

IOHA NEWSLETTER – November 2006

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Disclaimer: Great care has been taken in the compilation of this IOHA-Newsletter. But neither the Editor and the authors nor the IOHA can accept any legal responsibility for opinions, errors and omissions that may be made in this Newsletter. The responsibility for opinions expressed in signed articles rests solely with their authors and does not constitute an endorsement by the IOHA.

Letter from the Editor

Dear Colleagues,

Twenty years ago, the existence of IOHA was still a vision of some colleagues who strongly believed that an international effort by professional associations could greatly promote occupational hygiene worldwide, thus contributing to a more comprehensive protection of workers' health. It is gratifying to observe and follow the relentless work of our association over the years, including many new initiatives and a close collaboration with international organizations, such as WHO and the ILO, complementing and enhancing their programmes. All this is the result of many individual efforts and, once in a while, we should remember, appreciate and thank for the dedication of all our colleagues who make IOHA exist.

The last IOHA Board meeting took place in Leiden, The Netherlands, and the President's gavel was handed by Tai Wa Tsin to Rob Ferrie. Congratulations to Rob as the new IOHA President, and thanks to the Past President for his dedication and valuable contribution

to IOHA. The important work of the Committee on Accreditation should be appreciated as it aims at ensuring the high level that our profession deserves.

Past IOHA Presidents "strike again" ☺ Now it is our colleague Brian Davies who received yet another important award - Member of the Order of Australia - that honours him and also our profession. Sincere congratulations to Brian !

We have news from associations in Japan, Canada and the US and a promise to have information from more member associations for the next issue. From ACGIH, we received an important communication on the Foundation for Occupational Health and Safety (FOHS) that ought to be shared with all of you.

After having worked for 25 years in WHO, it is very rewarding for me to see that great importance is being given to workers' health and the present WHO staff in this area must be congratulated. A Global Plan of Action on Workers' Health 2008 – 2017 has been

discussed and approved; its implementation will certainly have an impact on the improvement of working conditions worldwide. On this issue, the WHO Policy Paper on Asbestos is mentioned, as was the ILO Resolution in this respect, on the last issue.

I hope that the contributions from readers in Portugal and Indonesia will encourage others to send us more news to share with colleagues thus promoting direct exchanges among occupational health professionals in different parts of the world.

Since this is the last issue this year, I take this opportunity to wish to all of you a very Joyous Holiday Season in December and a happy and wonderful 2007.

Best greetings
Berenice Goelzer
E-mail: berenice@goelzer.net

News from the IOHA Board

Summary of the IOHA President's Report, 2005 – 2006

by TW TSIN, Past IOHA President, E-mail: twtsin@labour.gov.hk

Time flies like an arrow. A year has passed. I remember when I first took up my term of presidency; it was in Pilanesberg, South Africa, where the 6th IOHA Scientific Conference was held. It was a good start that the conference generated an income for IOHA, and yet the most important outcome was the experience and knowledge that we had learnt and brought home. Many things happened too and they were progressing well. On the whole, this was a fruitful year, and indeed, I had met many friends and learnt a lot valuable lessons.

IOHA being a NGO to both WHO and ILO participated many of their activities in the year. In June, the meeting of the WHO Collaborating Centres for the new work plan from 2006 to 2010 gave the outline of the projects in next five years. IOHA could consider taking up the role of adviser in many project areas. The coming 10 year work plan on the "Global Plan of Action for Workers' Health from 2008 to 2017" is also important as it would oversee the work done in the collaborative programmes. I hope that IOHA could be in the Global Steering Committee.

In the promotion of occupational health for the protection of the working population, a multi-disciplinary team approach is very important. IOHA seeks to work together with other health related professional organizations to share our knowledge - particularly when occupational hygiene is one of the

key solutions to the problem. Examples of our partners are the International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH), the International Ergonomics Association (IEA) and the European Committee for Standardization ("Comité Européen de Normalisation", CEN)

IOHA is working to its goals in the promotion of occupational hygiene, and maintaining contact with interested groups or societies in occupational hygiene around the world, supporting their activities for the improvement of working environment and protection of the workforce. About incorporation, the IOHA Board has agreed to the new corporate structure and is going to implement this in the coming months.

I enjoyed the year being the president very much and it was most rewarding. I must thank those for their active participation in IOHA activities and sincerely hope they would continuously support the progress of the profession, in particular Ton and David who have left the Board. Of course, I must also thank those still working very hard in the Board, in particular, Rob Ferrie, and Chih-Chieh Chen, Tom Grumbles and Noel Tresider, as well as Pamela Blythe and her supporting staff in the IOHA Secretariat, for their valuable effort. Rob is now taking up the most challenging job - I sincerely wish him all the best and success as the President of IOHA in the next 18 months.

