

# NEWSLETTER

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## Letter from the Editor

Dear Colleagues,

It amazes me how often more importance is given to the assessment of unhealthy working conditions and their consequences than to their prevention, including in occupational health research, studies and publications. Even when preventive actions are taken, not enough emphasis is given to actually avoiding hazards; in fact, there is more control than real prevention. Therefore it is great to see an initiative like "Prevention through Design", presented under News from NIOSH in this issue. This is an example to be promoted and followed everywhere. It is time that decision makers, who can influence what is done in institutions and at the workplace, learn to dedicate a larger share of resources to prevent rather than only assess exposures or deal with their unfortunate consequences.

Obviously, for improved prevention there is a need for increased political will and for competent professionals, that is, occupational hygienists, when dealing with occupational diseases.

As to promoting occupational health and occupational hygiene, it is important to mention the recent book by Michel Guillemin, one of the most prominent occupational hygienists today and a fighter for our profession (see notice in this issue). This book goes beyond technical and scientific dimensions, covering a range of issues involved in the lack of attention to a field so vital for workers, society and countries. I was very proud to write the Preface to this book that I see as a milestone in raising much needed awareness as it presents a thorough study on the evolution of work, its many facets and implications, and on what is happening, or better, not happening with regard to hazard prevention. The causes for indifference and inactivity vis-à-vis prevention are analyzed, so that they may be questioned and eliminated. Many of us who have been fighting for a wider recognition and development of occupational hygiene feel discouraged with our slow progress. Perhaps, after reading and thinking over this book, instead of giving up, we will renew our will to fight in order to overcome the various obstacles to the full understanding of our profession and its unquestionable need. As Michel wrote in his book: "To dare dream of a better world is a step towards its achievement."

Training is also a key issue. One problem in many countries is that occupational hygiene is not officially recognized, therefore universities and other institutions do not receive enough support or guidance to develop high level courses in this field, and quality of training cannot be enforced.

Just to give an example in one country: in Brazil, occupational medicine and safety engineering are officially recognized professions, requiring for their practice, besides the respective university degrees, graduate courses ranging from 400 to over 1,000 hours (plus considerable practice) for the former, and 650 to 750 hours for the latter. As to occupational hygiene, although several universities have good courses at the graduate level (usually around 400 - 450 hours), these are not enough and the result is that some "occupational hygienists" are trained through a patchwork of short courses, whose relevance, within a comprehensive framework of required knowledge, and quality control cannot be legally enforced, as for the other occupational health professions. Although some of these short courses are very good, others leave much to be desired and there is no possibility to officially regulate them. Similar situations occur in many other countries, where there are excellent occupational hygienists, but also poorly trained ones and this jeopardizes the profession.

In this respect, I would like to quote a great occupational hygienist, a great colleague and a dear friend, R. J. Sherwood: "It does not seem consistent to require high standards of education and experience for those studying the medical effects of failure of control systems, while leaving the more important preventive work open to people with no prescribed standard of competency." This was a quarter of a century ago, but unfortunately is still relevant today in many places !

Continuing with the Brazilian example, it is paradoxical that there is an official Norm that requires from employers to elaborate and implement hazard prevention programmes, indicating that this should be achieved "through the anticipation, recognition, evaluation and control of occupational risks that exist or will occur in the workplace, taking into account the protection of the general environment and natural resources", while occupational hygiene is not recognized as a profession, hence there are no official guidelines for its development. It was very rewarding to see that the Brazilian Association (ABHO) Congress dedicated its 2011 annual Conference to "Education and Training in Occupational Hygiene", as you may see in this issue. This is a matter to be carefully considered by all our professional associations as they are in a position to play a key role in ensuring professional competence, even in the absence of official guidelines, for example, by promoting, supporting and advising on reliable training principles and activities, as well as through certification schemes.

I believe it is important to bring to your attention two recent international meetings, namely the ISSA/ILO XIX World Congress on Safety and Health at Work, which took place in Istanbul in September, and the WHO World Conference on Social Determinants of Health, which just took place in Rio. In both events high level decision makers from all over the world met and topics related to workers' health were discussed, as you may see in the respective notices in this Newsletter. It was gratifying to see working conditions considered as undeniable health determinants

and the need to strengthen occupational health and safety emphasized. continuous exchanges of ideas.

I take this opportunity to wish to our colleague and friend Jukka Takala a very happy retirement from EU-OSHA and congratulate him on his remarkable achievements. Fortunately he will continue to push IPWL from Tampere University of Technology in Finland (new e-mail: [jstakala@gmail.com](mailto:jstakala@gmail.com)). At the same time, congratulations and wishes for success to the new EU-OSHA Director, Dr Christa Sedlatschek.

Once more I would like to ask readers for views, concerns and experience on the promotion of occupational hygiene as an indispensable component of workers' health, as well as on occupational hygiene training. These are matters that require

In this issue we have a number of very interesting contributions on practical aspects of occupational hygiene practice, from many different countries; thanks to all authors! Please, continue to send news about your work. Comments and suggestions for the improvement of this Newsletter are also welcome.

As this is the last Newsletter of the year, I wish to all of you a very joyful Holiday Season followed by a New Year of 2012 full of happiness and successes.

Best greetings to all  
Berenice Goelzer

[berenice@goelzer.net](mailto:berenice@goelzer.net)

## NEWS from IOHA

### IOHA Report from the IOHA Board Meeting, - 10 October 2011, Singapore

Sent by Sandi Atkinson, IOHA Executive Secretary E-mail: [sandi.atkinson@ioha.net](mailto:sandi.atkinson@ioha.net)

The meeting was held to coincide with the first AIHA Asia Pacific OH & EHS Conference in Singapore and the Board meeting was very kindly hosted by Statoil.



Group photo of IOHA Board members who attended the meeting in Singapore

On behalf of the Board, the IOHA President, Mr Hamelin extended a very special welcome to IOHA's newest members, the Occupational and Environmental Health Society of Singapore, represented at the meeting by their President Dr Gregory Chan and Mr Alvian Tan.

The meeting was also attended by representatives from the Australian, Canadian, Dutch, Hong Kong, Italian, Japanese (JAWE), Korean, Malaysian, Norwegian, Southern African and Taiwan associations.

Japanese (JAWE) representative, Mr Asuka took the opportunity to thank the Board for their very kind wishes and thoughts conveyed after the last meeting for the people of his country following the devastating earthquake.



President Noel Tresider and Dr Gregory Chan of OEHS Singapore

**IOHA 9th International Scientific Conference and 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
Mr Zainuddin (MIHA) and representatives from the organising committee of this conference delivered a comprehensive update of their progress in the organising of this very special conference for IOHA.

Abstracts are currently being received and the deadline for these is 16 December 2011. More detail of what you can expect from the conference in Malaysia can be found on page 4 of this issue.

#### IOHA 10<sup>th</sup> International Scientific Conference

The British Occupational Hygiene Society submitted a formal bid to host this conference in 2015. The outline proposal was agreed in principle by the Board and will be developed in collaboration with the IOHA Board and BOHS over the coming months.

#### IOHA Representation at External Conferences

XIX World Congress on Safety & Health at Work, 11-15 September 2011, Istanbul, Turkey, Dr Cottica (AIDII) and Dr Chen (TOHA) represented IOHA at this conference. The conference attracted over 3,000 delegates from over 60 countries and IOHA will be developing plans to collaborate with the organisers of the next conference due to take place in Frankfurt, Germany in 2014.

## ICOH 2012, Cancun, Mexico

Mr Tresider (AIOH) IOHA's new President will be delivering a plenary session at this conference 'describing the paradigm shift in training' it will be his intention to promote IOHA and OHlearning.

## Membership

In addition to the newest members from Singapore, IOHA have received an application for membership from the Macedonian Association of Industrial Hygiene and Occupational Health (MAIHOH) which is currently being reviewed by the Membership Committee.

The IOHA website [www.ioha.net](http://www.ioha.net) now includes guidance on how an association can join IOHA as well as help and advice for those wishing to form an association. <http://www.ioha.net/joinioha.html>

## Capitation Fees

IOHA has been in existence for 24 years and the fees charged to its member associations have remained static during that time. The Secretary Treasurer, Andrea Hiddinga of the Dutch Association conducted a review of IOHA's finances and realised that the income IOHA receives from member associations in the form of capitation fees is no longer covering the running costs of IOHA.

The Board have discussed this at great length over recent meetings and at this meeting in Singapore took the decision to increase the fees by 25% from 1 July 2012. In monetary terms for each association this means:

- £1.25 GBP each for the first 1000 members of their organisation
- £0.63 GBP each for all members over 1000

The total annual capitation fee payable by any one member organisation will not exceed 25% of the total capitation fee income received in the previous financial year.

## Recognising National Accreditation Schemes

The National Accreditation Recognition (NAR) Committee held a workshop on 9 October, the day before the Board meeting. The Dutch (NVvA) association's scheme has now been recognised for a further five years.

