



# IOHA NEWSLETTER - JUNE 2005

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## *Letter from the Editor*

Dear Colleagues,

As I close this issue of the Newsletter, summer is starting (in the North Hemisphere, where I am now), therefore I take this opportunity to wish you very nice summer vacations (and for those in the very South, that winter will not be too cold :-).

The work of the ILO and WHO continues, in closer and closer collaboration; this complementation of efforts is admirable since it is essential for achieving their noble objectives in worker's health protection and promotion.

At the closing session of the 10<sup>th</sup> ICORD, organized under the auspices of the Joint ILO/WHO Global Programme for the Elimination of Silicosis, Dr. Takala indicated that the future collaboration between both organizations will emphasize the elimination of silicosis and asbestos-related diseases worldwide. Let's hope that decision makers, at the country level, will adequately respond to these efforts and that global success will be achieved.

International efforts to further promote and support hazard prevention and control actions continue. The development and/or application of Toolkits, aiming at facilitating prevention and control at the workplace level (e.g., the International Chemical Control Toolkit, Silica Essentials) have been promoted, jointly by the ILO, WHO and UNEP (under IPCS), as well as many WHO Collaborating Centers in different countries, IOHA, and relevant institutions and agencies (such as the GTZ, Germany). The valuable work of the HSE (UK) and NIOSH (USA) in this respect should be particularly acknowledged. Good news: the International Chemical Control Toolkit is being translated into Spanish and Portuguese, respectively by NIOSH and FUNDACENTRO (Brazil).

I take this opportunity to make an appeal to all IOHA Member Associations in the sense of further emphasizing, in their countries, the importance of prevention and control of occupational risk factors. Educational institutions should be motivated to enhance such topics in their courses; unfortunately, we still see many “occupational hygiene” courses, which aim at creating “measuring” rather than “prevention” professionals.

Important topics for efficient prevention and control - systematic approach to problems and good management of Occupational Health and Safety Programmes, have been getting increased impetus as more and more countries are adopting the ILO Guidelines on Occupational Safety and Health Management Systems (ILO-OSH 2001); the complete guidelines are available online in 8 languages. Bravo to the ILO !

I was very glad to receive news from occupational hygiene associations in three countries, namely China (Hong-Kong), Japan and Malaysia. I do hope that other IOHA members will send us news on their activities since this sharing among sister associations not only reinforces their enthusiasm but also brings about new ideas.

The Europe-wide campaign - International Noise Awareness Day - launched on 20 April 2005, will certainly help tackle one of the most persistent workplace health problems in Europe: noise at work. This example should be followed in other parts of the world as noise is a universal problem.

I am very sad to announce the passing away of a wonderful person and scientist: Prof Dr Fengsheng He, from China. Dr. Yuxin Zheng kindly sent the Obituary presented on this issue and, having been her colleague in WHO for about 4 years and her friend thereafter, I would like to join in his praise. Prof. He was a great scientist and, at the same time, modest, hard working, generous and a sincere friend. She had a thorough understanding of the importance of occupational hygiene and was a valuable advocate for our profession in WHO. She has left us but her work and enthusiasm will stay with us forever.

Thank you for your attention and best greetings to all.

Berenice I. F. Goelzer      [berenice@goelzer.net](mailto:berenice@goelzer.net)

Editor

## ***IOHA Board Meeting in Anaheim***

The last meeting of the IOHA Board took place in Anaheim, USA, in May 2005; see photo below.



One of the important topics discussed concerned National Occupational Hygiene Accreditation Schemes, as presented below.

### **Guidelines for Applying for the Recognition of National Occupational Hygiene Accreditation Schemes by the International Occupational Hygiene Association (IOHA)**

At the last meeting of the IOHA Board, which took place in Anaheim, USA, in May 2005, the above Guidelines were approved. These Guidelines are to be used by member associations willing to elaborate or review their accreditation schemes for occupational hygienists with a view to achieving formal “recognition” by the International Occupational Hygiene Association.

The objective of IOHA in undertaking this motion is to enhance a high level of competence of occupational hygienists, worldwide. It is important to ensure that the education, training and quality standards for our profession are consistent with IOHA expectations, throughout the world.

This document guides prospective candidates in preparing and submitting their application for Recognition of their national Accreditation Schemes by IOHA.

For the time being, the BOHS and ABIH certification schemes have been recognized by IOHA and it is hoped that many more will in due course.

The full document is available online at the IOHA Site: [www.ioha.net](http://www.ioha.net)

The present Chair of the IOHA National Accreditation Recognition Committee is Dr. Ugis Bickis ([uib@phoenix-ohc.ca](mailto:uib@phoenix-ohc.ca)). Please do not hesitate to contact him or the IOHA Secretariat ([pamela.blythe@ioha.net](mailto:pamela.blythe@ioha.net)), for any clarification or assistance that may be required.

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***Report on the 10<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Occupational Respiratory Diseases (ICORD), Beijing, China, 19-22 April 2005***

***by TW Tsin, President Elect of IOHA and IOHA representative to ICORD ([twtsin@icare.com.hk](mailto:twtsin@icare.com.hk))***

The 10<sup>th</sup> ICORD was well organized, under the auspices of the Joint ILO/WHO Global Programme for the Elimination of Silicosis, and had a grand opening at the Beijing International Convention Center on 19 April 2005 (see Photo below).



There were more than 500 participants from 54 countries. The objective is that participating countries aim at significantly reducing the incidence rate of silicosis by 2015, and at eliminating this preventable occupational disease by 2030. The nine keynote presentations,

on each morning from 19 to 22 April, highlighted the importance of information exchange and sharing of experiences. Delegates shared their views on the prevention and elimination of pneumoconiosis, including silica and asbestos-related diseases, as well as allergies and cancer resulting from exposure to different kinds of dust. National policies and legislation, as well as the development of the basic occupational health services at the community level, were also discussed. Many high quality papers - about 150 - were presented and discussed during the Conference, in various sessions organized as Working Groups, Special Sessions, Mini-Symposiums and free Presentations. Over 100 posters were displayed in the exhibition hall; worksite visits were also organized.

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In closing the Conference, Dr. Takala, Director of the ILO InFocus Programme SafeWork (see photo below), emphasized that the future collaboration between the ILO and WHO would be specifically targeting the elimination of silicosis and asbestos-related diseases.

