeletal diseases in industrial settings
- Material Safety Data Sheet and hazard communication information
- Asbestos and local exhaust ventilation
- Indoor air quality in offices and homes
- Improvements in the occupational environment and control technologies
- Monitoring of bioaerosols and of noise exposures

KSOEH is planning to hold an international symposium as the next year annual conference; this will take place in Seoul, Korea, in late January, 2011. Many international occupational hygiene experts will be invited as special speakers and presenters.

Members of KSOEH are celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2010.

News from the European Union

International Panel for Working Life (IPWL)

Sent by Dr Jukka Takala E-mail: takala@osha.europa.eu

An International Panel for Working Life, IPWL, is being established. The first meeting was held in Singapore in September following the meeting of the International Advisory Panel for Singapore. It is expected to be a coordinating, rather than duplicating body, covering OSH policy advice, scientific knowledge and background, and latest facts and news. Both policy and practice components need to be equally involved.

The first actions planned include a resolution on Asbestos (chrysotile) and a Global OSH Status Report. So far colleagues from, for example, the USA, Singapore, KOSHA (R.o.Korea), IALI, ICOH, German Accident Insurance (DGUV), Finnish Institute, NIOSH and EU-OSHA have been active. IOHA President and Board have also been contacted and I would like to extend the invitation to IOHA and its members to cooperate. Other organisations are being approached. ILO and WHO are the higher level organisations that have already been contacted.

IPWL will be inclusive of all who have an interest in bringing occupational safety and health to a higher level in the international and development agenda, and may cover as many experts and organisations as the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). However, a core group is required for defining the strategies and actions in a wide scale.

Organisations and individuals who are interested in contributing may contact Dr Jukka Takala, Director, European Agency for Safety and Health at Work, Director, European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA), for further information.

Economic incentives pay dividends for workplace safety and health

Newly published research by the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) suggests that economic incentive schemes encouraging companies to invest in risk prevention are a cost-effective option for governments looking to cut the numbers of work-related accidents and illnesses. The EU-OSHA report on economic incentives was launched at a conference of the International Occupational Hygiene Association (IOHA) 'Health, Work and Social Responsibility' in Rome on 29 September 2010.

The full report "[Economic incentives to improve occupational safety and health: a review from the European perspective](#)" is available online at: http://osha.europa.eu/en/publications/reports/economic_incentives_TE3109255ENC

The Factsheet (in 22 languages) is available online at: <http://osha.europa.eu/en/publications/factsheets/95>

Safe maintenance goes to top of the agenda in European Week

Safe maintenance was the focus of this year's European Week for Safety and Health at Work (25 – 29 October 2010) as hundreds of conferences, exhibitions, and training sessions - organised by the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) and its partners - were held in more than 30 countries across Europe.

The events equip stakeholders with relevant knowledge on how to get maintenance right – the healthy and safe way. By bringing together government, business and the general public, the importance of safe maintenance will be cemented across sectors and national borders.

Key in this European Week were the 30 new Official campaign partners - a wide range of companies and associations from the private and public sector, including some of Europe's most well known companies who have joined forces with the Agency and started to promote good practices in safe maintenance through a variety of activities.

For further information about the European Week and the activities visit the Healthy Workplaces Campaign website at: <http://hw.osha.europa.eu>

Healthy workplaces in the spotlight as documentary film award winner revealed

All That Glitters, a thought-provoking film about a worker in a goldmine in an inhospitable region of Kyrgyzstan, has been announced as the winner of the second Healthy Workplaces Film Award for the best documentary on work-related topics. The award is supported by the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) as part of its mission of promoting safer and healthier workplaces in Europe.

The Healthy Workplaces Film Award is given to an authored creative and artistic documentary, fostering debate and discussion among European citizens on the importance of safety and health at work. The film should have a specific point of view that convinces the jury by its compelling storytelling, strong characters and excellent filmmaking skills regarding camera work, sound and montage.

http://osha.europa.eu/en/about/competitions/hw_film_award_2010

Mainstreaming OSH into business management

How can businesses improve their organisational performance and at the same time create safer and healthier working environments? A new report and factsheet give information on how to incorporate workplace safety and health into general business management, including a literature review, a policy overview and examples of good practice.