In addition, subject to the agreement of the respective associations the UK and Swiss NAR representatives were appointed for a second three year term to commence from the conclusion of their first term. With the IOHA board's concurrence, the nominations from Italy (Domenico Cavallo), US ABIH (Torey Nalbone), and Australia AIOH Gerard Tiernan, were appointed as the new representatives for those Certification Boards.

Mr Tresider confirmed he was now stepping down as Chair of the NAR Committee to be replaced by Mr van Vuuren of the Southern African Institute for Occupational Hygiene (SAIOH). The new representative for Australia would be Mr Tiernan who will officially replace Mr Tresider in April 2012. Thanks also went to Dr Cottica (AIDII) who has stepped down from the NAR Committee after serving six years and to Mrs Laszcz-Davis (ABIH) who also stepped down.

The President thanked Mr Tresider for his contribution and great achievements during his time as Chair of the NAR committee which has seen the number of recognised schemes grow from six to eleven during his tenure.



NAR Committee Workshop Attendees

## Farewell

Dr Cottica declared this was to be his last meeting of the Board and expressed his thanks for their support during his time representing the Italian association (AIDII) and as President. Mr Hamelin in response, thanked Dr Cottica for his time, attention, support and dedication to IOHA.

## IOHA Fourth Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The IOHA Board held its fourth AGM immediately after the close of business of the Board Meeting.

The business of the meeting, chaired by the President, Luc Hamelin, included accepting the minutes of the third AGM and re-appointing Sibbalds Chartered Accountants as the auditors.

The election process had taken place in the run up to the Board meeting and nominations were received for Secretary Treasurer and President Elect.

Andrea Hiddinga of the Dutch Occupational Hygiene Society (NVvA) is the Secretary Treasurer for 2011 to 2013. Jakob Nærheim of the Norwegian Occupational Hygiene Association (NYF) is the new President Elect for 2011 to 2012.

Having declared the meeting closed, Luc Hamelin handed the Association's gavel over to Noel Tresider of the Australian Institute of Occupational Hygiene (AIOH), who will be President of IOHA for 2011 to 2012.

The next meeting of the Board will be held on 17 June 2012 in Indianapolis, USA to coincide with the AIHce.



Handing over the Gavel, Immediate Past President Luc Hamelin to President Noel Tresider



THE 9<sup>TH</sup> IOHA INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE  
*"Growing the Seeds of Occupational Hygiene"*  
 Kuala Lumpur, 16-20<sup>th</sup> September 2012

Event by



Organized by



The Malaysian Industrial Hygiene Association (MIHA) is proud to host the 9th IOHA International Scientific Conference in Kuala Lumpur from 16th – 20th September 2012. With the theme "Growing the Seeds of Occupational Hygiene", the conference aspires to further promote industrial hygiene as a new field that begins to be recognized and in demand within the region.

IOHA Board Meeting

Professional Development Courses (PDC)

Podium Presentation

Poster Presentation

Exhibition

IOHA 25th Anniversary Gala Dinner

Technical Tours

Social Tours

## **IOHA 2012 Call for Papers**

IOHA 2012 Scientific & Technical Committee welcomes your presentation submission to share your expertise and experience to further inspire and provides solutions and best practices to continuously improve IH practices globally.

### **Topics:**

- \*Nanotechnology
- \*Asbestos
- \*Sustainable OH & Safety Management Systems
- \*PPE
- \*Human factors engineering
- \*Noise & hearing conservation program
- \*Emergency response and roles of IH
- \*Managing safety & health in workplace

- \*Globally harmonized system
- \*Exposure Assessment Strategies
- \*Indoor environmental quality
- \*Health risk assessment
- \*Occupational epidemiology
- \*OH issues in construction industry
- \*Exposure monitoring & lab capability

- \*IH capability & trainings
- \*Control banding
- \*Health management and promotion
- \*Industrial ventilation
- \*Ergonomics
- \*Toxicology
- \*Psychosocial
- \*Environmental health
- \*Managing biological hazards
- \*Confined spaces
- \*Ethics

All submissions must be received electronically by 5 p.m. MYT (UTC +08:00 hrs), **Friday, 16th December, 2011** at [www.IOHA2012.net](http://www.IOHA2012.net)

## **Registration**

We are open for registration in December 2011 at [www.IOHA2012.net](http://www.IOHA2012.net)

Conference Fee Structure	USD
Normal Conference Fee	980.00
IOHA Member Country (15% off)*	833.00
Developing Countries (35% off)*	637.00
Speakers (35% off)*	637.00
Undergraduate Students	200.00

# News from MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

From BOHS, UK

**International scientific conference on the science of exposure assessment in Edinburgh on 2-5 July 2012**



The British Occupational Hygiene Society is hosting an international scientific conference on the science of exposure assessment in Edinburgh on 2 – 5 July 2012 (X2012). This is the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting in a series that has focused predominantly (but not exclusively) on exposure assessment for occupational epidemiological studies and which has had a seminal impact on advancement of occupational exposure assessment science over the last three decades. The first in the series of “X” conferences was held in 1988 in Woods Hole, USA, followed by conferences in Leesburg, USA (1990); Lyon, France (1994); Gothenburg, Sweden (2001); Utrecht, The Netherlands (2004); and Boston, USA (2009).

The main motive of the conference is to address the challenges to improve our understanding of exposure and how it impacts on human health and to identify opportunities provided by recent advancements in methodologies to characterize, model, and estimate the exposure to chemical, physical and biological agents but also psychological factors. In order to achieve this, X2012 will bring together world leading experts in the field of exposure assessment and related sciences. As with previous meetings, X2012 will contribute to the developments in state-of-the-art methodologies and practices in this field, and thereby improve our knowledge base to effectively control exposure to hazardous agents in the work environment, at home and elsewhere in the general environment.

The conference committee has identified the following themes that are of particular interest:

- Nanotechnology and other new technologies or industries
- Exposome and exposure biology
- Recent advances in exposure modelling
- Application of novel sensors, including the use of mobile phone technology, for exposure assessment
- Biological monitoring, use of ~omics technologies
- Exposure assessment methods for population-based occupational epidemiological studies
- Exposure assessment following man-made and natural disasters
- Application of GIS and other tools for occupational exposure assessment
- Combined exposure assessment for hazardous agents from

- occupational, consumer and environmental sources
- Measurement strategies and methods for epidemiology and other applications
- Dermal and inadvertent ingestion exposure
- Non-chemical exposure (e.g. noise, EMF, work posture, psychosocial factors)
- Exposure assessment in developing countries
- Cumulative / aggregate exposure assessment in occupational and non-occupational situations.

The following keynote speakers have already confirmed:

Dr Roel Vermeulen (IRAS, University of Utrecht, NL) : Use of omics technology in occupational exposure assessment



Dr Dhimiter Bello (University of Massachusetts Lowell, US): Exposure assessment for nanomaterials



Prof Richard Wakeford (University of Manchester, UK): Exposure assessment following catastrophic events - the example of Fukushima



Dr Erik Tielemans (TNO, NL): Advancements in occupational exposure modelling



Dr Melissa Friesen (NCI, US): Advancements in exposure assessment for population-based occupational case-control studies



Further keynote lectures will be selected from abstracts submitted to the conference.

The call for abstracts is now open; the deadline for submission is **10 January 2011**. We welcome contributions from specialists in occupational and environmental health and safety. Please visit <http://www.x2012.org/> to find more information on the conference and also to submit your abstracts. In addition, we have set up a LinkedIn group specifically on the X2012 conference (<http://www.linkedin.com/groups/X2012-7th-International-Conference-on-3675496>), so if you are interested in this conference and would like to be kept up-to-date, please join this group. We are also considering setting up subgroups

linked to specific themes of the conference to stimulate discussions not just during but also before and after the meeting.

On behalf of the Organising and Scientific Committees, we look forward to welcoming you to the historic city of Edinburgh to help us make this a stimulating and memorable conference.

**Martie van Tongeren**, X2012 Organising Committee Chair  
**Frank de Vocht** X2012 Scientific Committee Chair

## From Brazil

### ABHO - VI Brazilian Congress on Occupational Hygiene

Sent by **Maria Margarida T. Moreira Lima**, ABHO Vice-president for Public Relations E-mail: [margarida.abho@gmail.com](mailto:margarida.abho@gmail.com)

As mentioned on the last Newsletter, the VI Brazilian Congress on Occupational Hygiene (CBHO) took place in São Paulo, on 22-24 August 2011 and was very successful, gathering 232 participants from all regions of Brazil. The choice of the theme "Education and Training in Occupational Hygiene, as a contribution to sustainable management" was very timely.