*The closing ceremony of the 10<sup>th</sup> ICORD, Beijing (from left to right: Dr. LI Denghung (CDC of China), Dr. SU Zhi (MoH of China) and Dr. Takala (ILO)*

Dr. Takala specially underlined that the Working Group on Fibers recognized that some 30 countries have banned asbestos. The Group proposed that on medical, scientific, ethical and equity grounds it was justified to call for an ultimate elimination of asbestos, that is, a global ban of asbestos, which should be implemented everywhere in the world. The call was specifically addressed to international organizations, such as the ILO and WHO and professional organizations, including ICOH and IOHA.

As a NGO to both WHO and the ILO, IOHA will continue to support these collaborative activities for the elimination of pneumoconioses (and other occupational hazards) in the years to come. The key role of occupational hygiene would be in exposure assessment and prevention of occupational respiratory diseases. Silicosis control would be the first target, and the application of pragmatic approaches, such as the International Chemical Control Toolkit, will soon be reviewed and discussed in the coming IOHA 6<sup>th</sup> Scientific Conference, to be held in Pilanesberg, South Africa, September 2005. Valuable experience in this respect will certainly be shared among countries. The maintenance and strengthening of national and international of national and international partnerships will be critical for a concerted effort and continued success in fighting occupational respiratory diseases (and others).

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## ***The 2005 Conference of Industrial Hygiene and Occupational Medicine in Taiwan***

**by Ton Spee ([spee@arbouw.nl](mailto:spee@arbouw.nl))**

The Annual Conference on Industrial Hygiene and Occupational Medicine in Taiwan was held in the historical city of Tainan, the former capital of Taiwan, on 29 and 30 April 2005. It was an honour for me to attend this conference as an invited speaker.

The conference took place at an excellent location: the Chang Jung Christian University, a modern university complex with all required facilities. The conference was perfectly organised; despite the large number of visitors everything went smoothly.

Over 500 delegates, including Taiwanese occupational hygienists, occupational physicians and occupational health nurses, attended this joint conference. By far, most contributions were in occupational hygiene, showing that this field is flourishing in Taiwan.

The importance of the conference was emphasized by the prominent speakers in the opening ceremony, including: Mr. Chin-Seng Chen, President of the Chang Jung Christian University; Mr. Chih-Lin Lai, Deputy Minister of Council of Labour Affairs, Executive Yuan; and Ms. Po-Ya Chang, former Minister of Interior, Executive Yuan.

The two-day conference had a well filled program. Key-note sessions took place in the morning; during the afternoon, there were five to six parallel sessions with over 200 papers altogether, dealing with topics such as management, industrial ventilation, and exposure assessment, among others. For the occupational hygienists interested in keeping their knowledge up-to-date, it must have been difficult to make a choice from the overwhelming number of papers. Tea and lunch breaks offered sufficient opportunity for making or renewing contacts.

Besides food for the mind, there was also food for the body. The conference buffet dinner consisted of a vast number of plates, representing the best of different styles of cooking. Amazingly it was no problem to feed over 500 people at the same time.

I personally enjoyed the warm hospitality in Taiwan, for which I wish to thank the organisers and everybody who was there to make me feel comfortable. The trip to Taiwan was a pleasant and valuable experience of which I will retain happy memories.

Respectfully submitted,

Ton Spee

President, IOHA

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## ***Implementation of the GHS (The Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals)***

**South American Sub-Regional Workshop on Chemical Hazard Communication and GHS Implementation, São Paulo, Brazil, 29 November - 2 December 2004**

***Summary of the Workshop Recommendations and Conclusions (as adopted by Participants on the last day of the Workshop)***

### **1. Background and Process**

The South American Sub-regional Workshop on Chemical Hazard Communication and GHS Implementation was held in São Paulo from 29 November - 2 December 2004, hosted by Brazil and supported by the GTZ, the US Department of State and the Society for Chemical Hazard Communication (SCHC). It was the second in a series of regional and sub-regional GHS workshops, which are co-ordinated and supported through the *UNITAR/ILO Global GHS Capacity Building Programme*. The workshop was attended by some 65 representatives from ten countries of the Mercosur and Andean Community regions, along with other stakeholders and resource persons. Through a series of working groups and plenary sessions, the workshop developed recommendations for action towards implementation of the GHS, at the national and regional levels.

After opening statements and presentations on “International Initiatives and Programmes for GHS Development, Implementation and Capacity Building”, representatives from all participating countries reviewed their current systems for chemical classification and labelling, the challenges and opportunities for GHS implementation, and their associated capacity building needs.

The workshop divided into three working groups, two with country representatives from all participants in the sub-region and a third group of Brazilian participants, to discuss national GHS implementation issues relevant to four sectors, namely:

- Industrial Chemicals
- Agricultural Chemicals
- Chemicals in Transport
- Consumer Product Chemicals

All working group discussions were preceded by introductory presentations. The groups subsequently discussed regional GHS implementation issues relevant to the four sectors.

### **2. General Outcomes**

The general outcomes of the workshop deliberations are summarised below.

- 2.1 Reaffirmation of the commitment to the WSSD target of GHS implementation by 2008, provided that the obstacles noted in 2.4 can be overcome.
- 2.2 Agreement on the benefits of appropriate GHS implementation to facilitate trade and improve the protection of human health (including occupational aspects) and the environment.
- 2.3 Agreement that national development of mechanisms for multi-sectoral approaches, with relevant civil society organisations, is essential for GHS implementation.

- 2.4 Agreement that the main obstacles to implementation include: lack of awareness; lack of knowledge and information about the GHS; non-existing or fragmented/conflicting national regulations/legislation; differing regional structures; lack of resources, and, lack of training.
- 2.5 Agreement to undertake activities (and improve upon existing activities) to overcome these obstacles at the national and regional levels.