Report from IOHA Board Meeting, Leiden, The Netherlands, September 2006

A warm and sunny Leiden played host to the IOHA Board Meeting on 10-11 September 2006, where amongst the issues discussed were:

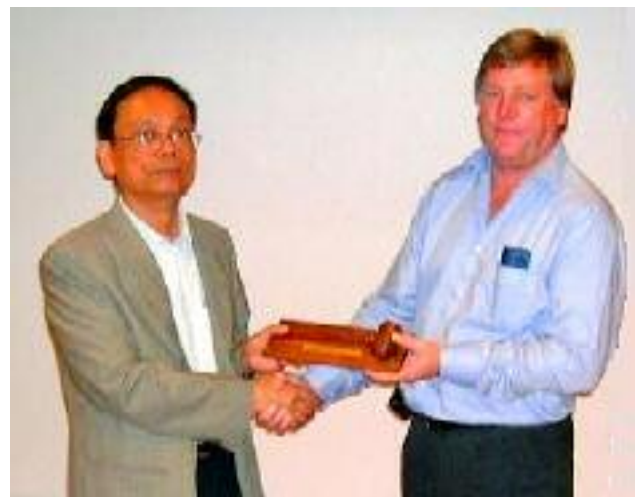
- Conferences: Three conferences are in various stages of planning. The most advanced is, of course, the 7th conference, 18-22 February 2008 in Taiwan. Preliminary plans are also in place for the 8th conference in 2010 which will be held in Europe, and for the 9th conference in 2012 most probably in Malaysia. 2012 also marks the 25th anniversary of the establishment of IOHA.
- The National Accreditation Recognition Committee has recently reviewed and accepted applications from The Netherlands and South Africa, and has three further applications currently under consideration.
- An application is being made to become a limited company under English law. This will limit the liability of the member organisations of IOHA.
- Largely as a result of the hard work and perseverance of Ton Spee (The Netherlands), the job title “environmental and occupational health and hygiene professionals” has been



Delegates at the meeting in Leiden.

included in the draft ISCO listing. This draft is currently being voted on by national employee organisations and/or government organisations and you are encouraged to lobby within your own country for acceptance of this proposal.

- Collaborations with CEN, ICOH, IEA, ILO and WHO continue at various levels of activity.
- A Statement of Purpose for IOHA was agreed and this will be followed by the development of a 5-year Plan of Work, including budgetary considerations.
- An outreach programme is being considered to those occupational hygiene societies who are not currently members of IOHA. If you have any contact details for such an organisation, please pass them on to admin@ioha.net.
- Tom Grumbles (AIHA) was elected as President-Elect for 2006-2007, and Rob Ferrie (South Africa) was installed as President for 2006-8 by the outgoing President, Tai Wa Tsin (Hong Kong).



Rob Ferrie (right) being presented with the IOHA presidential gavel by the outgoing President, Tai Wa Tsin.

IOHA Recognition of National Occupational Hygiene Certification/Accreditation Schemes

by Tom Grumbles, Chair of the IOHA National Accreditation for Recognition (NAR) Committee
E-mail: Tom.Grumbles@us.sasol.com

Congratulations go to South African Institute of Occupational Health and the Dutch SKO Certification of Competence (SKO Certificatie van Vakbekwaamheid) for successfully having their certification schemes recognized by the IOHA National Accreditation Recognition process. This process compares the national programs to what has been determined to be an international model program for certification schemes. This set of criteria was developed through an international process of

discussion and debate with the existing occupational hygiene certifying bodies. The overall aim of this recognition process is to promote the recognition of certification schemes on a global basis. It is believed that a consistent quality standard is essential to uphold performance in occupational hygiene practice for the protection of workers health.

These two institutions join the US, British and Australian schemes in achieving the IOHA recognition.

Collaboration with WHO concerning the Global Plan of Action on Workers' Health, 2008 – 2017

by TW TSIN, Past IOHA President, E-mail: twtsin@labour.gov.hk

The Forty-ninth World Health Assembly endorsed, in 1996, the Global Strategy on Occupational Health for All and urged Member States to devise national programmes to provide occupational health services for all workers and particularly for the high risk sectors, vulnerable groups and underserved populations. Since then, in the last 10 years, many changes occurred. A meeting was held in WHO, Geneva, 5-6 October 2006, in order to review the situation from a policy perspective and discuss the Global Plan of Action on Worker's Health 2008 – 2017. Michel Guillemin

participated in this meeting as IOHA representative; his Report on this activity is hereby presented.

IOHA supports the Global Plan of Action and the establishment of a Global Steering Committee for Workers' Health to provide guidance and political leadership for its implementation. This committee will include representatives of the Member States, the WHO Secretariat, the WHO collaborating centres for occupational health and other relevant international actors. This may eventually present a new opportunity for IOHA to contribute to the work of WHO.