At the opening, ABHO President, José Manuel Gana Soto, emphasized the importance of this topic and quoted Jesse C. Ducommun: *"It should not be necessary for each generation to rediscover principles of process safety, which the generation before discovered. We must learn from the experience of others rather than learn the hard way. We must pass on to the next generation a record of what we have learned."*

The keynote speech "Occupational Hygiene Training", by Berenice Goelzer, who was responsible for occupational hygiene at the World Health Organization for 25 years, drew attention to the importance and urgency of developing adequate and sufficient human resources in this field, if the health of our workers and general environment are to be protected, thus ensuring a healthy and sustainable development for our country. The acute need for adequate and efficient preventive interventions requires competent professionals, hence adequate training. Berenice Goelzer finalized her speech with a suggestion that ABHO Board welcomed and that was the preparation of a reference document on Occupational Hygiene Training, by ABHO in collaboration with relevant universities and institutions, including topics such as: different levels in the professional occupational hygiene practice; proposal for a comprehensive programme for OH training, taking into consideration the PAHO/WHO recommendations for Latin America; discussion on training approaches, aiming at models that are realistic and feasible in Brazil, and, reliable sources of information and educational materials. The steps for this exercise would include establishment of a working group, peer consultation, meetings and search for partnerships, for example, from IOHA, ILO and PAHO/WHO (particularly their Collaborating Centres).

Certification was also discussed and Barbara Dawson, AIHA President elect, delivered a lecture on "Professional Certification for Occupational Hygienists by ABIH, USA".

At the end of the Opening Session, ABHO Board presented an homage to Berenice Goelzer for her valuable contribution to the development of occupational hygiene in Brazil and internationally.

The Programme included many Panels, namely:

Panel 1 - Education in Occupational Hygiene, coordinated by Roberto Jaques, ABHO Vice-presidente for Training and Education, with participation by professors from various Brazilian universities that already have OH training, namely: Medical Sciences School of the University of Minas Gerais (FCMMG), University of Caxias do Sul (UCS), Federal University of Bahia (UFBA), State University of Campinas (UNICAMP) and University of São Paulo (USP), as well as FUNDACENTRO. On this occasion participants received the translation into Portuguese of the PAHO/WHO publication "Occupational Hygiene in Latin America: a guideline for its development".

Panel 2 - Occupational Hygiene in the Oil Industry, coordinated by ABHO Technical Adviser José Gama de Christo, with presentations by João Gonçalves Ferreira from PETROBRAS and Paulo Sérgio Moraes from TRANSPETRO.

Panel 3 - Occupational Hygiene in Mining, coordinated by Mario Luiz Fantazzini, ABHO Vice-president for Studies and Research, with a presentation about the Brazilian Program of occupational safety and health in mining (MinerAÇÃO) by Cláudia Pellegrinelli, from IBRAM (Brazilian Mining Institute).

The Programme included very relevant lectures, for example: "Research and educational actions for dust control in the ceramic tile sector", by Maria Margarida Moreira Lima, occupational hygienist and researcher at Fundacentro; "New advances in passive sampling: performance, standards, technology and applications", by Debbie Dietrich, SKC, USA; "Evaluation of the efficiency of portable ventilation systems and respirators in controlling welding fumes", by Sérgio Caporali, University of Puerto Rico; "Guideline for OSH Management: Norms ABNT and NR-35", Leonídio Francisco Ribeiro Filho, Paulista University; "Technology for essays in noise dose in Call Centres workers", by Samir Gerges, Federal University of Santa Catarina; "Occupational Exposure to Benzene: history in Brazil, new international paradigms and OELs for carcinogenic agents", by Ana Cláudia Moraes, Fluminense Federal University and PETROBRAS.

Additional activities included two full days of PDCs (attended by 201 professionals), preceding the Congress, and a Poster Session.

The 2012 ABHO Congress will be held, in August in São Paulo, together with the IV Pan American Congress of Occupational Hygiene.

Further details (in Portuguese) are presented at the ABHO site: <http://abho.org.br/>

## From Japan

### Message from Mr. Takayoshi Meiga, President of JAWE

Dear Colleagues in the whole world,

On behalf of the Japan Association for Working Environment Measurement (JAWE), I would like to address my profound gratitude for your sympathy for the tragic disaster, resulting from the Great East Japan Earthquake and the devastating Tsunamis occurred on 11th March 2011 and associated nuclear accidents in the Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Power plant, as well as your praise for the calm and dignity of the Japanese people in face of such terrible losses and suffering, as posted in the IOHA Newsletter, June 2011.

Now, more than six months after the Great East Japan Earthquake, we, the Japanese People, are still facing many challenges concerning recovery from this disaster, as well as the control of the nuclear accidents, including Cool Down of the Nuclear Reactors, Containing the Spread of Radioactive Substances (sea, soil and atmosphere), Rigorous and Intensive Monitoring, and Ensuring the Safety of Food and Products.

I am aware that there are still many difficult tasks in these challenges; however we, the Japanese people, will certainly overcome these difficulties. On this occasion, I would like to ask all of you for continuous support for the efforts of the Japanese people for the recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake, as well as the nuclear accidents.

I would like to thank all of you so much again for your sympathy and encouragement to the Japanese people.

With my best greetings,

Takayoshi Meiga  
President, Japan Association for Working Environment Measurement  
Managing Director, Nippon Steel Corporation

## Japan Association for Working Environment Measurement (JAWE): 2011 General Meeting

Sent by Masayoshi Karasawa, Special Adviser, JAWE E-mail: [m19419k@yahoo.co.jp](mailto:m19419k@yahoo.co.jp)  
and Shigeru Asuka, Director General, JAWE E-mail: [sasuka@jawe.or.jp](mailto:sasuka@jawe.or.jp)

The Japan Association for Working Environment Measurement held an Ordinary General Meeting of the fiscal year 2011, on 26 May 2011, in Tokyo. In the Meeting, Mr. Takayoshi Meiga (pictured left), Managing Director, Nippon Steel Corporation, was elected as the New President of JAWE, succeeding Mr. Shigeru Oshita (pictured right), former Director, Nippon Steel Corporation, Immediate Past President, whose dedicated work for over two terms (total of two years) was highly appreciated. At the same time, the Board of Directors of JAWE, decided to have Mr. Shigeru Oshita as JAWE Chief Adviser, because of his great achievements in the field.



The Meeting was held with the objective of approving the business report and the accounting report for the fiscal year 2010, the JAWE programme and the budget for the fiscal year 2011, as well as holding a new election of President and other Directors of JAWE, who retired from their positions in the middle of their term. These

subjects were approved unanimously in the General meeting. 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, all the participants prayed silently for the dead victims in the Great East Japan Earthquake, on 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2011. Next, Mr. Shigeru Oshita, President of JAWE, presented the opening address. First of all, he mourned for the dead victims in the Earthquake and addressed his sincere sympathy for the sufferers of the Earthquake, as well as his conviction of the resuscitation from Great East Japan Earthquake Disaster by the Japanese people. At the same time, he introduced JAWE's emergency responses to the Earthquake as follows:

- upon request from the Ministry of Environment, JAWE organized the voluntary measuring system of asbestos in the area affected by the Earthquake, with full participation of JAWE members, including registered working environment measurement agencies, in order to measure asbestos concentrations in the air and/or asbestos contents in weight of construction materials and other bulk samples, free of charge or by a low price. Up to the present, more than seventy working environment measurement agencies nationwide, as full members of JAWE, joined this system,
- JAWE offered voluntary collaboration from its full members, in order to provide consultancy for measuring radiation intensity, as well for other related matters, upon request from local governments and others concerned with countermeasures against seismic damage of the nuclear reactors of the Fukushima Daichi Nuclear Power Station.
- JAWE started to collect contributions for the relief of the Earthquake sufferers.

Next, he stated that JAWE conducted successfully all the projects that were planned for the fiscal year 2010, including the General Accuracy Cross Check Project.

Mr. Shigeru Asuka, Director General of JAWE, then explained the business report and the accounting report for the fiscal year 2010, as well as the business programme and the budget for the fiscal year 2011 of JAWE. Among other activities, in the fiscal year 2010, JAWE:

1. Trained 858 Occupational Hygienists in the field of Working Environment Measurement (about 15 % decrease compared with the last fiscal year) as the activity of the Registered Training Institution under the Working Environment Measurement Law.
2. conducted the forth Accuracy Cross Check Project concerning the Evaluation of Asbestos in Bulk and Airborne Samples (see article on the April 2009 issue of the IOHA Newsletter, under Contributions from Readers) in which 509 Licensed Industrial Hygienists in the field of Working Environment measurement or other competent analytical specialists participated.
3. Conducted the Professional Occupational Hygienists Training Course in which 38 Licensed Industrial Hygienists in the field of Working Environment measurement or other competent specialists participated; in addition, JAWE certified, for the first time, 9 specialists as "Certified Occupational Hygienists", who completed 93 units/hours of course and passed successfully the required examination.