### **3. National Follow-up Activities**

The workshop recommended the following national follow-up activities:

- 3.1 Countries should raise awareness about the GHS and its importance within all relevant government agencies and among civil society, and encourage other stakeholders to do so
- 3.2 Countries that have not commenced national-level GHS implementation projects should do so. Countries interested in participating in capacity building programmes should contact relevant international organizations (e.g. UNITAR, ILO).
- 3.3 Countries should assign the responsibility and mandate for GHS implementation to relevant national chemical commissions/committees or GHS-specific multi-stakeholder and multi-sector working groups.
- 3.4 Those who undertake GHS implementation at the national level should ensure harmonisation to the greatest extent possible between and among all public and private sectors involved in the GHS.
- 3.5 Countries should analyze the legislation, regulations, administrative procedures and resources needed to implement the GHS in all relevant sectors (first, by conducting a situation and gap analysis).
- 3.6 Countries should use the GHS as the basis for drafting missing legislation in relevant sectors. Existing national regulations and standards should be aligned with the GHS. Alignment of any existing transport standards should conform to the latest UN RTDG (UN Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods) and the transport sector should be made aware of the relationship between the UN RTDG and the GHS.
- 3.7 Countries should ensure the incorporation of chemicals management into national sustainable development strategies (where they exist), or similar tools such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).
- 3.8 Participants should ensure that the workshop report and recommendations are disseminated and communicated to the highest national levels and to all relevant institutions and stakeholders in their country.
- 3.9 Participants should raise awareness and greater interest in their governments to obtain high level political support needed to undertake GHS implementation activities.
- 3.10 To assist with GHS implementation, those engaged in related activities should consider possible synergies and partnerships with other initiatives/agreements (e.g., Stockholm, Rotterdam and Basel Conventions - and Basel Regional Centres - and Montreal Protocol).
- 3.11 Countries should identify funding opportunities related to chemical management in public and private sectors and also submit applications for GHS awareness raising and other implementation projects to potential donors and technical cooperation agencies.
- 3.12 Countries should facilitate training to all stakeholders involved in the implementation process.
- 3.13 Countries should share experiences in developing national GHS implementation strategies.
- 3.14 Countries should consider membership on the UN Sub-Committee of Experts on the GHS (SCEGHS). (Interested parties should contact the GHS Secretariat at: United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Transport Division, Dangerous Goods and

Special Cargoes Section, Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, SWITZERLAND. Fax. +41 22 917 0039).

3.15 If the country is involved in the development or updating of a National Profile, it should review and analyse GHS implementation activities.

#### 4. Regional Follow-up Activities

The workshop recommended that the following regional follow-up activities be carried out:

- 4.1 Identify a national GHS focal point, and/or sectoral focal points as appropriate, responsible for regional communication and interaction. The name and contact details of the focal points should be communicated to UNITAR by 1 March 2005.
- 4.2 Use the corresponding national mechanisms to inform high-level regional bodies of the importance and need for GHS implementation activities (e.g. Joint Parliamentary Commission in Mercosur, technical committees of CAN, Ministerial meetings, etc.).
- 4.3 Include GHS implementation on the agenda of CAN, Mercosur and other relevant international organisations and relevant regional committees/commissions and national committees/commissions convened under regional bodies.
- 4.4 Consider convening distinct GHS groups in relevant regional agreements (e.g. CAN, Mercosur). These working groups could work by existing means, including by email and web-based discussion forums.
- 4.5 Report workshop results to the Secretariats of Mercosur and CAN.
- 4.6 Identify and contact relevant international agencies (e.g. UN SCEGHS, UNITAR, ILO, IPCS, PAHO) and cooperation agencies (e.g. GTZ, USAID) to support regional GHS implementation.
- 4.7 Make use of international structures, such as IFCS and APEC, to promote regional and national GHS implementation.
- 4.8 Promote, through international and regional organizations, identification and training of regional GHS experts to provide support regionally and nationally, as appropriate, to various implementation committees in different countries and in different sectors.

**NOTE:** Mercosur includes Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay and Chile (as a candidate country). The Andean Community includes Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela.

**REMARK:** A document that describes the GHS and contains harmonized classification criteria and hazard communication elements is available online (free of charge) at:

[http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/ghs/ghs\\_rev00/00files\\_e.html](http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/ghs/ghs_rev00/00files_e.html)

This document also provides guidance to assist countries and organizations in the development of tools for implementation of the GHS. The provisions for implementation of the GHS allow the uniform development of national policies, while remaining flexible enough to accommodate any special requirements that might have to be met. Furthermore, the GHS is intended to create a user-friendly approach, to facilitate the work of enforcement bodies and to reduce the administrative burden.

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## **News from Member Associations**

### **News from Hong Kong**

#### **Hong Kong Institute of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene:**

#### **Annual Conference, 19 March 2005, sent by TW TSIN, Hong Kong, CHINA**

The second annual Conference, jointly organized by the Hong Kong Institute of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene (HKIOEH) and the Safety and Environmental Protection Office of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology was successfully completed on 19 March 2005. Although it was a one day conference, it attracted a considerable number of delegates from local and nearby regions as well as from other countries, for example, Singapore. Attendance to this Conference provided credits for continued professional development, as required for Registered Professional Hygienists or other similar certification schemes. Indeed, the conference provided opportunities for delegates from different regions to exchange their field experience and share knowledge on occupational hygiene practice.

There were two key note-speakers, namely: Professor J.L. Zhou of the Sun Yet-sen University of Medical Sciences in the Guangdong Province, who gave a speech on Biomarkers, and, Dr. Y.S. Huang from the Tai Wan region, who delivered a lecture on hazards due to the new development of nanotechnology. A wide range of other topics were also discussed, including quality assurance in laboratories, the development of occupational exposure limits for chemicals, and traditional field topics such as the control of exposure to dusts and other hazards, including practical measures for infection control. Biological hazards were of course *hot topics* of occupational hygiene in the post-SARS period.

On the other hand, in Mainland China, industries are flourishing. There will be great demand for the development of occupational hygiene and there is strong political will for this. Therefore, the presentation by Mr. Zhou was very timely and appreciated; he mentioned that, currently, under the second chapter of the Chinese Occupational Disease Prevention and Treatment Act, occupational disease risk assessment will be a “must” for all new workplace projects (including those for changes and expansions), prior to granting permission for operation. The conference was over run and ended in cheers.



Delegates attending the Second Annual Conference jointly organized by HKIOEH and SEPO of the HKUST on 19 March 2005

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## News from Japan

### ***Japan Association for Working Environment Measurement (JAWE): Training Course for Evaluation of Asbestos in Bulk Materials***

In response to a request from the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Japan, the Japan Association for Working Environment Measurement (JAWE) developed a curriculum for a training course for Licensed Industrial Hygienists in the field of Working Environment Measurement, in order to develop the skill to analyze the asbestos content in weight, in bulk samples such as construction materials (not to assess airborne asbestos in workplaces), and already started to conduct these training courses.

In order to cope with the recent change of the situation regarding the manufacture, import, transfer, supplying or use of asbestos, as well as the increase of lung cancer, mesothelioma and other occupational diseases due to exposure to asbestos, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Japan, amended the “Ordinance on Prevention of Hazards due to Specified Chemical Substances” in February, 2005, and also enacted a new regulation, namely the “Ordinance on Prevention of Hazards due to Asbestos”, which will be enforced on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2005. Moreover, through this amendment, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Japan, has proposed to ratify the ILO Convention N<sup>o</sup>.162 - “Convention Concerning Safety in the Use of Asbestos”. It should be mentioned that the number of the victims of occupational diseases due to exposure to asbestos, who were compensated by the Workers' Compensation Insurance Act, in Japan, reached 77 and 121, respectively in the fiscal years of 2002 and 2003.

