

GLOBAL EXPOSURE MANAGER

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RECENT REGULATIONS DRIVING NEED FOR OCCUPATIONAL HYGIENISTS IN JAPAN

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Occupational hygiene requirements are regulated in laws and regulations in Japan. Comprehensive administrative notifications from the Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare are adopted in the regulations. The regulations and administrative directives are pivotal to providing safe and healthful working conditions in Japan.

The priority for employers in Japan is to comply with health and safety regulatory requirements. Limited expert health and safety service providers are available in Japan. The employers seem reluctant to retain the services of the service providers. Occupational health regulatory requirements related to hazardous chemicals have been dramatically increasing in Japan recently. As a result, the need for occupational hygienists in Japan has increased significantly.

The Japanese government has identified regulated hazardous chemicals based on available toxicological data from occupational hygiene surveys in Japan. The government is aiming to expedite the process of regulating hazardous chemicals based on Global Harmonization System (GHS) hazard classifications. After about two years of the review process, the government recently announced the fundamental change in regulating hazardous chemicals, which will become enforceable this year.

The regulatory system requires employers to (a) maintain Safety Data Sheets (SDS) for the chemicals and, (b) implement exposure control measures to reduce potential health risk at a safe level.

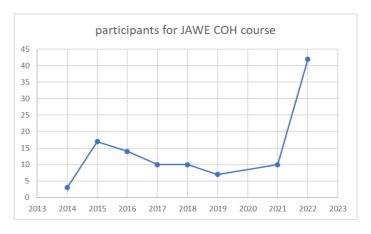
For about 800 hazardous chemicals, the employers are required to ensure the exposure below their respective prescribed Occupational Exposure Limits (OELs). For another group of about 2100 chemicals, the regulation requires employers to keep exposure as low as possible with exposure control measures. Before the

regulation came into effect, about 120 high-hazard chemicals were regulated. Under the new regulation, about 2900 chemicals are regulated.

The new regulatory system is summarized in the image to the right.

The increased regulatory requirements for risk assessment would undoubtedly increase the need for occupational hygienists in Japan.

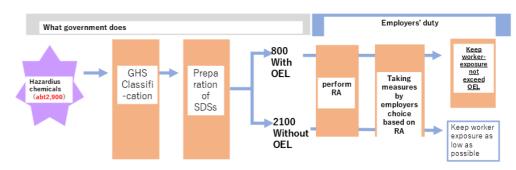
To address the need for qualified occupational hygienists, JAWE has established a scheme of educating and increasing the number of professionals with the designation of Certified Occupational Hygienists (COH) since 2008. The scheme includes completion of 93-hour course curriculum on occupational hygiene in compliance with the IOHA-NAR guidelines. As illustrated in the chart below, the number of COHs were limited until 2021. With the advent of the new regulation, the number of COHs has increased significantly in the last two years.



The remarkable accomplishment of the JAWE occupational hygiene certification process is that for the first time ever in Japan, the Japanese government has recognized a "JAWE Certified Occupational Hygienist"

The occupational hygiene community and workplaces in Japan will benefit immensely from complying with the new regulatory requirements and reducing potential occupational health risk with the help of JAWE Certified Occupational Hygienists.

Overall picture of the new regulatory system



SOUTHERN AFRICAN INSTITUTE FOR OCCUPATIONAL HYGIENE (SAIOH) 2023 CONFERENCE AND IOHA BOARD MEETING

Samantha Connell, MOH, CIH, IOHA President Samantha.connell@ioha.net

The Southern African Institute for Occupational Hygiene (SAIOH) held its conference in Cape Town from October 25 – 26, 2023, with continuing education courses from 23 – 24 October. The meeting was an overwhelming success, with more than 500 participants and plenty of thought-provoking content mainly relating to the overarching theme of Real-Time Monitoring.

The IOHA board meeting took place the weekend before the conference with in-person attendance from IOHA, including President Samantha Connell, Stakeholder Relations Committee Chair, and board member Andre Winkes, as well as Past NAR Committee Chair and current board member Deon Jansen van Vuuren. SAIOH members and IOHA Past Presidents Peter-John "Jakes" Jacobs and Rob Ferrie joined during the week for the conference.