Moreover, he explained that, in the business programme for the fiscal year 2011, the following projects have been incorporated:

- A. Application to have the IOHA NAR (National Accreditation Recognition System) status for the JAWE programme of Certification of Occupational Hygienists.
- B. A General Accuracy Control Project conducted independently by JAWE, as before,
- C. An advanced training course on the Evaluation of Asbestos in Bulk Materials, as well as an accuracy control project, by cross-check of bulk blind samples (e.g., construction materials containing asbestos) and airborne blind samples.

At the end of the General Meeting, the new President of JAWE, as well as supplementary Directors of JAWE, were elected; Mr. Takayoshi Meiga is the new President of JAWE. Finally, Ms. Noriko Kamezawa, Director, Office of Working Environment Improvement, Department of Occupational Safety and Health, Labour Standards Bureau, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, who attended the General Meeting as a distinguished guest, addressed a congratulatory message.

JAWE, as an association, would like to contribute as much as possible to the improvement the Working Environment, the prevention of occupational diseases as well as the resuscitation from Great East Japan Earthquake.

## From the USA, AIHA

### Translations of the German IH MOD and IHSTAT

Sent by Kathryn Grandstaff, AIHA E-mail: [kgrandstaff@aiha.org](mailto:kgrandstaff@aiha.org)

In June, the American Industrial Hygiene Association® (AIHA) announced the development of the German translation of IH MOD and IHSTAT. This translation was made possible by a collaboration of the AIHA Exposure Assessment Strategies Committee and the Institut universitaire romand de Santé au Travail (Institute for Work and Health) in Lausanne, Switzerland.

IH MOD and IHSTAT are flexible spreadsheets, available for free download on the AIHA website, that implement many basic modeling and statistical analysis algorithms and help industrial hygienists both understand and use modeling and statistical analyzing as aspects in exposure assessments. The spreadsheets provide for a transparent understanding of each algorithm's function, parameters, and results

Industrial hygienists engaged in initial and on-going occupational exposure assessment work will benefit by having an easy to use implementation of mathematical modeling and analysis methods. IH MOD also has utility for downstream user and consumer exposure assessments, which are relevant in the European REACH efforts and other regulatory-based exposure and risk control programs.

IH MOD is available in English and French versions as well. IHSTAT is also available in English, French, Italian, Portuguese, Hindi, Spanish, Chinese, and Czech.

To download the IH MOD and IHSTAT programs and users guide visit the Exposure Assessment Strategies Committee page at <http://www.aiha.org/insideaiha/volunteergroups/Pages/EASC.aspx>.

## News from WHO

### Connecting Health and Labour: what role for occupational health in primary health care ?

Sent by: Ivan Ivanov, WHO E-mail: [IvanovI@who.int](mailto:IvanovI@who.int)

This International Conference, organized by WHO in collaboration with TNO Work and Health and the Dutch Government, will take place in The Hague, from 29 November to 1st December 2011. About half of the world population spend at least one third of their time at the workplace. Fair employment and decent work are important social determinants of health and a healthy workforce is

an essential prerequisite for productivity and economic development. However, only a small proportion of the global workforce has access to occupational health services for primary prevention and control of occupational and work-related diseases and injuries.

Currently, a number of countries are reforming their health systems based on the values and principles of primary health care. This is expected to improve service delivery and cost-efficiency, and ensure equity in access and coverage of health service.

National debates on health reforms often touch upon the insufficient collaboration between health and labour sectors, the organization of preventive and curative health services for working populations, and their relation to primary care. Employers, businesses and private sector ever more engage in providing health services to workers and communities.

Certain global health problems, such as non-communicable diseases, result in increasing rates of long term sickness absence and permanent work incapacity. This requires an integrated response by primary and occupational health care and empowerment of workers.

The purpose of this conference is to identify policy options, strategies, mechanisms and partnerships to integrate occupational

health into primary health care at the local, regional and national levels. In particular, it will address the following issues:

- factors of success and obstacles for integrating occupational health in primary health care in countries
- opportunities and challenges for occupational health arising from primary health care strategies, such as universal coverage, people-centered health care, participatory health governance and health in all policies
- strategic directions for delivery of occupational health services in the context of integrated primary health care

The conference will bring together, by invitation, members of government of public health and labour, occupational health experts and primary care providers, researchers, social partners, and experts in financing.

For more information, contact: [workershealth@who.int](mailto:workershealth@who.int)

## World Conference on Social Determinants of Health

This global Conference, convened by WHO and hosted by the Brazilian Government, was held on 19-21 October 2011, in Rio de Janeiro, to build support for the implementation of action on social determinants of health. The conference brought together Member States and stakeholders with the objective of sharing experiences on policies and strategies that aim to reduce health inequities and of providing a global platform for dialogue on how the recommendations of the WHO Commission on Social Determinants of Health (2008) could be taken forward.

The conference was attended by Ministers of Health, foreign affairs, the environment and other sectors; representatives of international agencies, philanthropic institutions and civil society organizations; leading academics and technical experts, and, representatives from the private sector. The conference's outcome document, the Rio Declaration, will hopefully help to build high-level international backing for the further development and implementation of national policies to address social determinants of health.

### **Rio Declaration on Social Determinants of Health**

Heads of Government, Ministers and government representatives emphasized a number of key issues concerning health determinants, including work, working conditions and occupational health.

The full Declaration is available online at:

[http://www.who.int/sdhconference/declaration/Rio\\_political\\_declaration.pdf](http://www.who.int/sdhconference/declaration/Rio_political_declaration.pdf)

and some excerpts, relevant to workers' health, are hereby presented.

"Health inequities arise from the societal conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age, referred to as social determinants of health. These include early years' experiences, education, economic status, employment and **decent work**, housing and environment, and effective systems of preventing and treating ill health."

"We recognize that we need to do more to accelerate progress in addressing the unequal distribution of health resources as well as conditions damaging to

health at all levels. Based on the experiences shared at this Conference, we express our political will to make health equity a national, regional and global goal and to address current challenges, such as eradicating hunger and poverty, ensuring food and nutritional security, access to safe drinking water and sanitation, employment and **decent work and social protection, protecting environments** and delivering equitable economic growth, through resolute action on social determinants of health across all sectors and at all levels. We also

acknowledge that by addressing social determinants we can contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals."

The need for action was stressed and, among many pledges, there was one addressing specifically occupational health and safety:

"Strengthen occupational health safety and health protection and their oversight and encourage the public and private sectors to offer healthy working conditions so as to contribute to promoting health for all".

The Heads of Government, Ministers and government representatives reaffirmed their "resolve to take action on social determinants of health to create vibrant, inclusive, equitable, economically productive and healthy societies, and to overcome national, regional and global challenges to sustainable development."

At the same time they called upon "the World Health Organization, United Nations agencies and other international organizations to advocate for, coordinate and collaborate with us in the implementation of these actions."

They also stated that "Our common values and responsibilities towards humanity move us to fulfill our pledge to act on social determinants of health. We firmly believe that doing so is not only a moral and human rights imperative but also indispensable to promote human well-being, peace, prosperity and sustainable development. We call upon the international community to support developing countries in the implementation of these actions through the exchange of best practices, the provision of technical assistance and in facilitating access to financial resources..."

## News from WHO Collaborating Centers for Occupational Health

### WHO 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Global Network of CCs for Occupational Health

Sent by Evelyn Kortum, WHO E-mail: [kortume@who.int](mailto:kortume@who.int)

This meeting will be held in Cancun, Mexico, on 15-16 March 2012, prior to the ICOH triennial conference, with the following objectives:

- to review the progress made by WHO and its CCs in implementing the GPA, and
- to develop and agree upon a strategic work plan for further implementation of the GPA objectives for the period 2012-2017.

The expected results include new projects, working groups,

partnerships and networks for the implementation of the identified priority initiatives under the new strategic work plan, as well as the creation of synergies between the work of the WHO and the Global Network of CCs, at the global and the regional levels.

Invited participants will be directors and experts from the WHO CCs, WHO experts from headquarters and the regional offices, representatives of the NGOs in official relations with WHO, and the ILO.

### From Brazil - Fundacentro, WHO Collaborating Centre

#### Training Materials on Dust Control in Ceramic Tiles Manufacturing

Sent by Maria Margarida T. Moreira Lima, Fundacentro  
E-mail: [maria.lima@fundacentro.gov.br](mailto:maria.lima@fundacentro.gov.br)

Brazil is the second world producer of ceramic tiles, which are widely used in construction, and their manufacture constitutes an important industrial sector, offering about 25.000 jobs in the country. Therefore this sector has received particular attention, including in relation to occupational health and safety as well as environmental aspects.