The enactment of the “Ordinance on Prevention of Hazards due to Asbestos” means that the provisions regarding the control of asbestos were transferred from the “Ordinance on Prevention of Hazards due to Specified Chemical Substances” to this new regulation (“Ordinance on Prevention of Hazards due to asbestos”), at the same time adding certain new necessary provisions in order to adequately cope with the change of the situation, in recent years in Japan, as mentioned above.

It should be noted that the asbestos regulations, in Japan, have been amended a few times in recent years. In 1995, the manufacture, import, use, transfer or supplying of amosite (brown asbestos) and crocidolite (blue asbestos), as well as chemicals and other substances containing asbestos, were prohibited by article 55 of the Industrial Safety and Health Law, Japan, as indicated on Table 8-2 of the Enforcement Order of Industrial Safety and Health Law (Cabinet Order No. 318, August 19, 1972, amended in 1995). However, this provision did not apply to substances containing 1% or less of asbestos (amosite and crocidolite) in weight.

Also, in Japan, on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2004, article 55 of the Industrial Safety and Health Law came into effect prohibiting the manufacture, import, use, transfer or provision of products containing more than 1 % asbestos (including chrysotile) in weight, such as cement cylinders, fibre-reinforced cement plates, clutch lining, brake pads, brake lining, bonding agents, among others (as indicated on table 8-2, amended on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2004).

Through the enforcement of Cabinet Order No. 318 (19 August 1972, amended on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2004), it can be said that, in Japan, asbestos is rarely manufactured, imported, used, transferred or provided. Nevertheless this does not apply whenever appropriate substitute

materials for indispensable uses have not yet been developed, for example, certain gaskets (containing more than 1% of asbestos in weight) are still manufactured and used (mainly in chemical industry); this would be an exceptional case in the above-mentioned Table 8-2 of the Cabinet Order.

Therefore, concerning the present (and still) important problem of asbestos in Japan, it can be said that the main target for the prevention of diseases due to asbestos exposure (such as lung cancer and mesothelioma) is the protection of workers in workplaces where the buildings or structures were constructed in the 1970's to 1980's, often using asbestos (for example, in fire fighting materials, slates, cement, insulating materials and other construction materials), particularly whenever these are pulled down because of deterioration, or are demolished. It is expected that workers engaged in such work will be exposed to asbestos, unless strict preventive measures are taken by employers, for example, isolation, use of adequate local ventilation, appropriate personal protective equipment and clothing, personal hygiene, among many others.

Therefore, the main aim of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Japan, in enacting this new regulation, is to cope properly with the problem of the above mentioned exposure of workers.

In addition to the provisions regarding control of asbestos, contained in the former "Ordinance on Prevention of Hazards due to Specified Chemical Substances" (amended in February 2005), the new "Ordinance on Prevention of Hazards due to Asbestos" includes several new provisions as follows:

- prior studies must be carried out by concerned employers to establish whether asbestos was used or not in buildings or structures, which are planned to be pulled down;
- when it is not clear whether asbestos was used or not in such buildings or structures, analysis for the presence of asbestos shall be carried out by the employers concerned, otherwise adequate measures to prevent workers' exposure to asbestos should be taken as if asbestos had been used;
- notification by the concerned employers, to the Chief of the Labour Standards Inspection Office (with jurisdiction over the workplace in question), concerning their plan for demolishing work to be carried out in any building or structure where asbestos was used, for example, as heat insulation or fire fighting material, on walls, pillars, roofs, etc.

In addition, the Administrative Control Level for airborne asbestos was reduced from 2 fibres/cm<sup>3</sup> to 0.15 fibres/cm<sup>3</sup> on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2005 by an amendment of the Working Environment Evaluation Standards (Ministry of Labour Notification No. 79 of 1<sup>st</sup> September 1988).

In fact, in Japan, for licensed Industrial Hygienists in the field of Working Environment (under the Work Environment Measurement Law), employed in registered Working Environment Measurement Agencies or in organizations that have their own staff to perform working environment measurements, it is a new experience to analyze asbestos content in weight, in materials such as the above mentioned, instead of analyzing airborne asbestos in workplaces.

Last fiscal year (2004), the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Japan requested the Japan Association for Working Environment Measurement (JAWME), whose Chairman is Mr.

KUNIOKI KUBO, Senior Advisor of JFE Holdings, Inc., to develop an appropriate curriculum and conduct the necessary training courses in order to enable these Industrial Hygienists to analyze the content of asbestos in weight (if more than 1% or not) in construction materials, such as heat insulation, fire fighting and other asbestos-containing materials.

In response to this request, JAWE developed the necessary curriculum for a two-day training course and the outline of this curriculum is hereby presented.

Term	Subjects
First day	- Lecture on the present situation regarding asbestos both at the domestic and at the international levels
	- Lecture on a method for the qualitative and quantitative analysis of asbestos content, in weight, in different products
	- Lecture on analysis of asbestos by the X-ray Diffraction Method
	- Lecture on the analysis of asbestos by the Phase-Contrast Optical Microscopy Method using Dispersion Staining and by the Polarizing Microscope Method
Second Day	- Practice on qualitative and quantitative analysis of asbestos content in weight, in bulk samples, such as construction materials, by the X-ray Diffraction Method (including formic acid treatment)
	- Lecture and demonstration on the analysis of asbestos content in weight in serpentine by the Derivative Thermogravimetry Method as well as the X-ray Diffraction Method.
	- Practice on the qualitative and quantitative analysis of asbestos fibres by the Phase-Contrast Optical Microscopy Method using Dispersion Staining
	- Questions and Answers

JAWE, in response to the request from the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Japan, conducted four of the above-mentioned training courses since last July, in fiscal year 2004 (see Photo showing the practice of Dispersion Staining in one of the courses). Thirty four licensed Industrial Hygienists (in the field of Working Environment Measurement) finished these training courses in fiscal year of 2004.



In the fiscal year of 2005, under the auspices of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Japan, JAWE is going to conduct more training courses, nationwide, basically following the above-mentioned curriculum.