High Level Inter-Country Consultation on the WHO Global Plan of Action on Workers' Health, WHO, Geneva, 5-6 October 2006

by Michel Guillemin, E-mail: Michel.Guillemin@hospvd.ch

Delegates of 21 countries, mostly from Ministries of Health, attended this very important meeting together with representatives of the WHO Collaborating Centres in Occupational Health (4), representatives of Non-Governmental Organizations (IOHA and ICOH), of International Organizations of the social partners (2), one member of the ILO and the staff of the WHO, including representatives of WHO Regional Offices.

was fully revised and discussed, with a view to reaching an agreement on this highly important document, which describes the overall policy of the WHO on this matter and the priorities selected for this period.

The objective of the meeting was to discuss and approve the **Global Plan of Action on Workers' Health 2008 – 2017**. A draft distributed in August 2006

In order to enlarge the concept of Occupational Health, WHO decided to use the term *Workers' Health*, which is a public health concept understood as an "umbrella" covering all aspects of the protection and promotion of workers' health, including the environmental, economic, public health, social and cultural issues.

Workers represent half of the world's population and are the major contributors to the economic and social development of contemporary global society. Their health is determined by a number of risks in the working environment, social factors, behaviours and access to health services. The processes of social transformation and globalization over the last decades have brought about changes in the world of work which provide new opportunities and challenges to protecting and promoting health at work in addition to the traditional occupational health approach.

Therefore, this plan of action has been developed as a follow up to the WHA Global Strategy on Occupational Health for All (endorsed by the World Health Assembly in 1996) and in response to a number of initiatives for further strengthening WHO actions on workers' health.

This plan recommends a number of actions to be taken by the Member States and by WHO with the objectives to:

1. develop and implement national policies, action plans and programmes on workers' health;
2. protect and promote health at the workplace by preventing occupational risks and addressing work-related social determinants of health;
3. improve the performance of and access to occupational health services;
4. provide and communicate evidence for preventive action;
5. address workers' health through non-health policies for sustainable and economic development.

The plan of action is intended to guide Member States and WHO in their activities on workers' health over the period 2008-2017. It is expected that it will stimulate the development of policies, infrastructure, technologies and partnerships for improving the health of all workers. A related resolution will be prepared for the next World Health Assembly.

IOHA was given the opportunity to present itself and the professional competencies it represents to support this programme and contribute to its development and efficiency. The IOHA representative actively participated to the discussion and confirmed the commitment of IOHA to actively contribute to this programme through the network of WHO Collaborating Centres on Occupational Health.

In conclusion, this meeting was extremely important because it was the first time that WHO organized such a consultation, at this high level, thus demonstrating a new and strong motivation to give workers' health a higher priority than before in its Global Policy. It is probably not by chance that this official WHO position emerges very soon after the adoption by the ILO, in June 2006, of the Convention 187 for the "Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health". This gives us, the OHS professionals, renewed hopes that our field will reach the visibility and the importance it deserves.

This meeting was endorsed by high level WHO officials. It was opened by Ms Susanne Weber-Mosdorf, Assistant Director General, and was closed by Ms Maria Neira Director of the Public Health and Environment cluster, who concluded her speech by saying: "*Ladies and Gentlemen, I think you don't realize that YOU ARE MAKING THE HISTORY*".

Elimination of asbestos-related diseases

by TW TSIN, Past IOHA President, E-mail: twtsin@labour.gov.hk

In July 2006, WHO posted a draft policy paper on the "Elimination of asbestos-related diseases" and requested for comments. IOHA supports the policy paper because exposure to asbestos is a well known hazard in workplaces and the general environment.

However, since asbestos has been extensively used in the last century, and we must admit that there are some countries or places still using the materials (in particular chrysotile) for various purposes, and for whatever reasons, the principles of occupational hygiene should be adopted for the reduction of the risk to health until it can be eliminated – i.e. anticipation and detection of sources of asbestos (asbestos

containing materials); evaluation of the chronic risk related to occupational and non-occupational exposure; control of exposure by elimination of asbestos by a sound and efficient substitute; control measures for the safe abatement work of asbestos containing materials.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR: Even though the ban of asbestos everywhere will become a reality, it will unfortunately remain in the scene for quite some time, therefore our profession still has to be very attentive to any occurrence and continue with strict efforts to prevent exposure.

Please, see reference to the WHO policy paper under **News from WHO**. ILO material on this subject was posted on the June 2006 issue of this Newsletter. Also see ILO site:

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/inf/features/06/asbestos.htm>

News from Member Associations

From Australia (AIOH)

Brian Davies receives the Member of the Order of Australia

by Gerard Tiernan, AIOH Newsletter Editor, E-mail: gerard.tiernan@nrm.qld.gov.au



Brian Davies, ex President of IOHA, was awarded an AM - Member of the Order of Australia - in the Queen's Birthday Honours for 2005. 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."