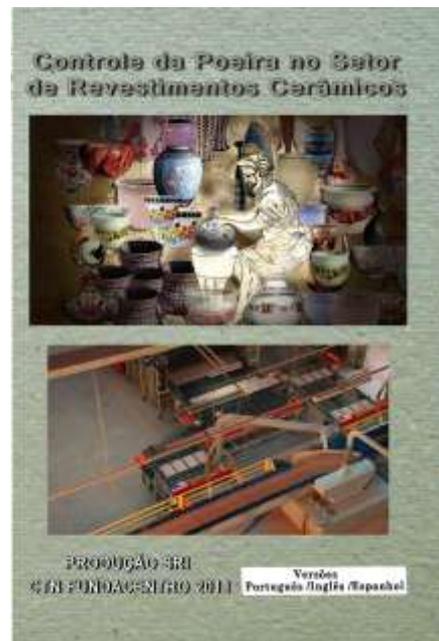
Fundacentro, a WHO CC for Occupational Health in Brazil, has been carrying out, since 2005, the project "Study of Occupational Exposure to Silica in the Ceramic Tiles Industries", coordinated by Margarida Moreira Lima, occupational hygienist at Fundacentro. The objective is to disseminate information on the prevention and control of dust exposure in this branch of activity, where dust poses the risk of occupational lung diseases, particularly silicosis. This project has focused the region of Santa Gertrudes, São Paulo, where there is the largest concentration of this industry in Brazil.

The Fundacentro Project represents a definite contribution to the prevention of silicosis on this industrial sector. Studies concerning the recognition, evaluation and control of dust exposure in the different stages of the work processes, along with the characterization of related health consequences, led to the elaboration and publication of the "Manual for Dust Control in the Ceramic Tiles Manufacture" in 2010.

The most recent achievement is a very comprehensive educational video on "Dust Control in the Ceramic Tiles Sector", prepared with support from the São Paulo Association of

Ceramic Tiles Manufacturers and the related Workers' Union. It was officially presented at Fundacentro in September 2011, with versions in Portuguese, English and Spanish.

Both the manual and the video may be obtained through the Fundacentro website, sub site "sílica e silicose": <http://www.fundacentro.gov.br/index.asp?D=SES>



## From the USA – NIOSH

### Prevention through Design

**Sent by Donna S. Heidel, NIOSH, Prevention through Design Coordinator E-mail: [dheidel@cdc.gov](mailto:dheidel@cdc.gov)**

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) hosted the conference “*Prevention through Design - a new way of doing business: a report on the National Initiative*” on 22-24 August 2011, in Washington, DC. The American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) was a sponsor of the event.

Since the Conference, ASSE and NIOSH have partnered to develop a webpage that includes the conference agenda, biographical sketches of the speakers, and all of the speaker presentation materials, already available at: [http://www.asse.org/professionalaaffairs\\_new/ptd.php](http://www.asse.org/professionalaaffairs_new/ptd.php)

The conference marked the mid-point of the Prevention through Design (PtD) National Initiative, led by NIOSH, which aims to prevent and control occupational injuries, illnesses, and fatalities by “designing out” or minimizing hazards and risks early in the design process.

The initiative promotes this concept and highlights its importance in all business decisions. A growing number of business leaders are recognizing PtD as a cost-effective means to enhance occupational safety and health. Many U.S. companies openly support PtD concepts and have developed management practices to implement them.

The goal of the conference was to take stock of the Nation’s progress in improving worker safety and health through the inclusion of prevention methods in all designs that impact workers. Significant progress has been made in advancing the prevention of occupational injuries, illnesses, and fatalities by eliminating hazards and minimizing risks to workers in the design and re-design of facilities, work methods, processes, equipment, and products.

The conference brought together PtD leaders from industry, labor, academia, government agencies, and professional organizations to showcase their research results, engineering education enhancements, successful stakeholder practices, and policy development and advancement. In addition, presentations from the 3 finalists in the Design for Safety and Health student contest showcased PtD engineering student designs. A panel session that includes PtD thought-leaders concluded the event to identify areas that require additional focus.

Additional details on the Prevention through Design National Initiative can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/ptd/> and at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/programs/PtDesign/>.

## News from the ILO

### International Partnership for Cooperation on Child Labour in Agriculture (IPCCLA)

**Sent by: Halshka Graczyk, ILO E-mail: [g8ipec@ilo.org](mailto:g8ipec@ilo.org)**

Worldwide, agriculture represents the sector with the greatest amount of all child labourers- approximately 60 percent. These 129 million girls and boys between the ages of 5 to 17 toil within the farming, forestry, fishing and aquaculture, and livestock sub sectors, often deprived of a quality education and the promise of healthy development. Agriculture is also one of the three most dangerous sectors in terms of work-related fatalities, non-fatal accidents and occupational diseases. About 59 percent (or 70 million) of all children in hazardous work aged 5–17 are in agriculture.

The ILO-IPEC document “Children in Hazardous Work: What we know, what we need to do” was published in 2010 and is available online at: [http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@dgreports/@dcomm/@publ/documents/publication/wcms\\_155428.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@dgreports/@dcomm/@publ/documents/publication/wcms_155428.pdf)

Often invisible, informal and unregulated, child labour in agriculture remains difficult to tackle due to the magnitude of the problem, underlying economic constraints due to poverty, limited access to quality education, and traditional attitudes towards children’s participation in agricultural activities. However, this sector demonstrates the greatest potential for turning hazardous

work of children above the minimum working age into safe and decent youth employment in rural areas.

Recognizing the need to move beyond traditional methods, the International Labour Organizations (ILO) sought the collaboration of organizations with expertise in agriculture research and policy and sectoral workers’ and producers’ organizations to confront this issue with a new approach. Sectoral stakeholders and organizations hold the unique ability to mainstream child labour concerns into national policies and actions because of their close contact with national ministries of agriculture, agricultural extension services, farmers’ organizations and cooperatives, agricultural workers and agricultural producers’ organizations, among others. However, child labour is not often directly part of their organizational mandate, or recognized as a key issue. For this reason, the International Partnership for Cooperation on Child Labour in Agriculture was launched in 2007 and brings together the International Labour Organization (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel,

Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations (IUF), and agricultural producers' organizations. The multidisciplinary perspective and expertise of the members of the Partnership helps develop innovative strategies to promote child labour elimination and decent work as part of a sustainable agriculture and rural development framework.

The objectives of the Partnership are to:

- promote cooperation and programme and policy coherence on child labour among the Partners, especially at national level;
- mainstream child labour into existing activities of agricultural organizations and help raising awareness on how child labour elimination contributes to achieving organizational mandates of agricultural organizations;
- promote action and cooperation to improve rural livelihoods and alternative income-generating activities, and to ensure that children do not carry out hazardous work in agriculture;
- promote opportunities for decent youth employment in agriculture and in rural areas.

The Partnership actively supports collaboration between labour and agricultural stakeholders at national level in Mali, Malawi and Cambodia, and provides technical assistance to Egypt, Kenya, Tanzania, and other countries upon request. In 2011, with support from the Partnership, national stakeholders organized capacity

development workshops in Malawi and Mali to strengthen attention to child labour in agriculture in the National Action Plan (NAP) on child labour and in current policies and programmes of Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security and other line institutions. These workshops resulted in the formulation of priority actions for better addressing child labour in agriculture in the context of the National Action Plan (NAP). In Cambodia, focus of work is child labour in fisheries and aquaculture the Partnership is supporting sensitization of staff of the Department of Fisheries and the identification of better fishing practices to reduce dependence on child labour.

The Partnership continues to diligently promote advocacy towards the elimination of child labour in agriculture while securing decent work for rural communities worldwide. The last meeting of the Partnership was held at the IUF in Geneva in September 2011 and meeting reports are available upon request.

More information on the Partnership and its work can be found on the Partnership's webpage as well as ILO's child labour in agriculture webpage, namely:

<http://www.fao-ilo.org/fao-ilo-child/international-partnership-for-cooperation-on-child-labour-in-agriculture>

and <http://www.ilo.org/ipecc/areas/Agriculture/lang-en/index.htm>

## News from ISSA/ILO

### The XIX World Congress on Safety and Health at Work

The XIX World Congress on Safety and Health at Work was held in Istanbul, Turkey, 11-15 September 2011, and was one of the largest global gatherings of prevention and occupational safety and health policy-makers and experts. The World Congress was co-organized by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Social Security Association (ISSA) and was hosted by the Ministry of Labour and Social Security of Turkey (MLSST).

Participation in the XIX World Congress in Istanbul was an opportunity for decision-makers, safety and health professionals, employers' and workers' representatives and other stakeholders who are active in the field of occupational safety and health in order to ensure close cooperation in the exchange of information with experts from all around the world and also to explore one of the most famous towns and cultures in the world. One of the outcomes was the Istanbul Declaration on Safety and Health at Work.

As stated in the ILO Introductory Report to the XIX World Congress on Safety and Health at Work: "Over the past decades significant advances have been made in occupational safety and health (OSH) as many more countries have realized its importance and the need to give higher priority to preventing accidents and ill-health at work. Thus an unprecedented amount of information about occupational risks and how to manage them is now available, much of it online, and OSH appears to be better managed in many enterprises. Consequently, numbers of serious accidents appear to be declining globally although the picture for occupational ill-health is less encouraging... Nevertheless, many workers globally still face unhealthy and unsafe working conditions and the recent economic crisis and recession

have also threatened to undermine these achievements... All stakeholders thus need to be committed to invest in OSH, accepting it as a vital component of good management and performance rather than a burden on businesses."