From: Masayoshi Karasawa  
 Executive Director, The Japan Association for Working Environment Measurement  
 Member of the Board of Directors of International Occupational Hygiene Association  
 E-mail: [director@jawe.or.jp](mailto:director@jawe.or.jp)

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## News from Malaysia

### ***Malaysian Industrial Hygiene Association (MIHA)***

MIHA has been very active in promoting and developing occupational hygiene and should be congratulated on its achievements, some of which are hereby presented, as well as a recent message from its President demonstrating the spirit of this association. Thanks to Shamini Samuel, Honorary Secretary of MIHA ([Shamini.Samuel@moduspec.com](mailto:Shamini.Samuel@moduspec.com)) for having provided material for this notice.

### **Message from the MIHA President, Zainal Mubarik** (from the February 2005 issue of the MIHA Newsletter)

"I reckon it is not too late to wish all of you a belated Happy New Year in 2005. This means now that MIHA is entering the third year of its existence. I would like to thank all those who have given their support to MIHA over these years. And I hope to receive continuous support in the coming years to ensure that our vision and wishes for the profession to becoming recognized and growing becoming a reality.

In 2004, we had successfully conducted 3 IH forums, a week of comprehensive industrial hygiene training, a tea talk, active e-group discussions, and CIH examination. We achieved most what we wanted to do in 2004, but we are not satisfied. We are happy with the feedback that we received from participants who attended our workshops and training but we are not contented. There are so many things that we want to do but our hands are not enough. We need more help from the members to come forward and contribute their time, energy and ideas by joining the working committees. This has always been a challenge to all of us.

We have lined up some activities in 2005 such as a 2-day National Industrial Hygiene Seminar, quarterly IH Forum, CIH examination and CIH preparatory class (if we have enough candidates) and Fundamentals of IH Workshop. For long-term, the committee has also set up two task forces to work on Malaysian IH certification scheme and training program. MIHA has also been approved as the distributor for American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) books.

This will benefit the members to buy books at discounted prices. We need your help to assist MIHA committee members in carrying out these planned activities. Please, do not hesitate to contact anyone of us if you like to volunteer.

Lastly, it is my desire that MIHA will continue to serve its members satisfactorily and enhance the competency and professionalism of the members in the industrial hygiene field.

Thank you.

Regards

Zainal

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The Malaysian Industrial Hygiene Association (MIHA), in line with their objective to provide training to further advance the standard and skills of personnel involved in Industrial Hygiene assessments, has organized two Advanced Practical Workshops on Local Exhaust Ventilation System Assessment, respectively on 29-30 November 2004 and on 1-2 December 2004. These were held at the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) in Bangi. The course tutor was the renowned occupational hygienist Frank S. Gill from the UK.

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**Examples of coming MIHA activities:**

***Comprehensive Industrial Hygiene Review Course***, to be held at the Sheraton Subang Hotel, Subang Jaya, on 9-12 August 2005

This will be a 4-day course providing a comprehensive, high-level review of a wide range of industrial hygiene topics for both practicing industrial hygienists and safety professionals. It will be given by Professor Park Doo Yong, Ph.D., CIH, who is one of the pioneers of industrial hygiene in Korea. Professor Park Doo Yong is currently the Chairman of Department of the Graduate School of Occupational Safety and Health at Hansung University, Korea, and has been serving as the Vice President of the Korean Industrial Hygiene Association since 2002.

For any enquiries, please contact:

Mrs Khairul Bariah / Shamini Samuel/Wan Sabrina

E-mail: [committee@mymiha.org](mailto:committee@mymiha.org)

**First National Industrial Hygiene Seminar: Forging Ahead in Industrial Hygiene**

This Seminar will be held at the Sheraton Subang Hotel, Subang Jaya, on 16-17 August 2005.

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**Congratulations for Award**

It should be mentioned that one of its members, DR. Jas Singh, CIH, was the recipient of the 2005 Distinguished Service Award from the American Industrial Hygiene Association. This award was presented at the AIHCE in Anaheim, California, USA, in May 2005. Congratulations to Dr. Jas!

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## ***News from the ILO***

### **93rd Session of the International Labour Conference, 2005: Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health**

At its 91<sup>st</sup> Session (2003), the International Labour Conference held a general discussion based on an integrated approach to "ILO standards-related activities in the area of occupational safety and health." The resulting "Conclusions concerning ILO standards-related activities in the area of occupational safety and health - a global strategy" stipulated that a new instrument establishing a promotional framework in the area of occupational safety and health (OSH) should be developed on a priority basis. Since this takes about two years, the first discussion by the ILO constituents of the Promotional Framework on Occupational Safety and Health is taking place in Geneva in June 2005.

The complete document that will be discussed on the Promotional Framework on OSH may be downloaded at the following URL in 7 languages:

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/protection/safework/promoframe.htm>

More information on the International Labour Conference may be found at the following URL:

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/relm/ilc/index.htm>

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### **ILO Guidelines on Occupational safety and Health Management Systems (ILO-OSH 2001)**

Three new countries have adopted the ILO Guidelines on Occupational Safety and Health Management Systems (ILO-OSH 2001), namely Ireland, Argentina and Israel. Presently, there are discussions ongoing in France to have ILO-OSH 2001 as the only guidance for OSH-MS and a tripartite resolution by AFNOR - French Standards Organization - proposes this further to both the European Standards Organization (CEN) and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). The full text of ILO-OSH 2001 (in 8 languages), and the above agreements signed, may be viewed and downloaded at:

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/protection/safework/managmnt/index.htm>

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### **ILO/UNITAR GHS Capacity Building Programme**

In response to growing requests from countries for GHS capacity building, UNITAR and the ILO initiated, in 2001, the UNITAR/ILO Global GHS Capacity Building Programme. To date, pilot activities have been conducted in South Africa and Zambia and regional activities in Southern Africa and South America. The Programme is supported by resources contributed by multiple donors to a global trust fund. In 2005-2006, the Programme will be supporting national projects in Indonesia, Nigeria, Senegal, Slovenia, Thailand, Gambia and the Philippines.

In 2002, UNITAR and the ILO, in collaboration with OECD, initiated the WSSD Global Partnership for Capacity Building to Implement the GHS. For further information, please visit the site: [www.unitar.org/cwm](http://www.unitar.org/cwm).

Organizations interested in supporting additional pilot activities at the country level, or other programme activities, may contact Jonathan Krueger, UNITAR, at e-mail: [jonathan.krueger@unitar.org](mailto:jonathan.krueger@unitar.org).