The bestowing of this award is a great credit to Brian and to his wife, Sue, and a significant honour for the AIOH. Not only has he spent his career devoted to improving the health of workers, but he has worked tirelessly for the AIOH.

Brian Davies is recognised nationally and internationally for his expertise, achievements and service to the field of occupational hygiene. His work in this area has ensured ongoing improvements in the protection of the people's health whilst at work. He has achieved these high standards via enthusiasm, example and assisting others in developing their knowledge and this is well recognised beyond his profession.

Brian commenced his career in 1963 as an Industrial Chemist with Australian Iron and Steel (AIS) and in 1974 he was appointed "Chemist in Charge" of the Mine Airs Laboratory of AIS. His father had been a coal mine manager in the Lithgow area and with Brian's underground mining experience he was soon given the responsibility of measuring the levels of coal dust throughout BHP's mines. He rapidly changed his focus from a straight monitoring role to that of an occupational hygienist which incorporated an aptitude to risk determination, and the application of technical skills to protecting worker exposure to toxic and hazardous materials. In so doing, he developed empathy for the dusty and dangerous conditions that miners and steel workers experienced on a daily basis. He entrenched this understanding into the conscience of mine managers to ensure improvements in working conditions.

In the early 1980's he was appointed the Chief Occupational Hygienist for BHP Company Ltd. During his time in this position he spent a considerable period visiting operations in many countries, most of which had developing economies, advising them on measures to improve health related work issues and reported on this directly to the Chairman. In essence, he initiated the BHP's corporate conscience in many matters of occupational health and safety such that it now leads the world in a range of health and safety initiatives.

Since 1988 he recognised the necessity both in Australia and overseas to reduce and control exposure to soot emitted from diesel engines and set about bringing this somewhat difficult and controversial issue to the forefront in mine planning. The work that Brian implemented in company mines has been developed into a publicly available national code of practice for use by other mining companies and much of it is likely to be incorporated into occupational health legislation in the various States and Territories. The research and fieldwork that Brian has undertaken has improved the working environments of many thousands of Australian and overseas workers, particularly in the mining and iron and steel industries.

In 2004 Brian received a PhD for his thesis entitled "The Control of Diesel Particulates in Underground Coal Mines." His commitment to ensuring ongoing improvements in the control of chemicals and other agents in coal mines lead Brian, in conjunction with two of his colleagues and the Joint Coal Board, to produce a manual aimed at improving the health of coal miners. "Keeping Coal Miners Healthy at Work" is distributed free of charge to every coal mine in Australia.

Brian has received international recognition for his involvement in protecting the health of workers. In 2002 he was awarded the Yant Award. This award was established in 1964 to honour the contributions of William P. Yant, the first President of the American Industrial Hygiene Association. One award is presented annually for outstanding contributions in

industrial hygiene or allied fields to an individual residing outside the United States. Over the 40 years it has been presented, Brian is only the third Australian recipient of the award. In May 2003 Brian was awarded the William Steiger Memorial Award, which honours the efforts of an individual for their contribution to the advancement of Occupational Safety and Health. This award was initiated in 1979 by the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists.

Brian's voluntary involvement in committees and industry groups has been extensive. He has played an integral role in the development of the AIOH. Not only was he integral in developing the AIOH he is the only person to date who has held each of the positions available on council, in an involvement spanning 25 years. These roles were:

- Secretary of the AIOH 4th and 5th Councils (Dec 83-Dec 85)
- Councillor of the AIOH 6th Council Dec 85 to Dec 86
- President of the AIOH 8th and 9th Councils (Dec 87-Dec 89)

- Treasurer of the AIOH 14th and 15th Councils (Dec 93-Dec 95)

Brian has also served on several AIOH sub-Committees and as Chairperson of the AIOH 7th Conference Committee (Leura) 1988, Chairperson of the 4th IOHA Conference (Theme – Occupational Hygiene in Developing Countries) held in Cairns in the year 2000, and as scientific program organiser for the 2005 AIOH conference.

Brian served as President of IOHA (International Occupational Hygiene Association) in 1999. He has also been involved in the proctoring of the American Board of Industrial Hygiene (ABIH) exams in Australia and also the delivery of professional development courses. This has ensured the continued tutoring and mentoring of up and coming occupational hygienists.

Brian's professional knowledge and his skills for the dissemination of information was recognised by the AIOH when he received 'Fellow' status in 1993, in recognition of his outstanding and distinguished contributions to the advancement of occupational hygiene and the education of occupational hygienists in both Australia and overseas.