The full report is available online at: http://osha.europa.eu/en/publications/reports/mainstreaming_osh_business

The Factsheet (in 22 languages) is available online at: <http://osha.europa.eu/en/publications/factsheets/92/view>

Updated section on legislation

The EU-OSHA legislation section has been recently updated. Up to date information on European directives on health and safety at work in all EU languages as well as other practical documents aiming to improve health and safety at work can be easily accessed online at:

<http://osha.europa.eu/en/legislation/>

More information from EU-OSHA can be found at the site: <http://osha.europa.eu/>

European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound)

Fifth European Working Conditions Survey – 2010 (<http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/ewco/surveys/ewcs2010/>)

Fieldwork for the 5th European Working Conditions Survey was carried out between January and June of 2010 and the first results were presented on 16 and 17 November 2010 by the director and researchers from the Dublin-based European

Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound).

The questionnaire covered issues of precarious employment, leadership styles and worker participation as well as the general job context, working time, work organization, pay,

work-related health risks, cognitive and psychosocial factors, work-life balance and access to training. A number of questions were included to capture the impact of the economic downturn on working conditions.

Almost 44,000 workers were interviewed, covering 34 countries – EU27 PLUS Norway, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Albania, Montenegro and Kosovo – making this wave the most comprehensive one so far, in terms of geographical coverage. The survey process was documented in detail.

Currently, 84% of EU-27 workers report that they are satisfied or even very satisfied with their working conditions – an increase of 2% over 2000 and 2005. However, one quarter of European workers still feel that work is having an adverse effect on their health. Likewise, although 90% of European workers consider that they are well informed about the risks to their health and safety, 25% of them feel that their health and safety are threatened in the conduct of their work. All these indicators vary according to the position occupied in the social division of labour: manual workers are more likely to consider their health to be at risk and affected by their work than clerical workers.

Unfortunately the proportion of workers forced to make repetitive hand or arm movements continues to increase. In 2010, the share of workers exposed to this risk stood at 63.5%, an increase of 7.4% in ten years. The proportion of workers who are forced to adopt painful or tiring positions for at least a quarter of their working time has risen by 1% over 2005, and now stands at 46 %. Exposure to this risk is far higher among manual workers (72% among skilled workers and 59% among unskilled workers).

Exposure to chemicals has also increased, although to a lesser extent: currently, an average of 15.3% of EU-27 workers is exposed to them, compared to 14.5% in 2005.

The full report on the fifth European Working Conditions Survey will be published in the next few months. Further information on the methodology and initial results are already available online at:

<http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/pubdocs/2010/74/en/2/EF1074EN.pdf>

and

<http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/ewco/surveys/ewcs2010/results.htm>

International Actions

FOHS 2010 Worldwide Outreach Program - Supporting Educational Needs in Developing Countries since 2003

Sent by Marilyn Fingerhut

Email: maf2@cdc.gov

Mission

The mission of the Foundation for Occupational Health and Safety (FOHS) "Worldwide Outreach Program" is to support the professional development of occupational health and safety with emphasis on primary prevention in Occupational Hygiene throughout the world.

Goal

The goal of this Program is to provide cooperative financial and technical support to enhance organizations emphasizing occupational hygiene training and education.

Grant Announcement

FOHS announces a calendar year 2010 grants, total value of each up to US \$2,000. It is recommended that individual proposals be in the US \$1,000 - \$2,000 range. This is not a monetary award but must identify specific educational or research materials needed to support a program. One identified and fundable objective is to provide packages of published materials that would enhance an organization's library.

Eligibility

Qualifying educational organizations, professional organizations, and non-government organizations and/or collaborating centers are eligible to apply. Those seeking to

further the goals of the World Health Organization Collaborating Centers for Occupational Health's (WHOCC) Work Plan are further encouraged to apply.

Proposal Evaluation

Criteria used to evaluate the proposal include:

- Eligibility of organization;
- Demonstrated support of Occupational Hygiene training and education activities;
- Meeting the FOHS program mission and goals, and,
- Potential for long-term development of in-country professionals including knowledge and skill transfer.