Concluding the World Congress, the ISSA Secretary General Hans-Horst Konkolewsky and Director of the ILO Programme on Safety and Health at Work and the Environment (SafeWork) Seiji Machida called for a renewed commitment to a culture of occupational safety and health that could respond to a changing work environment caused by demographic changes and the evolving labour market.

The full text of their conclusions, as well as the ILO Introductory Report, Congress reports and documents, and the Declaration, are available online at: [www.issa.int/worldcongress2011](http://www.issa.int/worldcongress2011)

During this Congress much attention was given to prevention, for example, the presentation "Proactive and Preventive Social Security: Investing in people", by Hans-Horst Konkolewsky (ISSA Secretary General) strongly emphasizes this important aspect. An example of an interesting report dealing with the economic aspects of prevention, which are important to motivate decision-makers to act preventively, was presented by the ISSA at the Congress: "The return on prevention: Calculating the costs and benefits of investments in occupational safety and health in companies" (available at: [www.issa.int/ROP](http://www.issa.int/ROP)).

## NEWS from European Union

### News from EU-OSHA

Sent by: Birgit Müller, EU-OSHA E-mail: [muller@osha.europa.eu](mailto:muller@osha.europa.eu)

#### Message from Dr Christa Sedlatschek, Director EU-OSHA: "Making Europe a safer, healthier and more productive place to work"

Safe and healthy work is a fundamental human right. It is also one of the European Union's most important and challenging policy areas.

Workplace accidents, sickness, ill-health and death continue to exact an unacceptable toll on Europe's workers and the economy. Every year in the EU, more than 5,500 people die as a result of an accident in the workplace and a further 159,000 die from an occupational disease. This equates to one death every 3.5 minutes.

Such rates of accidents, sickness and death have a direct impact on economic growth, profitability, and employment across Europe. In fact, at least 450 million working days are lost each year at a cost to the EU economy of over EUR 490 billion per year.

Investment in safety and health helps meet two major European goals: to safeguard workers' wellbeing while strengthening corporate competitiveness. These act as crucial economic and social stabilising forces that enhance Europe's capacity to manage changing workforce demographics in a humane way.

"If we are to maximise our impact, we must focus our efforts in four areas:

- raise awareness and disseminate information on the importance of workers' health for European social and economic stability
- develop and disseminate practical instruments to small- and medium-sized enterprises to help them improve working conditions.
- provide the evidence and drive home the message that investment in occupational safety and health pays off.
- mainstream occupational safety and health into other policy areas such as education, public health, and research."

#### Background

Dr Christa Sedlatschek has been appointed as director of EU-OSHA. She took up her post on 16 September 2011 and succeeds Dr Jukka Takala who is retiring. Dr Christa Sedlatschek is a medical doctor (University of Vienna) and a specialist in occupational health.

After completing her studies she started working in the Austrian labour inspectorate and moved to the Ministry for Labour and Social Affairs in 1993, taking over the function as Deputy Head of the department for occupational medicine. In 1998 she was recruited by EU-OSHA where she focused on the development and dissemination of good practice information, becoming the head of the working environment unit. During that time she gained an in-depth knowledge about the EU and existing occupational safety and health (OSH) systems in the Member States.

In 2003 she moved to Berlin and started working in the Federal Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (Bundesanstalt für Arbeitsschutz und Arbeitsmedizin - BAuA), where she became Director of the national "Initiative New Quality of Work - INQA" in 2004.

"INQA" was launched by the German Federal Ministry for labour and social affairs as a consequence of the Lisbon Summit in 2000, aiming at making a contribution towards creating more and better jobs in Europe.

Christa Sedlatschek has always focused her work within the field of OSH on the transfer of research and development information to the company level. She is convinced that the gap between existing knowledge and sustainable implementation of OSH in companies has to be bridged and in that context EU-OSHA has a key role.

### EU-OSHA launches landmark project to facilitate risk assessment in Europe's small enterprises

The Online interactive Risk Assessment (OiRA) project, launched at the recent XIX World Congress on Safety and Health at Work, in Istanbul, marks the first initiative at European level to facilitate workplace risk assessment. Developed by the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA), the innovative tool will help Europe's 20 million micro and small enterprises to improve safety and health for their workers by assessing risks through an easy-to-use and cost-free web application.

As Dr Jukka Takala, former EU-OSHA Director stated: "Experience shows that proper risk assessment is the key to healthy workplaces. Yet carrying out risk assessments can be quite challenging,

particularly for small enterprises as they lack adequate resources or the know-how to do so effectively. The reasons companies give for not carrying out checks are lack of expertise (41%), the belief that risk assessments are too expensive or that they are overly time consuming (38%). In OiRA, EU-OSHA is proud to offer a free online tool to overcome these challenges. OiRA contributes to eliminating or reducing the 168 000 work-related deaths, 7 million accidents and 20 million cases of work-related disease annually in the EU 27".

The vision of EU-OSHA's landmark project is to assist small enterprises in putting in place a step-by-step risk assessment process, starting with the identification and evaluation of

workplace risks, through to the decision-making on preventive action, identification of adequate measures, to continued monitoring and reporting.

Link to the full Press Release: [http://osha.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/eu\\_osh\\_launches\\_landmark\\_project\\_facilitate\\_risk\\_assessment\\_europes\\_small\\_enterprises](http://osha.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/eu_osh_launches_landmark_project_facilitate_risk_assessment_europes_small_enterprises)

Photos of the XIX OSH World Congress on safety and health at work: [http://osha.europa.eu/en/press/photos/jukka\\_takala/OIRA-OSH-world-congress-Istanbul/](http://osha.europa.eu/en/press/photos/jukka_takala/OIRA-OSH-world-congress-Istanbul/)

More information on the OiRA project dedicated website: <http://www.oiraproject.eu/about>

## Key technologies likely to impact on OSH in green jobs by 2020

The report of Phase 2 of the “Foresight of new and emerging risks associated with new technologies in green jobs by 2020” identifies a shortlist of key technologies likely to be found in green jobs and have an impact on OSH by 2020. The list includes green technologies in the construction, transport, manufacturing, waste treatment and wind energy sectors; nanotechnologies; bioenergy and biotechnology; electricity transmission and storage; and domestic applications of emerging energy technologies. In Phase 3, a series of workshops is exploring the potential emerging OSH risks from these technologies in order to develop future scenarios helping decision makers to anticipate these risks.

For further information and free of charge download of “Phase 2 report on the new technologies likely to impact on OSH in green jobs by 2020”, see:

<http://osha.europa.eu/en/publications/reports/foresight-green-jobs-key-technologies/view>

The “Phase 1 report on the key drivers of change likely to shape green jobs by 2020” is available from:

<http://osha.europa.eu/en/publications/reports/foresight-green-jobs-drivers-change-TERO11001ENN/view>

## Contributions from Readers

### International Action

#### Global training and accreditation of occupational hygiene

**Sent by: Roger Alesbury E-mail: [roger@alesbury.net](mailto:roger@alesbury.net)  
and Steve Bailey E-mail: [steve.bailey@which.net](mailto:steve.bailey@which.net)**

The global scheme for training and accreditation is going from strength to strength. In the following update, we provide brief information on progress, planned developments and opportunities for you to participate in developing the forward strategy and plan. We are particularly keen to hear from anyone who may be interested in helping us to develop new courses or to translate existing ones.

Some key facts:

- 5 years in development, [OHlearning.com](http://OHlearning.com) was launched May 2010, with nearly 20,000 unique visitors in total, the site is averaging around 1400 unique users each month. OHlearning offers free access to course materials, links to national organisations, training events offered by Approved Training Providers and an online discussion forum
- OHlearning is included in the in the 2009 – 2012 Workplan for the WHO Collaborating Center Network.
- Pool of 38 registered Approved Training Providers (ATPs) and 3 Universities are signed up to deliver courses. Each ATP meets strict criteria before approval, including the need for NAR professionally qualified occupational hygienists as course directors
- 200 qualified occupational hygienists from IOHA members have already volunteered to provide quality control and develop modules
- 7 intermediate and one foundation training modules available.
- Completion of 56 courses in 19 countries with over 500 successful exam candidates. In addition to 11 pilot courses to test development
- Trial of OHlearning modules through distance learning by University of Illinois in Chicago
- New scheme to provide student scholarships launched by AIOH and funded by Thermo Fisher Scientific Australia & Honeywell Analytics Australia.