From Japan (JAWE)

Japan Association for Working Environment Measurement (JAWE) - July 2006

by Masayoshi Karasawa, Executive Director, E-mail: director@jawe.or.jp

The Japan Association for Working Environment Measurement, whose Chairman is Mr. KIZOH HIRAYAMA (Director, General Manager, Personal & Labour Relation Division of Nippon Steel Corporation) conducted the seminar "OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES PREVENTION and WORKING ENVIRONMENT, FY 2006", under a contract with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

There were eight participants in the Seminar, from seven countries, namely: Cuba, Egypt, El Salvador, Indonesia, Jordan, Malaysia and Thailand (see Photo)



During the Seminar, Mr. Masayoshi Karasawa, Executive Director of JAWE, presented "The Role of Working Environment Control for the Prevention of Occupational Diseases", the present state of occupational diseases in Japan, as well as the system and activities of JAWE. Next, Dr. Takeshi Honma, Director of the Training Institute of JAWE, explained the systems of the license as well as the registered training for the Licensed Industrial Hygienists in the field of Working Environment Measurement in Japan (under the Industrial Safety and Health Law as well as the Working Environment Measurement Law, of Japan), outline of Occupational Health Management System, What's Work Environment Control, and other subjects regarding Working Environment Measurement including "Working Environment Measurement Standards" as well as "Working Environment Measurement Evaluation Standards" (under the Industrial Safety and Health Law). And also, he presented the full text of the Working Environment Measurement Standards of Japan as well as a CD-ROM which has the full text of "WORKING ENVIRONMENT MEASUREMENT in Japan", to all the participants.

In addition, Mr. Retsushi Tsukamoto, Director of the Business Department, presented the Financial Aid Scheme for the improvement of the working environment in small scale enterprises, the so-called "Dandelion Plan", focusing on the improvements achieved through the working environment measurements funded by this Plan.

The "Dandelion Plan" is promoted by the Japan Industrial Safety and Health Association (JISHA), under the trust of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Japan, with a view to supporting Employers' Bodies themselves who organize small scale enterprises employing fewer than 50 workers and assist in the administration of the "Dandelion Plan", as well as small-sized enterprises, which are making efforts to improve the level of occupational safety and health in their enterprises.

Jawe takes care, nationwide, of the evaluation of the results of the working environment measurements, which were funded by the Financial Aid Scheme ("Dandelion Plan"), contracted by JISHA. There were 541 such results, nationwide, in the Fiscal Year 2005.

After the three above-mentioned sessions, Jawe invited the eight participants, from seven countries, for a tour of the Association in order to present the facilities, equipment and analytical instrumentation of the Jawe Training Institute.

At the end of the Seminar, there was a Questions and Answers Session. The Seminar will continue in the next fiscal year, by the request of the Japan International Co-operation.

From Canada

CRBOH Sets 2007 Exam Date

Competency examinations for "Registered Occupational Hygienist" (ROH) and "Registered Occupational Hygiene Technologist" (ROHT) will be offered by the Canadian Registration Board of Occupational Hygienists (CRBOH) at various locations on March 31st, 2007. For further information on the examination process, exam locations, or to obtain application forms, please visit the CRBOH web site at www.crboh.ca.

The International Occupational Hygiene Association (IOHA) is currently reviewing the CRBOH accreditation process, as part of a new initiative to recognize professional occupational / industrial hygiene designations, based on an established global standard.

CRBOH is a not-for-profit organization, which sets standards of professional competence for occupational hygienists and occupational hygiene technologists. Registration with the CRBOH confers the right to use the title Registered Occupational Hygienist (ROH) or Registered Occupational Hygiene Technologist (ROHT), and indicates the attainment and maintenance of a high standard of professionalism, recognizable in all Canadian jurisdictions. The Board is comprised of close to 400 practitioners in Canada, the United States and abroad. The CRBOH is committed to offering services in English and French.

CRBOH is also pleased to announce this year's election results. New Officers were installed at the

Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in Toronto. They include Mr. Luc Hamelin, (Quebec) and Ms. Anjanette (Anjie) Davis, (Ontario), as President and Vice-President of the CRBOH, respectively, for 2006-2007. Also, Mr. Marshall Denhoff, (Alberta) was elected as Treasurer for 2006-2008. The AGM was well attended, and proved to be a very productive meeting.



CRBOH Directors attending the AGM, L to R : Anjie Davis, Richard Bilan, Marlene Grigg, Luc Hamelin, Gene Shematek, Dave Jarrell, John Orser, Marshall Denhoff.

Foundation for Occupational Health and Safety (FOHS)

Although FOHS was originally envisioned and structured as a membership organization, presently, full participation in its activities is available to all interested persons and is intended to reflect the diversity that exists within the profession of occupational hygiene. FOHS was established to complement the work of the American Industrial Hygiene Foundation (AIHF), whose main objective is to support occupational hygiene students through Fellowship Grants to a select number of schools each year. Its great contribution to the profession is to foster enhanced cooperation and professional exchange in the international arena.