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**REMARK:** It should be mentioned that two important above mentioned activities, namely the 10<sup>th</sup> ICORD and the South American Sub-Regional Workshop on the GHS Implementation, were also co-sponsored by the ILO.  
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### **News from WHO**

The World Health Organization (WHO) continues to support the application, at the country level, of the International Chemical Control Toolkit (the Control Banding approach). I am pleased to collaborate with WHO concerning activities related to this topic, particularly in Brazil, where we already had two meetings. As a result, FUNDACENTRO (WHO Collaborating Centre in Brazil) has launched a programme for its application, jointly with a few other Brazilian organizations (including SEBRAE and SESI). The first step has been to translate relevant materials into Portuguese. The first Pilot Programme will focus on foundries and the printing industry.

As a representative of WHO in the “South American Sub-Regional Workshop on Chemical Hazard Communication and GHS Implementation”, held in São Paulo, December 2004 (whose Conclusions are above), I made a presentation on “*International Chemical Control Toolkit: a practical application of the GHS*”, emphasizing the fundamental importance of a correct and harmonized hazard classification system for the implementation of the International Chemical Control Toolkit. When applying the ICCT, the First Step of assigning the chemical in question to a certain hazard category is critical; it is key in leading to an adequate decision on control. If the chemical is incorrectly categorized, the resulting control recommendation will certainly be wrong. No conclusion is better than the information it is based on ! International implementation of the Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals is indispensable, and many international agencies, including the ILO, UNITAR and WHO are working on this.

The 10<sup>th</sup> ICORD was also co-sponsored by WHO, under the Joint ILO/WHO Global Programme for the Elimination of Silicosis and, as already mentioned, the two organizations are working closely together on this.

On the next issue of this Newsletter there will be important news from WHO, concerning its Programme of Work and its Network of Collaborating Centres.

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## ***News from the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work***

The site <http://agency.osha.eu.int/> should be continuously checked, as it contains valuable material, often in 20 languages ! One of their important activities - the *International Noise Awareness Day*, is hereby presented.

### **International Noise Awareness Day**

A Europe-wide campaign - International Noise Awareness Day - was launched on 20 April 2005, in order to tackle one of the most persistent workplace health problems in Europe: noise at work. It should be kept in mind that:

- *An estimated one third of Europe's workers (more than 60 million people) are exposed to high levels of noise for more than a quarter of their working time.*
- *Almost 40 million workers (equivalent to the entire population of Spain) have to raise their voices above normal conversational levels in order to be heard for at least half of their working hours.*
- *A new European Directive on occupational noise will come into force on 15 February 2006.*

Noise-induced hearing loss has been recognised as 'the most prevalent, irreversible industrial disease'. But actually noise at work can cost you much more than your hearing! It can be a causal factor in accidents, contribute to work-related stress, and may act together with other workplace hazards to cause ill health.

The figures show that noise at work is still a serious but often underestimated threat to millions of European workers. The issue comes under the spotlight today as the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work launches its major campaign in more than 30 countries throughout the continent. Backed by the European Parliament, Commission and Luxembourg EU Presidency, the campaign, with its slogan "STOP THAT NOISE!" will culminate in the annual European Week for Safety and Health at Work on 24-28 October 2005.

Vladimir Spidla, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, said: "Noise goes beyond hearing problems; it can cause workplace accidents and increase stress levels. Workers will get more hearing protection under new measures coming into force in all EU Member States by February 2006 which will set a limit of 87 decibels for workers' daily exposure to noise. I welcome the fact that this campaign will raise awareness of these measures".

The campaign, which will be underpinned by a range of printed and online information, including examples of good practice, will be supported by thousands of events in 31 European countries, including Member States, as well as candidate and EFTA countries. Coordinated by the Agency's network of National Focal Points, events will range from training initiatives and promotional campaigns to seminars and workshops. In addition, businesses and occupational safety organisations will be invited to sign an online campaign charter to demonstrate their commitment to more effective noise management. Full details can be found at the Agency's special European Week 2005 website (<http://ew2005.osha.eu.int/>).

The Agency Director, Hans-Horst Konkolewsky, stated: "Our goal is not only to raise awareness of the many risks which noise brings to the workplace and the workers. Equally important is to go one step further and provide the tools to help improve noise management across European industries and sectors. The campaign will target a wide spectrum of stakeholders and through them individual companies, providing them with guides, checklists for risk assessment and examples of good practice solutions all freely available from our website. What we hope to achieve at the end of the day is a clear understanding that the threat of noise goes far beyond traditionally 'loud' industries, that it can cost you more than your hearing, but also that it can be effectively controlled and its risks prevented or considerably reduced."

**Press contacts:**

Bilbao:

Marek Kosarczyn, Press Officer, European Agency for Safety and Health at Work, Bilbao, tel. +34 94 479 43 86, email: [kosarczyn@osha.eu.int](mailto:kosarczyn@osha.eu.int)

Brussels:

Brenda O'Brien, European Agency for Safety and Health at Work, Brussels Liaison Officer, NCI Business Centre, Rue Wiertz 50, 1050 Brussels, tel. 0032 2 401 68 59, email: [obrien@osha.eu.int](mailto:obrien@osha.eu.int)

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**Obituary: Dr Fengsheng He 1932-2004**

*by Dr. Yuxin Zheng, MD, PhD*

***Deputy Director, National Institute of Occupational Health and Poison Control***

***Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention***

***Director, WHO Collaborating Center for Occupational Health (Beijing)***

***Beijing, PR China***



Professor Fengsheng He, Honorary Director of the National Institute of Occupational Health and Poison Control (NIOHPC), Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CCDCP), died in Beijing on November 16, 2004 of pancreatic cancer.

Prof. He was an internationally renowned scholar of occupational medicine and neurotoxicology. She made significant contributions to the studies of a number of occupational nervous diseases and neurotoxic diseases. From early-70s to early-80s, Prof. He carried out ten years of a series of epidemiological, clinical, toxicological and neuropathological studies, which for the first time systematically demonstrated the neurotoxicity of allyl chloride both in humans and in animal models. This led to the further

development of diagnostic criteria for chronic occupational allyl chloride poisoning, as well as the establishment of an occupational exposure standard for allyl chloride. Her studies on the