Current projects under development

- Automated website translation. Spanish will be used for pilot before rolling out for other languages
- eLearning platform being added to facilitate new Awareness level material initially. This level is aimed at raising awareness of occupational hygiene in workers and managers and is not part of the qualifications scheme.
- Upgraded collaboration centre to host working documents and

archive material

- First awareness level package on silica, with others soon to follow on asbestos and noise
- Foundation level courses on silica and safety
- Advanced level course on Control Banding
- Translation of W501 into Spanish
- Translation of W201 into Mandarin

These plans will take us to the end of 2012. To define the strategy and plan beyond this, a series of workshops are being planned at major occupational hygiene conferences through the rest of 2011

and 2012. These will be designed to stimulate discussion and assist in shaping future plans and direction.

Once again, we should stress that the scheme is entirely led by voluntary effort and we are grateful to all those who have offered their services free of charge to help develop the scheme and reduce the burden of occupational illness worldwide. We are also grateful to our sponsors. There are lots of things we could do better and more things we could do with additional help. If you are interested in offering your services to join the team of over 200 occupational hygienists working on this project, we would love to hear from you. email [team@ohlearning.com](mailto:team@ohlearning.com)

## From Countries, Canada

### News from the IRSST, Canada

Sent by: Maura Tomi, IRSST E-mail: [Maura.Tomi@irsst.qc.ca](mailto:Maura.Tomi@irsst.qc.ca)

#### Exploratory Study to Identify Workload Factors that have an Impact on Health and Safety - A Case Study in the Service Sector

The IRSST just published an exploratory study that try to further understanding of workload by examining work activity within a dynamic context involving individuals, their occupational activities and their organizational environment.

From this perspective, the study financed by the IRSST did not attempt to document either work overload or underload, but rather to understand the phenomenon on the basis of actual work situations.

To achieve the overarching objective, the researchers pursued three secondary objectives:

- to define the components of workload;
- to identify the factors that have either a direct or an indirect impact on workload; and

- to ensure knowledge transfer to the workplace community.

Given the exploratory nature of this research project, it involved a single case study. However, it fits into a broader process aimed at conceptualizing the workload phenomenon holistically and in all its complexity.

A reference model was developed on the basis of a literature review. It is designed to approach workload through the daily reality experienced by workers, and thus examines it in terms of three main components: prescribed workload (imposed constraints), actual workload (actual restraints) and perceived workload. This preliminary model provides a framework for reflection as well as a reference for analyzing actual workload.

To download the document: <http://www.irsst.qc.ca/en/-/irsst-publication-exploratory-study-to-identify-workload-factors-that-have-an-impact-on-health-and-safety-R-701.html>

## ProtecPo, for a better choice in skin protection

The Institut de recherche Robert-Sauvé en santé et en sécurité du travail (IRSST), and its French counterpart, the Institut National de Recherche et de Sécurité (INRS) developed *ProtecPo*, interactive software for the pre-selection of polymer materials used in personal protective equipment (gloves, coveralls and boots). The goal of the two institutes is to provide prevention professionals and companies with a tool to help in the choice of the best adapted materials for skin protection, mainly against solvents and mixtures of solvents.

The procedure followed in developing ProtecPo is based on an approach to the interactions between chemical substances and polymer materials, according to the theory established by Charles M. Hansen, the Danish scientist who collaborated in the development of this computer tool.

*ProtecPo* performs the searches by:

- **solvent or mixture of solvents** to obtain a list of recommended materials;
- **family of solvents** to obtain results about the compatibility between solvents in the selected family and the materials;

- **polymer material**, allowing the user to choose from among the five listed materials (butyl, Viton®, latex, Neoprene® and nitrile).

The application (in French and in English) is now on line on the Web sites of both institutes: [www.irsst.qc.ca/protecpo](http://www.irsst.qc.ca/protecpo)

**About the IRSST:** The IRSST is a scientific research organization devoted to the prevention of industrial accidents and occupational diseases as well as to the rehabilitation of affected workers. The IRSST provides its Internet users with more than 1000 research reports that can be downloaded at no charge. [www.irsst.qc.ca](http://www.irsst.qc.ca)

**About the INRS:** INRS is a French Institute competent in the area of occupational risk prevention: protecting workers' health and safety and preventing occupational accidents or diseases. Its missions include: anticipating needs (with studies and research programmes), raising awareness (via information products, prevention campaigns) and assistance (through technical guidance, information resources, training). [www.inrs.fr](http://www.inrs.fr)

## Pain, Depression, Disability and Rehabilitation Outcomes

The results of a new study published by the IRSST (occupational health and safety research institute) indicate that the prevalence of depression in individuals referred for rehabilitation of work-related musculoskeletal injury is as high as 40%.

In previous research, depression has been shown to contribute to longer periods of work absence following injury and lower probability of return to work. The researchers point out that there are different processes by which depression might impact on pain-related disability. Depression might add to the burden of disability associated with pain by accentuating the negative impact of the pain symptoms that ensue from whiplash injury.

In spite of limitations, the present study showed that individuals who enter rehabilitation treatment with high levels of depression are less likely to return to work following treatment. Of the individuals who returned to work, depressed individuals were also less likely to maintain employment. Future research will need to identify the processes by which depression impacts on disability and the intervention approaches that are most effective in targeting disability associated with depression and pain.

This document may be download from: <http://www.irsst.qc.ca/en/-irsst-publication-pain-depression-disability-rehabilitation-outcomes.html>

## From The Netherlands

### Information on Stoffenmanager

Sent by Henri Heussen E-mail: [henri.heussen@arbounie.nl](mailto:henri.heussen@arbounie.nl)

#### Stoffenmanager Nano module 1.0: a web-based control banding tool for exposure to manufactured nano-objects

Stoffenmanager Nano, developed by a consortium of Arbo Unie, TNO and Beco and funded by the Dutch Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment aims to support small and medium enterprises with their risk assessment of working with manufactured nano objects (MNO). The tool is a separate module within the generic control banding and exposure assessment Stoffenmanager 4.5 tool and can be used for free at <http://nano.stoffenmanager.nl> (both in Dutch and English).

It is an easy-to-use web based control banding tool, using accessible and obtainable data on hazard and exposure parameters and resulting in a risk prioritization score and subsequent control. It determines hazard potential (band A-E) based on particle size, solubility, fiber-like-properties and classification of nano- or parent material. Exposure potential (band 1-4) is determined using handling categories adjusted to the life-cycle of nanomaterials. The final risk prioritization (class I-III) can be iterated by selecting control measures. In addition an Action Plan can be drafted and reports can be printed. Educational material is included in the form of factsheets and PIMEX-movies.

Stoffenmanager Nano is a 'work-in-process' online tool that reflects the current knowledge on risks related to working with nanomaterials. It will be further adjusted when new insights become available. More information on among others the applicability domain and the scientific model can be found at <http://nano.stoffenmanager.nl/public/background.aspx>.

Just try it yourself and give us your feedback!

Henri Heussen, Arbo Unie, The Netherlands,  
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#### 1<sup>st</sup> Stoffenmanager International Implementation Workshop - multilingual control banding and exposure assessment tool

The first Stoffenmanager International Implementation Workshop was held as part of the Dutch Stoffendag (Dutch Chemical Substances Day) on 4 October 2011 in The Netherlands. More than 300 visitors participated in the overall "Chemical Substances day" and some 25 participants in the implementation workshop. Country

representatives from Austria, Croatia, Finland, Germany, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the UK discussed implementation issues and new developments.

During the morning sessions, presentations on the Dutch and International development and new version 4.5 of Stoffenmanager and Stoffenmanager Nano were shown. In the afternoon the implementation experiences of The Netherlands (Dutch Labour Inspectorate), Germany (Institute for Occupational Health and Safety), Finland (Finnish Institute of Occupational Health) and Sweden (Dalarna University and Lund University) were presented and discussed. As an outcome it is expected that more country versions will follow in due time.

Stoffenmanager is a control banding and exposure assessment tool and has been recommended in Chapter R.14 of the REACH technical Guidance document. Meaning the European committee officially recognizes Stoffenmanager as a REACH instrument. The quantitative inhalation exposure model has been accepted as method to evaluate dangerous substances at the workplace by the Dutch Labour Inspectorate.

Key features of the tool are:

- Self: own responsibility of our users, do it your self management
- Simple: user-friendliness and efficiency are important
- Smart: broad experience and extensive knowledge is embedded in the tool
- Safe: reliable and accepted tool

The tool is available in several languages:

- Dutch and English ([www.stoffenmanager.nl](http://www.stoffenmanager.nl))
- German (<https://gestis-stoffmanager.dguv.de/>)
- Finnish (expected end 2011).

If your country might be interested in a translated country version, please contact: [henri.heussen@arbounie.nl](mailto:henri.heussen@arbounie.nl) or [erika.ustailieva@tno.nl](mailto:erika.ustailieva@tno.nl).

## Dutch Pimex movies to be translated in Chinese, Spanish and English

Sent by: Andre Winkes E-mail: [andre.winkes@arboundie.nl](mailto:andre.winkes@arboundie.nl)

In the Netherlands, Pimex (Picture Mix Exposure) movies are a successful tool for risk communication and training.