Within FOHS, the **Worldwide Outreach Program Grant** was created to fulfill the following mission:

- To sponsor research, education, and the publication of scientific information
- To provide a vehicle for financial support of the improvement and enhancement of occupational and environmental health and safety and the general public health
- To disseminate the results of valuable research findings and assure a heightened quality of continuing education in occupational safety and health

As Dawn Tharr, CIH, FOHS President, stated: *“This is a very exciting development, and I see a wonderful opportunity to fill a real need for getting needed information out to IHS and related professionals. I am convinced that grant-making foundations can be shown the tangible value of our programs and will see an identifiable ‘payoff’ in improved worker health and safety.”*

The Worldwide Outreach Program has as its mission to support the professional development of occupational health and safety with emphasis on primary prevention in Occupational Hygiene. Qualifying educational organizations, professional organizations, and non-government organizations and/or collaborating centers seeking to further the goals of the [World Health Organization \(WHO\) Collaborating Centers for Occupational Health’s 2006-2010 Work Plan](#) are encouraged to apply to receive program grants ranging from \$1,000-\$2,000.

The Press release on “2005 Worldwide Outreach Program Grant Recipients and Call for 2006 Applications” is presented on this issue.

Further information on FOHS may be found at: <http://www.fohs.org/regcode.htm>

FOHS Announces Its 2005 Worldwide Outreach Program Grant Recipients and Call for 2006 Applications, Cincinnati, Ohio - August 1, 2006

by Anthony Rizzuto, CAE, FOHS Secretary, E-mail: trizzuto@accjih.org

The Foundation for Occupational Health and Safety (FOHS) is pleased to announce its Worldwide Outreach Program grant recipients for 2005. The Worldwide Outreach Program’s mission is to support the professional development of occupational and environmental health and safety (OEHS) throughout the world. By providing cooperative financial and technical support to enhance organizations emphasizing occupational hygiene training and education, **FOHS** forges toward achieving this mission. The Worldwide Outreach Program grant was established to address the needs of educational organizations in developing countries throughout the

world. This new program was pledged in 2004 with seed money from the YIHWAG Family Foundation of up to \$15,000 over a period of five years. Anyone interested in making a contribution to this program can do so by sending a check or money order to the **FOHS** Worldwide Outreach Program at the address above. Contributions can also be made online at <https://www.fohs.org/form.htm>. Contributions to **FOHS** are tax deductible, as provided by the law.

Four recipients were selected to receive a Worldwide Outreach Program grant, namely:

Laboratory of Occupational and Environmental Health, University of Abomey-Calavi, Republic of Benin

University of Abomey-Calavi's and Lausanne Institute for Occupational Health Sciences (IST), in collaboration, provide occupational and environmental health training module to physicians in West Africa. Grant funds will be used to procure occupational hygiene and toxicology textbooks and CD ROM in support of its development of a documentation center.

Occupational Hygiene Department, Institute of Occupational and Radiological Health, Serbia and Montenegro

The Institute of Occupational and Radiological Health in Serbia and Montenegro provides educational training for occupational safety and health professionals, investigates and applies new methods of prevention, diagnostics, therapy and rehabilitation in the field of occupational and work-related diseases. Grant funds will be used to procure training materials related to course topics. Funds will help develop a reference library and assist in the education of labor inspectors and occupational hygiene students.

**Occupational Health and Hygiene of Labor Environment Department
Institute of Higher Learning in Public Health, Venezuela**

The Institute of Higher Learning In Public Health seeks to develop an experience and exchange program between Ergonomics consultants and workers of Venezuela to promote preventative and corrective ergonomics. Grant funds will be utilized to purchase ergonomic measurement instruments, educational materials, computer software and related texts.

Research Department, China Labour Bulletin, Hong Kong

The China Labour Bulletin, a Hong Kong-based labour rights organization, plans to publish and distribute within China a 65-page report on the occupational health and safety (OHS) situation in China, together with a 25 page report on the ongoing silicosis epidemic among jewelry workers to various government and nongovernmental organizations and libraries. Grant funds will be used to offset the costs to produce and publish OSH and Silicosis report.

FOHS's Worldwide Outreach Program benefits OEHS programs worldwide. Qualifying educational, professional and non-government organizations and/or collaborating centers may apply for consideration to receive a Worldwide Outreach Program grant ranging between \$1,000 and \$2,000. Applications are now being accepted for the 2006 Worldwide Outreach Program Grant Award. Those seeking to further the goals of the World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centers for Occupational Health's 2006–2010 Work Plan are encouraged to apply.

Visit the **FOHS** website for Grant Proposal Guidelines and to complete the Grant Proposal Form online or mail or e-mail the completed form to the ACGIH® International Committee at:

ACGIH® International Committee
1330 Kemper Meadow Dr.
Cincinnati, OH 45240
USA
Phone: +1 (513) 742-2020
Fax: +1 (513) 742-3355 E-mail: mail@acgih.org

FOHS has an alliance with the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH®).