clinical features of mildewed sugarcane poisoning revealed for the first time a mycotoxin (3-nitropropionic acid) induced dystonia with striatal CT lucencies in humans. These studies contributed to the control of this life threatening brain disease with persistent sequelae in children in China. Prof. He was the first to describe the clinical manifestations and the nerve excitability changes of acute pyrethroids insecticide poisoning in humans. Her work in acute carbon monoxide poisoning proved the significance of multimodality evoked potentials in the evaluation of brain function and advanced the prediction of development of delayed encephalopathy. She and her collaborators first detected the novel exposure biomarker of acrylamide, acrylamide-hemoglobin adduct, for the assessment of occupational risk of acrylamide. Her research on the intermediate myasthenia syndrome, following acute organophosphate poisoning, provided the first evidence of post-synaptic transmission block at the neuromuscular junction by stimulation single fiber electromyography both in humans and in experimental animals. She was the first to discover that cytochrome P450 gene polymorphism influences the susceptibility to manganese neurotoxicity in workers with chronic occupational exposure, and CYP2D6 gene to be one of the potential susceptibility biomarkers of chronic manganism. Prof. He was also one of the active leaders in the development of occupational health and promotion of preventive medicine both nationally and internationally. In 1994, she co-chaired The Second Meeting of the Network of WHO Collaborating Centers in Occupational Health, which recommended the document of Global Strategy on Occupational Health for All (The way to health at work) for consideration by the WHO. This important document was formally endorsed by WHO in 1995 and became the framework of policy principles and strategies based on which WHO addresses occupational health globally.

Prof. He was born in Nanjing on June 26, 1932 and received her medical training at the Nanjing Medical College. After earning her medical degree in 1955, she worked for six years as a neurologist at the Peace Hospital in Beijing. In 1962, she joined the Department of Occupational Medicine, Institute of Health, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, as a Lecturer, and became an Associate Professor in 1978. She also chaired the Department of Occupational Medicine from 1978-1985. During 1979-1981, she was a Visiting Scholar at the Institute of Neurology of the University of London, England. During 1985-1991, she was Professor in Occupational Medicine, and the Director of the Institute of Occupational Medicine (IOM), Chinese Academy of Preventive Medicine (CAPM). During 1991-1994, she worked as a Medical Officer in the Office of Occupational Health of the World Health Organization in Geneva. She was Professor in Occupational Medicine, IOM, CAPM and later NIOHPC, CCDCP since 1995. She was also the Head of the WHO Collaborating Center for Occupational Health (Beijing) from 1982 to 2003.

During her career, Prof. He published more than 200 scientific papers. She was the principal author of two acknowledged premier reference textbooks "Chinese Occupational Medicine" and "Toxic and Metabolic Nervous Diseases". She also co-edited and contributed chapters to eleven other professional books. Prof. He received numerous honors and awards, including membership in the Chinese Academy of Engineering (since 1994), the Scipione Caccuri International Prize in 1984, the First Class Prize for Scientific Research from the Ministry of Public Health in China (1989), the National Medal of Labor in China (1986), the State Distinguished Scientist in China (1986), and the Second Class Prize of National Science and Technology Advances in China (1987). She was an Honorary Director, IOM, CAPM and later NIOHPC, CCDCP since 1995; an Honorary Fellow, Royal College of Physicians, Faculty of Occupational Medicine (London) since 1986; a Distinguished Visiting Scholar, Hong Kong Chinese University (1994); a member of Council of Fellow, Collegium Ramazzini (since

1988); an Active Member of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts, and an Honorary Professor of seven universities and research institutes in China. Prof. He was also very active in the professional field and served on many boards and committees. She was a Board Member, International Commission on Occupational Health (1990-1993); the President, Asian Association of Occupational Health (1991-1994); a Panel Member, WHO Expert Advisory Panel on Occupational Health (since 1986); a member of the Board of Directors, International Society of Complex Environmental Studies; a Fellow of Council, International Association for Indoor Air Quality; an Executive Board Member, Chinese Association of Preventive Medicine; the Vice President, Chinese Association of Public Health, and, the Vice President of the Chinese Society of Occupational Health. Prof. He was on the editorial board of numerous journals, including International Archives of Occupational and Environmental Health, American Journal of Industrial Medicine, Biomarkers, Archives of Complex Environmental Studies, Neurotoxicology and Teratology, Journal of Occupational and Environmental Health (Japan), Journal of Occupational Medicine (Singapore), Gigiena Truda i Profzabolevaniya (Russia), International Journal of Occupational and Environmental Health (Poland), Chinese Journal of Industrial Hygiene and Occupational Diseases, Chinese Journal of Industrial Medicine, Chinese Journal of Preventive Medicine, and Chinese Journal of Pharmacology and Toxicology.

Friends, family and colleagues who knew her agree that Prof. He was most brave about her illness. Diagnosed a year ago with pancreatic cancer in its most advanced stage, she put up a battle with enormous energy and vitality. She participated in the diagnosis and treatment decision-making throughout the course of her illness. Even in the hospital, she continued her work on the promotion of occupational health. Those who knew her will always remember her generosity, her perseverance and her dedication to occupational medicine, to the working people and to her students.

Prof. He is survived by her husband of 47 years, Fangyi Qian, a cardiologist; daughter Dayan of Beijing; son Dapeng of Guilford, Connecticut; and 3 grandsons.



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***IOHA Scientific Conference***

**Progress Update on IOHA 2005 (May 2005)**

The International Occupational Hygiene Association 6<sup>th</sup> International Scientific Conference (IOHA 2005 or IOHA 6<sup>th</sup> ISC) takes place in the Pilanesberg National Park, North West Province, South Africa on the 19-23<sup>rd</sup> September 2005.

IOHA 2005 is organized by IOHA in conjunction with the Mine Ventilation Society of South Africa (MVS) and the Southern African Institute for Occupational hygiene (SAIOH).

A wide variety of Scientific Sessions, Keynotes and Professional Development Courses are available at IOHA 2005. There will be something for OHS practitioners every day of the Conference.

## **Scientific Sessions**

From the Abstracts and Papers received the Draft Programme consists of 21 Scientific Sessions (SSs) covering:

### ***Monday, 19 September 2005***

SS A: OHS Management Systems  
SS B: Physical Agents (Noise, Vibration, Thermal)  
SS C: Risk Assessment/Management

### ***Tuesday, 20 September 2005***

SS D: Agriculture  
SS E: Health Care Sector  
SS F: Mining  
SS G: Biological Monitoring  
SS H: Construction

### ***Wednesday, 21 September 2005***

SS I: 3<sup>rd</sup> International Control Banding Workshop  
SS J: Asbestos  
SS K: Ergonomics  
SS L: Biological Agents  
SS M: Medical Surveillance  
SS N: Environmental Issues/Management  
SS O: Shift Work/ Stress Management

### ***Thursday, 22 September 2005***

SS P: Visualization Techniques/ PIMEX  
SS Q: Exposure Assessment Strategies  
SS R: Chemical Exposures  
SS S: Silicosis  
SS T: Occupational Hygiene in Africa  
SS U: New Developments in Occupational Hygiene

The Medical Surveillance Sessions planned for Wednesday 21st September 2005 are to attract occupational medicine and occupational health nurse practitioners to IOHA 2005 and facilitate discussions with doctors and nursing practitioners visiting South Africa including those attending the WHO Network of Collaborating Centres in Occupational Health meeting.