Pimex is a video exposure monitoring technique. The method is based on a combined use of video recordings with measurements. The measurements are taken simultaneously with real-time monitoring instruments. As a result the exposure of bad and good practices is visualized directly.

In 2012, ten Dutch already existing Pimex movies will be translated in to Chinese, Spanish and English. The goal is to spread information

and knowledge, which is already available around the world. The selection of the movies to be translated will be done by an international expert group to ensure applicability around the world. The translated movies will be presented at the IOHA conference in September 2012 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and will become available for free for everyone who can use them.

The project is funded by the NVvA (The Dutch industrial hygiene society). For further information, suggestions, or offering help, please, contact the project leader Andre Winkes.

## From Switzerland

### The Unsuspected Dimensions of Occupational Health

Sent by Jean Parrat, SSHT (Swiss Society of Occupational Hygiene)  
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The situation of occupational health in Switzerland, and in the world in general, is not at its best. Between political incomprehension and lack of commitment on the part of decision makers concerning sound actions to ensure prevention, as well as the often unclear scenario of emerging health hazards, the occupational health professional often feels like a lonely wolf howling in the forest.

For this reason the book "The Unsuspected Dimensions of Occupational Health" (*Les dimensions insoupçonnées de la santé au travail, Editions L'Harmattan*), by Michel Guillemin, is so important and should be disseminated. This work analyzes why occupational health lacks so badly of recognition and resources, analyzes inconsistencies and hesitations on the part of decision makers, and emphasizes that the ones who ultimately suffer from this situation are the working women and men ensuring the development of our economies and our countries.

Michel Guillemin underlines the amazing misconception that there is a conflict between workers' health and economic performance, while it is obvious that one ensures the other. The author's reasoning is very convincing as it is based on facts and sound data, clearly explained. Besides human suffering, the serious consequences that unhealthy working conditions have on health care costs and other

public health aspects are also addressed in the book.

However, a high level professional as Michel Guillemin, Honorary Professor at the Université de Lausanne, founding member of the International Occupational Hygiene Association (IOHA) and of the Swiss Occupational Hygiene Society (SSHT) and Swiss and international expert in this field, would not only describe the negative aspects of the present occupational health scenario. Therefore he also indicates possible ways to improve the present situation, for example, he proposes that all stakeholders in occupational health engage in a real awareness of this important issue and that even those of us who have the privilege of working comfortably in our field should strongly commit towards a better future based on the experiences of the past.

This book constitutes a call for action directed to all actors somehow involved with worker's health issues, in Switzerland and elsewhere; it suggests a line to follow in order "to dare dream of a better world and participate in its creation".

**Note:** There is a notice about Michel Guillemin's recent book in the EU-OSHA site; direct link:

<http://osha.europa.eu/en/news/be-new-book-published-the-unsuspected-dimensions-of-occupational-health>

## From the United Kingdom

### Offshore COSHH Essentials

Sent by Paul Evans, Health & Safety Executive E-mail: [Paul.Evans@hse.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Paul.Evans@hse.gsi.gov.uk)

Exposure to substances hazardous to health is a daily occurrence for thousands of workers in the offshore oil and gas industry. Many of these substances have the potential to cause health effects including skin disease such as dermatitis, cancer and lung disease such as asthma. In the UK, the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations 2002 (as amended) place responsibility on the employer for taking effective measures to control exposure and protect health.

Although many operators applied the philosophy of COSHH prior to its extension offshore in 1995, a HSE survey in 1997/98 found that, in practice, assessments often only used the information on the safety data sheets so that they were hazard-based rather than risk-based. More recent operational intelligence has shown that this situation still exists and, even where the assessment reflects the risk, it is often lacking in control advice. This, along with the 'hazard

approach' tends to drive control to the provision of personal protective equipment (PPE) rather than following the Principles of Good Control Practice (COSHH Regulation 7 and Schedule 2A).

Advice on the provision of PPE in the assessments is often also weak with examples such as "wear gloves". Other chemical assessment and control-related problems include:

- ◆ Substitution and elimination not considered.
- ◆ Lack of routine e.g. weekly checking of control systems, such as Local Exhaust Ventilation (LEV).
- ◆ Lack of (or inadequate) preventative maintenance.
- ◆ Lack of (or inadequate) thorough examination and testing of control systems.
- ◆ Poor application and use of control measures, including supervision.
- ◆ Poor management of PPE/RPE and/or lack of face fit testing.
- ◆ Inadequate information, instruction and training.
- ◆ Lack of good quality and appropriate health surveillance.

Skin exposure is also a recognised problem, especially to drilling muds, which can be extensive on the drill floor.

The need for simple guidance on 'good control practice' has therefore been recognised by industry and HSE. The COSHH Essentials guidance has proved very effective in establishing good control practice across a number of industry sectors and was

thought to be the best vehicle for disseminating good control practice offshore.

Offshore COSHH Essentials (<http://www.hse.gov.uk/coshh/industry/offshore.htm>) was prepared in partnership by an HSE/ Industry/Unions working group. It describes good control practice for controlling exposure to chemicals, for a range of common processes and tasks in the offshore industry. The guidance is aimed at managers, safety practitioners, offshore medics and safety representatives in the offshore oil and gas industry, who have responsibility for managing the control of substances hazardous to health.

The guidance consists of a series of Offshore COSHH Essentials (OCE) task sheets giving practical advice on good control practice for specific tasks and a series of Offshore COSHH Method (OCM) sheets, which give advice on generic COSHH issues such as PPE, health surveillance etc. These OCE and OCM series are part of a suite of guidance on offshore health risks and includes Offshore Food Essentials (OFE) and Offshore Radiation Essentials (ORE).

The Offshore COSHH Essentials (OCE) task sheets were launched in conjunction with Step Change in Safety at the beginning of March 2011 in Aberdeen. Step Change in Safety is a UK based partnership of workforce, regulator and employers in the oil and gas industry. The event was very well-attended, demonstrating real support from the oil and gas industry and the unions. Feedback from delegates was positive: attendees recognised that sharing good practice on control of exposure to chemicals in the offshore industry is extremely important and Offshore COSHH Essentials will help to do this.

## From the USA

### MHSSN Wins AIHA Social Responsibility Award

Sent by Garrett Brown E-mail: [garrettdbrown@comcast.net](mailto:garrettdbrown@comcast.net)

The US-based Maquiladora Health and Safety Support Network (MHSSN) has been awarded the 2011 Social Responsibility Award by the American Industrial Hygiene Association.

Established in 2009, the AIHA Social Responsibility Award is presented to an entity, group, organization, or an individual who works inside organizations to develop and promote practical solutions to social responsibility issues related to industrial hygiene or environmental health and safety issues. Sponsored by Bureau Veritas North America Inc., the award carries a \$2,500 prize from Bureau Veritas for the winning organization.

MHSSN Coordinator Garrett Brown received the award at the Opening General Session of AIHCE 2011 in Portland, Oregon.

The MHSSN was founded in 1993 and has over 400 members including industrial hygienists, safety engineers, occupational physicians and nurses, toxicologists, epidemiologists, and health educators. AIHA members make up the largest group of MHSSN volunteers, who live primarily in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

The goal of the Network over the last 18 years has been to build the capacity of non-governmental and grassroots organizations –

unions and worker groups, community-based organizations, women's and human rights groups – in the field of occupational health and safety so that these organizations understand key OHS concepts, control measures, national OHS regulations and their rights under the law.

MHSSN projects began on the US-Mexico border at the time the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) went into effect and accelerated the transfer of manufacturing processes, and their hazards, to the developing world. The scope and scale of MHSSN projects has grown over time to include Central America and the Caribbean, and Asian countries such as Cambodia, China and Indonesia, which have become the "world's factory floor."

Global projects have included multi-day OHS trainings in local languages for grassroots groups, helping worker groups exercise their rights under national laws and international treaties like NAFTA, providing information and technical assistance related to specific industries and hazards, and assisting international brands establish effective health and safety committees in their contract manufacturing plants. The most recent project was to working with plant managers and the Workers Rights Consortium to establish the world's first genuinely "no sweat" garment factory in the Dominican

Republic operated by US-based Knights Apparel.

MHSSN volunteers – leading professionals in their fields – donate all their time and expertise in specific projects while their travel and living expenses are covered by the Network.

“I am very proud to accept this award on behalf of the many, many volunteer members of our Network who have donated tremendous amounts of the time and energy to make the world’s workplaces

safer and healthier,” said Coordinator Brown. “The goal of our profession to put worker health first and foremost, and our volunteers are living proof that this goal can be accomplished.”

Information on the MHSSN can be found at its website ([www.igc.org/mhssn](http://www.igc.org/mhssn)) or by contacting Coordinator Garrett Brown at [garrettdbrown@comcast.net](mailto:garrettdbrown@comcast.net).

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