ACGIH® is a member-based organization that advances worker health and safety through education and the development and dissemination of scientific and technical knowledge. **ACGIH®** is one of the industry's leading publications resources, with approximately 400 titles relative to occupational and environmental health and safety, including the renowned TLVs® and BEIs®. For more information, visit the **ACGIH®** website at www.acgih.org or call our Customer Service Representatives at 513-742-2020.

FOHS is a 501(c)(3) foundation whose mission is to (1) sponsor research, education, and the publication of scientific information, (2) provide a vehicle for financial support of the improvement and enhancement of occupational and environmental health and safety and the general public health, and (3) disseminate the results of valuable research findings and assure a heightened quality of continuing education in occupational safety and health. For more information, visit the **FOHS** website at: www.fohs.org or call 513-742-6169.

News from WHO

Dr Margaret Chan to be WHO's next Director-General

This is such important news that excerpts from the related WHO Press release are presented below; the full text is available online at:

<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2006/pr66/en/index.html>

9 November 2006, Geneva - Dr Margaret Chan of China will be the next Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO). After her appointment, she told the World Health Assembly she wanted to be judged by the impact WHO's work has on the people of Africa and on women across the globe.

In her acceptance speech, Dr Chan said: *"what matters most to me is people. And two specific groups of people in particular. I want us to be judged by the impact we have on the health of the people of Africa, and the health of women. ... Improvements in the health of the people of Africa and the health of women are key indicators of the performance of WHO."*

"All regions, all countries, all people are equally important. This is a health organization for the whole world. Our work must touch on the lives of everyone, everywhere," she said. *"But we must focus our attention on the people in greatest need."*

Dr Chan was nominated as Director-General on Wednesday by the WHO Executive Board and her appointment was confirmed on Thursday by the World Health Assembly. The Director-General is WHO's chief technical and administrative officer. She was previously WHO Assistant Director-General for Communicable Diseases and Representative of the Director-General for Pandemic Influenza.

Dr Chan obtained her Medical Degree from the University of Western Ontario in Canada and also has a degree in public health from the National University of Singapore. She joined the Hong Kong Department of Health in 1978, and was appointed as Director of Health in 1994. As Director, she launched new services focusing on prevention of disease and promotion of health. She also introduced new initiatives to improve communicable disease surveillance and response, enhance training for public health professionals, and to establish better local and international collaboration. She has effectively managed outbreaks of avian influenza and the world's first outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS).

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Dr Chan paid tribute to her predecessor. *"We are all here because of the untimely death of Dr LEE Jong-wook. We are also all here because of many millions of untimely deaths. I know Dr Lee would have wanted me to make this point. He will always be remembered for his 3by5 initiative. That was all about preventing untimely deaths on the grandest scale possible."*

Dr Chan told the Assembly that, as Director-General, she would focus on six key issues for WHO: **health development, security, capacity, information and knowledge, partnership, and performance.**

She emphasized the importance of global health security in her vision of the Organization's role: *"Health security brings benefits at both the global and community levels. New diseases are global threats to health that also bring shocks to economies and societies. Defence against these threats enhances our collective security."*

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She especially praised the people who deliver health care. *"The true heroes these days are the health workers with their healing, caring ethic. They are determined to save lives and relieve suffering, and they work with impressive dedication, often under difficult conditions. The world needs many, many more of them."*

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She also addressed the challenges ahead of the Organization: *"As we know, not all of the problems faced by WHO in its efforts to improve world health are subject to scientific scrutiny, or yield their secrets under a microscope. You know the ones I mean: lack of resources and too little political commitment. These are often the true 'killers.'"*

Ending her address, Dr Chan repeated her pledge to work hard to improve the health of people around the world. *"The work we do together saves lives and relieves suffering. I will work with you tirelessly to make this world a healthier place."*

WHO Policy Paper on Elimination of Asbestos-related Diseases

The full text of the WHO policy paper on elimination of asbestos-related diseases is available online at:
http://www.who.int/occupational_health/publications/asbestosrelateddiseases.pdf

News from the European Union

European Agency for Safety and Health at Work - New Director

by Kurt Lechnitz, IOHA Board Member, E-mail: Kurt.Lechnitz@t-online.de

In September 2006, Jukka Takala started work as the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work's new director. Dr Takala has worked in the safety and health field for three decades.

He joins the Bilbao-based Agency from the International Labour Organization where he was director of the International Programme on Safety and Health at Work and the Environment (SafeWork). Dr Takala succeeds Hans-Horst Konkolewsky, the Agency's only director since its launch in September 1996.

As the Agency moves into its second decade, much work remains to be done in the field of occupational safety and health. Annually, more than 150,000 fatalities in the European Union are caused by work-related accidents and diseases. At least 31,000 of those deaths can be attributed to hazardous substances at work including asbestos.