Internet Links

FOHS Worldwide Outreach Program Home Page: <http://www.fohs.org/WOPrgm.htm>

ONLINE Grant Submittal Form: http://www.fohs.org/WOP_GrantFrm.htm

WHOCC: http://www.who.int/occupational_health/network/en/index.html

International Occupational Hygiene Training (OHLearning.com) Update - November 2010

Sent by: Roger Alesbury E-mail: roger@alesbury.net

On November 1st, OHLearning.com had been live for 6 months. It has been a very busy time, with well attended workshops and presentations at both AIHce in Denver and IOHA in Rome. For those interested in website statistics, in those first 6 months we had over 13,000 visits to the site from individuals in 116 countries. The one week training modules with student assessment have now been run successfully in Azerbaijan, China, Indonesia, South Africa, UK and USA. There are now 28 Approved Training Providers (ATPs) offering courses around the world - 28 scheduled over the coming months (see below), covering all 7 of the intermediate modules and the new **basic principles in occupational hygiene** course. The countries with courses currently available include: Australia, Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Norway, Spain, UK and USA, with more planned in other locations. Check out the website for details.

Here are some of the other developments since our last status report.

Through the efforts of Dave Zalk and the board of IOHA, OHLearning.com has now been approved as a WHO project. The AIHA Control Banding Group is also working on a module on control banding which has also been approved as a project by WHO.

Users of the site can now register interest with Approved Training Providers from the tabs against course events in OHLearning.com. Although the course materials are open access and can be downloaded and used by anyone, only Approved Training Providers have been reviewed to verify they have the necessary professional tutors, equipment and training facilities. Courses run by Approved Training Providers are the only ones where all students are enrolled to take the student assessment leading to the internationally recognised and transferable qualifications. Those successfully completing the assessment are awarded with Certificates bearing the wording 'supported by IOHA' and the IOHA logo.

International Modules are also available in academic

programmes. In addition to the University of Wollongong (UoW) in Australia, The University of Antofagasta, Chile, in alliance with UoW, ran their first module in Spanish, as part of an MSc Occupational Hygiene Practice which commenced there in May. These translated modules are now being cross-checked and, once verified, they will be posted on OHLearning.com together with the Norwegian version of W501. ABHO in Brazil is organising to translate materials into Portuguese, and ArcelorMittal and SOFHYT are working on French versions.

ABIH now awards 5.3 CM points for successful completion of core modules and the student assessment.

In addition to funding, our current sponsors SKC and 3M, have both provided assistance to ATPs by providing monitoring equipment and materials for courses. We are currently exploring other sponsorship deals, so if you know any companies that share our aims and want to be associated with OHLearning.com, please let us know.

A document setting out ideas on future governance has been posted on OHLearning.com under the Community section. We welcome your views, so log in, check it out and please let us have your comments.

...and finally, after encouragement from Max Lum of NIOSH, we are setting up a Twitter account, so join in and follow us:

[FOLLOW US ON twitter](#)

[@ohlearning](#)

Until next time!

Roger Alesbury

On behalf of the team at OHLearning.com



Courses on OHLearning at 8 Nov 2010

M201 Thermal Environment and Non-Ionising Radiation (including Lighting)	10-Jan-11	Portsmouth, UK	Gully Howard
M103 Control of Hazardous Substances	24-Jan-11	Portsmouth, UK	Gully Howard
W501 Measurement of Hazardous Substances	31-Jan-11	Melbourne Victoria	HAZCON pty
W505 Control of Hazardous Substances	07-Feb-11	Barcelona, Spain	Gully Howard
W-501, Measurement of Hazardous Substances	07-Feb-11	Hyderabad, India	Nayati International
W505 Control of Hazardous Substances	04-Apr-11	Surabaya, Indonesia	UBAYA University

