

## Report from the meeting of the IOHA Board

08 October 2009, Bilbao, Spain

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1. The meeting was held in Bilbao, Spain, chaired by Dr Danilo Cottica (President) and attended by representatives of AIHA, the Australian, British, Canadian, Dutch, French, Japanese, Norwegian, Southern African, Swiss and Taiwanese organisations, with Sandi Atkinson and Pamela Blythe from the Secretariat in attendance and two representatives from the newly formed Spanish Society as observers. Apologies for absence had been received from ACGIH, the Brazilian, German, Irish, Hong Kong, Korean and Swedish organisations.
2. The IOHA Board was very kindly hosted by the *European Agency for Safety and Health at Work*. The Agency's Director Dr Jukka Takala joined part of the meeting as an observer and to explore the synergies between the two organisations. On the morning of 9 October, the Board heard four presentations from Agency staff on aspects of its work.
3. The President Dr Danilo Cottica delivered a presentation on behalf of the Italian Association's Organising Committee on the progress of the 8<sup>th</sup> International Scientific Conference, to be held in Rome, Italy, 28 September – 2 October 2010. The deadline for abstracts is 1 December 2010 and they can be submitted via the conference website [www.ioha2010.org](http://www.ioha2010.org)
4. A progress report on the 9<sup>th</sup> International Scientific Conference was submitted by the Malaysian Association who were unable to attend the meeting. The conference will mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of IOHA and will be held at the Kuala Lumpur City Centre (KLCC) Convention Centre, Malaysia on 5 – 7 March 2012. The Conference will be preceded by Professional Development Courses on 3 & 4 March 2012.
5. The Certification Schemes of the Swiss Society and the Norwegian Association were formally recognised by IOHA, and both organisations were congratulated by the Board . In addition the British Society's accreditation was renewed for a further five years.
6. For a long time now, IOHA has been actively collaborating with the group of people who have been working towards the development of international occupational hygiene training and qualifications. That group has now established itself under English Law into the Occupational Hygiene Training Association (OHTA) and IOHA has formally signed a Memorandum of Understanding with OHTA and agreed to contribute some funds for the development of OHTA's website. More information on this project will appear in the newsletter in due course.
7. At this meeting the Board began the process of reviewing the strategy for IOHA. The current strategy began in 2007 and runs until 2010, with the majority of its objectives now complete. In consultation with the Member Organisations a new strategy will be developed for 2011 to 2014.
8. A new page has been created on the IOHA website entitled 'International OEL Issues and Activities' where we hope to provide information on the issues and stimulate the discussion of approaches and solutions to the issues before the profession. If you wish to add information to this space please contact [admin@ioha.net](mailto:admin@ioha.net)
9. The next meeting of the Board will be held on 23 May 2010 in Denver, Colorado, USA at the AIHce 2010.