Dr Takala arrives in Bilbao as the Agency's Safe Start campaign for young people culminates in the European

Week for Safety and Health at Work at the end of October. Across Europe, too many young people are getting hurt at work — 18 to 24-year-olds are at least 50% more likely to have a non-fatal accident in the workplace than those in other groups. Employers need to do more to protect young employees, and young people need to be more aware of health and safety issues when they enter the world of work.

Commenting on the tasks facing him in his new job, Dr Takala said: *'The Agency has an important role to play in promoting higher levels of workplace safety and health across the European Union. I look forward to working with colleagues in Bilbao, as well as in the European institutions, social partner organizations and member states to support the future Community strategy for reaching this goal.'*

He continued: *'We want to see managers and employees working together to make workplaces free of recognizable hazards. A safe, healthy and motivated workforce will lead to enhanced European productivity and competitiveness.'*

Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and European Agency for Safety and Health at Work signed a cooperation arrangement on the exchange of information on workers' health – Communication posted by EU-OSHA on 6 July 2006

Dr Mirta Roses Periago, Director of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), and the (then) Director of the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work, Dr. Hans-Horst Konkolewsky, signed a cooperation arrangement on the exchange of information on workers' health. A joint website will offer comprehensive occupational safety and health information and PAHO will serve as a virtual focal point for these issues in the Americas.

The signing ceremony at the European Commission offices in Madrid was also attended by José Luis González Vallvé, Director of the European Commission's Representation in Spain.

Commenting on the conclusion of the arrangement, Mr. Konkolewsky said: *"With PAHO as a partner we significantly strengthen our relationship with the Americas. PAHO's wealth of experience and regional*

infrastructure will add an important dimension to the Agency's online information network. I firmly believe that our joint website will provide an effective tool to contribute to healthy, safe and productive workplaces in the region."

PAHO is an international public health agency, including all 36 countries in the Americas as members. PAHO has 100 years of experience in working towards improved health and living standards of the people of the Americas. It enjoys international recognition as part

of the United Nations system, serving as the Regional Office for the Americas of the World Health Organization.

The cooperation arrangement with PAHO follows up on a previous arrangement the Agency had concluded with the Organization of American States (OAS) in 2003. Also under the new arrangement OAS will participate as a key institutional partner for the development of the joint website.

Contribution from readers

Indonesian Occupational Health and Safety Association

by DR Tan Malaka, MD, DrPH. ICIH chairman.

The Indonesian Council of Industrial Hygiene (ICIH) was established in August 2003, with the primary task of certifying industrial hygienists in Indonesia. Since 2003, the ICIH has certified 234 Junior Industrial Hygienists and 7 senior industrial hygienists (honorary). The certification of Industrial Hygienists (categorized as 3 levels the junior IH, IH, and senior IH) was planned in early 2006.

Organization wise, ICIH is an affiliate of the Indonesian Occupational Health and Safety Association. The

response from the market was good. Those who have been certified are working mostly as HSE officers in large mining corporations, Oil & Gas, and large manufacturing companies. In the near future the ICIH has to be recognized by the newly established National Board of Professional Certification (locally called BNSP), as a certification body for Industrial Hygienist in Indonesia. The establishment of the ICIH has marked an important progress and enhancement of the Industrial Hygiene profession in Indonesia.

Application of the International Chemical Control Toolkit

by Susana Viegas, Portugal, E-mail: susana.viegas@estesl.ipl.pt

Among many problems associated with wood work, exposure to wood dust is an important one. Many studies have demonstrated the correlation between exposure to wood dust and the appearance of a number of pathologies, thus demonstrating the importance of assessing and controlling this airborne contaminant.

In view of the importance of this subject, a study was carried out in an enterprise in this industrial branch, in the city of Santarém, Portugal, with the objective of characterizing workers' exposure to airborne contaminants at their work stations.

Data were obtained through the application of the International Chemical Control Toolkit for a qualitative evaluation of the occupational exposure to the airborne contaminants, and through a questionnaire for the workers in order to assess their level of occupational risk perception.

The analysis of the results demonstrated that workers in the enterprise in question were in fact overexposed to wood dusts. The implementation of a set of prevention and control measures was recommended with a view to protecting the health of the workers. Another conclusion was that there is a need to inform workers about the hazards they may be exposed to in their workplace, as well as to train them on how to contribute to their prevention and control.

NOTE: This study was carried out by two professors (P. Albuquerque and S. Viegas) and three students (R. Silva, T. Miranda, A. Dias) in Environmental Health, at the "Escola Superior de Tecnologia da Saúde de Lisboa" (High School of Health Technology of Lisbon) - [http://www.estesl.ipl.pt/](http://www.estesl.ipl.pt) The authors would like to get in touch with colleagues carrying out similar studies in order to exchange experiences.