W501 Measurement of Hazardous Substances	11-Apr-11	Wollongong, Australia	University of Wollongong
W201 Basic Principles of Occupational Hygiene	11-Apr-11	Brazil	Gully Howard
W506 Ergonomics Essentials	11-Apr-11	Melbourne Victoria	HAZCON pty
W502 Thermal Environment	09-May-11	Portsmouth UK	Gully Howard
W201 Basic Principles of Occupational Hygiene	06-Jun-11	Portsmouth UK	Gully Howard
W504 Asbestos and Other Fibres	04-Jul-11	Portsmouth, UK	Gully Howard
W504 Asbestos and Other Fibres	04-Jul-11	Melbourne Victoria	HAZCON pty
W503 Noise - Measurement and its' effects	11-Jul-11	Wollongong, Australia	University of Wollongong
W505 Control of Hazardous Substances	11-Jul-11	Melbourne Victoria	HAZCON pty
W502 Thermal Environment	19-Sep-11	Wollongong, Australia	University of Wollongong
W504 Asbestos and Other Fibres	19-Sep-11	Wollongong, Australia	University of Wollongong
W503 Noise Measurement and Effects	26-Sep-11	Melbourne Victoria	HAZCON pty
W503 Noise - Measurement and Effects	03-Oct-11	Portsmouth UK	Gully Howard
W201 Basic Principles of Occupational Hygiene	05-Dec-11	Portsmouth, UK	Gully Howard
W506 Ergonomics Essentials	09-Jan-12	Wollongong, Australia	University of Wollongong

Contributions from Readers

From Canada

News from the IRSST

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

Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning - Validation of System Cleaning Initiation Criteria under Real Conditions

The IRSST just published a document aimed at assessing different methods of sampling dust in ducts.

This study was carried out under real dust-accumulation conditions inside the components of non-industrial HVAC systems (e.g. schools, office buildings, or hospitals).

Researchers established HVAC-system cleaning initiation criteria for these conditions. These criteria, which were identical to those obtained in the laboratory for the IRSST and NADCA methods, were 23 mg/100 cm² for the ASPEC method, 6.0 mg/100 cm² for the IRSST method, and 2.0 mg/100 cm² for the NADCA method. All three methods can therefore be used,

provided that their specific cleaning initiation criterion is applied.

The ASPEC method under real conditions, although the criterion differs from that determined in the laboratory, aspirates most of the surface dust in the duct and is therefore a preferable option to the other two, which aspirate only the surface dust. In conclusion, it is this method that yields the most accurate results and the smallest standard deviation.

The document is available for download at:

http://www.irsst.qc.ca/fr/publicationirsst_100561.html

From Sweden

Video exposure monitoring (PIMEX) for training materials

***Sent by Gunnar Rosén E-mail: grs@du.se
and Ing-Marie Andersson E-mail: ima@du.se***

In the December 2005 issue of the IOHA Newsletter T.W. Tsin, then IOHA President, described our training material called "Hazard Prevention and Control in the Work Environment: Airborne Dust". The material was based on WHO Prevention And Control Exchange "PACE" compendium transferred to electronic format.

PIMEX video illustrations were added to the text with the aim of visualizing important control examples. PIMEX is a video exposure monitoring method, which combines results from real-time monitoring instruments with images from a video camera.

This audio-visual training material was delivered on two CD-ROMs. Hundreds of copies have been distributed and used mainly in developing countries. Based on the same PIMEX technology, a number of training videos have been produced focusing on control of exposure to airborne contaminants in different branches. One example is the Dutch Stoffenmanager which includes such PIMEX-videos (For Stoffenmanager, see: <https://www.stoffenmanager.nl/>).

A research grant from the Swedish AFA Insurance has made it possible to further build on this work. In close collaboration with employers' organizations and unions in Sweden, a number

of situations will be selected where exposure to air contaminants is a potential problem. The PIMEX-method will be used in the selected workplaces for detailed studies in order to describe how exposure varies and why, as well as how exposure peaks occur.

The result will include many hours of PIMEX-videos from various work situations of interest; this will form the base for the production of new training materials. Target groups for such material are, for example, students in vocational schools and universities, workers in industry, designers of control technology, occupational hygiene practitioners, and researchers in occupational hygiene as well as in epidemiology.

An ongoing evaluation of the materials usability and relevance for different target groups is an important part of the project. The experience from this evaluation will be incorporated in the final products.

As these training materials may also be of interest outside Sweden, we will search for partners interested in collaborating with this project, aiming at the preparation and use of materials for a wider audience.

Disclaimer:

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