It is anticipated about 120 papers will be presented and 15 Keynote talks.

## **Keynote Talks**

Keynote talks for IOHA 2005 include:

### ***Monday, 19 September 2005***

- Status of Occupational Hygiene Globally: Dr. Paul Oldershaw, HSE, UK
- Historical Aspects of Occupational Hygiene in South Africa and Africa: Dr. David W. Stanton, Chamber of Mines of South Africa
- IOHA Lifetime Achievement Award Lecture: Standards, regulations and public policy: Still a need for the best hygiene input: Dr. David L. Grantham, State of Queensland, Australia

### ***Tuesday***

- Occupational Health in the Health Care Sector: Professor Mary Ross, NIOH, South Africa
- Occupational Health in Construction: Mr. Lawrence Waterman, President IOSH, UK
- Occupational Hygiene in Mining: Ms. May Hermanus, Chief Inspector, DME, South Africa
- Australian work in China on OHS, Mr. Stewart Bell, Director SIMTARS, Australia (Exact title of Keynote still to be confirmed)

### ***Wednesday***

- Global trends in Occupational Hygiene Education and Training: Professor Michel Guillemin, IST, Switzerland

### ***Thursday***

- Silicosis, HIV/AIDS and TB: Professor Gavin Churchyard, Aurum Health, South Africa
- Global Programme on the Elimination of Silicosis: Dr. Igor Fedotov, ILO, Switzerland
- IOHA and Combating of Silicosis: Mr. TW Twsin, IOHA President, Hong Kong, China

### ***Friday Morning***

- WHO/ILO Joint Effort on OHS In Africa: Dr. Gerry Eijkemans, WHO, Switzerland
- WHO Network of Collaborating Centres in Occupational Health Global Work Programme: Dr. Marilyn Fingerhut, NIOSH, USA
- Communications and Information Technology: Dr. PK Abeytung, CCOHS, Canada
- IOHA Development of Occupational Hygiene in Africa and Globally: Mr. Ton Spee, IOHA Immediate Past President, Netherlands

## **Welcome, Opening and Closure**

The welcome to international and local delegates will be given by the Immediate Past President of IOHA and the Presidents of the MVS and SAIOH at the Reception on the evening of Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2005 at the Kwa Maritane Bush Lodge.

The Minister of Labour has been invited to open IOHA 2005 together with the IOHA President and representatives from the ILO and WHO on the morning of Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2005 at the Kwa Maritane Bush Lodge.

The last day of IOHA 2005 includes four Keynote talks by International experts and closure by the Chief Inspector, Department of Labour, the IOHA 2005 Organizing Chair, IOHA President and a presentation on next IOHA ISC (7<sup>th</sup> ISC) if awarded to a particular country.

### **Professional Development Courses (PDCs)**

A wide variety of PDCs will be available at IOHA 2005 including:

#### ***Monday, 19 September 2005***

- PDC 1 PIMEX - Picture Mix Exposure
- PDC 2 Ergonomics 1: NIOSH Ergonomic Intervention Effectiveness Workshop
- PDC 3 Introduction to Occupational Health

#### ***Tuesday, 20 September 2005***

- PDC 4 Accessing the Internet for OHS Information
- PDC 5 Introduction to Vibration
- PDC 6 Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems

#### ***Wednesday, 21 September 2005***

- PDC 6 Control of Diesel Emissions
- PDC 8 Epidemiology and Statistics for Hygienists
- PDC 9 Dust Control
- PDC 10 OHS Training for Management and Supervisors

#### ***Thursday, 22 September 2005***

- PDC 4 Accessing the Internet for OHS Information (Repeat)
- PDC 11 Control Banding/ International Toolkit
- PDC 12 Occupational Hygiene Measurements
- PDC 13 Ergonomics 2: Manual Material Handling Exposure Assessment Methods

For Further Information on IOHA 2005 Visit the Conference Website. Visit the Programme page for a copy of the draft programme as a PDF file.

<http://www.saioh.org/ioha2005/>

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## **Congratulations to IOHA Past President Brian Davies**

The following notice was just received by IOHA President (Ton Spee) from Gerard Tiernan, President, Australian Institute of Occupational Hygienists, and we are all proud to join him in congratulating our colleague Brian, who fully deserves such an honour.

"The AIOH is very proud to inform you that Brian Davies, one of our distinguished AIOH Fellows, was awarded an AM - Member of the Order of Australia - in the Queen's Birthday Honours list on Monday. Brian received the award for "service to occupational health and hygiene, particularly in relation to the coal industry, and through the Australian Institute of Occupational Hygienists."

I would like to extend our most sincere congratulations to Brian, who is indeed a worthy recipient. The bestowing of this award is a great credit to Brian and to his wife, Sue, and a significant honour for the Institute. Not only has Brian spent his career devoted to improving the health of workers, but he has worked tirelessly for the Institute and continues to do so as we "speak" serving as the scientific program organiser for the 2005 AIOH conference.

Brian commenced his career in 1963 as an Industrial Chemist with Australian Iron and Steel. In the early 1980's he was appointed the Chief Occupational Hygienist for BHP. His work for BHP brought him to all corners of the globe in both developed and undeveloped countries. He played a major role in the development of BHP's corporate conscience across the world. Recently Brian has pioneered much of the work in the assessment and control of diesel particulates. He was one of the main players in a team that produced "Keeping Coal Miners Healthy at Work" - a practical manual for coal mine OHS. He was awarded his PhD in 2004.

In 2002 Brian received the AIHA Yant Award and in 2003 the ACGIH William Steiger Memorial Award. Brian has served the AIOH as President, Secretary, Treasurer, as a Councillor, and on sub-Committees. He was President of IOHA in 1999.

To have one of our own receive such a prestigious award is very pleasing. The Institute is delighted to have a hygienist of Brian's calibre representing our profession within Australia and across the world."

From: Gerard Tiernan  
President, Australian Institute of Occupational Hygienists  
Email: [president@aioh.org.au](mailto:president@aioh.org.au)  
Web: [www.aioh.org.au](http://www.aioh.org.au)