Samantha spoke on a previous experience in Project BONAS, where she related the two worlds of forensic science/security and occupational hygiene and some new initiatives from IOHA.

The presentation was titled "What do homemade explosive devices and occupational hygiene have in common?" Her talk emphasized the importance of thinking outside the box, applying concepts from other fields and interdisciplinary teams, and rethinking exposure monitoring.

Congratulations to SAIOH President Naadiya Mundy, Vice President Karen du Preez, and Conference Chair Wessel van Wyk on their successful conference! IOHA is grateful for the warm hospitality shown to its members and the effort that went into planning the board meeting.



IOHA UPDATES

IOHA collaborates to host the Emerging Leaders' Institute

The goal of the Emerging Leader's Institute (ELI) is to support emerging leaders and early career professionals in the field of occupational hygiene by supplementing their technical skills with the leadership and soft skills needed to be well-rounded professionals. ELI will be free of cost to attendees and will take place in Dublin, the weekend before IOHA2024, from June 7 – 9, 2024. Please refer to the links below for registration.

Application form

Letter of reference submission form

IOHA President at 23rd World Congress on Safety and Health at Work

The 23rd World Congress on Safety and Health at Work was a remarkable and rewarding experience as the Congress provided a unique opportunity to learn, network, and collaborate with the global occupational safety and health community.

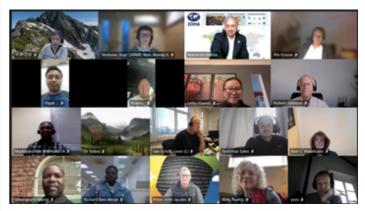
During the Congress, International Network of Safety and Health Practitioner Organizations (INSHPO) organized a workshop focusing on how to make the Body of Knowledge (BoK) available globally. The BoK is a publication that was developed in response to an identified need to define the collective knowledge that should be shared by Australian Generalist OHS Professionals as a basis for understanding the causation and control of work-related fatality, injury, disease and ill-health. Please refer to the link below for a free copy of the BoK here.



The IOHA President met with the executive committee for EXPO 2025. EXPO 2025 will be a monumental moment for our profession as it is the first time that health, safety, and wellbeing will be allotted a week at the World Expo. Representatives from various international organizations, such as the International Labour Organization (ILO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH), the International Social Security Association (ISSA), and IOHA attended the meeting.

IOHA Webinars

IOHA continued to offer most engaging webinars on unique aspects of occupational hygiene. The webinar on Non-Ionizing Radiation received rave reviews from 60+ participants for 15+ countries.



Non-Ionizing Radiation Webinar Participants

IOHA Member Presentations at the World Congress

The following IOHA members had the opportunity and privilege to present in the company of world leaders in the field of OSH.

- Past President Rene Leblanc (2019-2020) presented in the session "Education and Training Towards a Culture of Zero Harm" with other professionals from Fundación Internacional ORP, International Social Security Association, and IOSH.
- Long-standing board member Professor Chih-Chieh Chen gave a talk titled "The Necessity of Engineering Controls **for COVID-19**" with a corresponding poster.
- President Samantha Connell spoke in the session "Together for a better future: a new pact for workplace life and health protection" with the International Labour Organization. Samantha moderated a session called "Deadly Dust: Silica and Asbestos" organized by SafeWork New South Wales. She also presented a poster titled "The Role of Professional Judgment in Evaluating Worker Exposure and Preventing Occupational Disease."

Peter John Jacobs (Jakes) Received the IOHA Dedication Award

Jakes received the IOHA Dedication Award for his outstanding contributions to IOHA and SAIOH over the years. IOHA President, Samnatha Connell presented the award to Jakes at the SAIOH conference.

Jakes received the IOHA Dedication Award at SAIOH Conference.



MEMBER UPDATES

Mexican Industrial Hygiene Association XXI Mexican Congress of Industrial Hygiene

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The Mexican Industrial Hygiene Association hosted the XXI National Congress of Industrial Hygiene in October 2023. The Congress was held in the City of Querétaro, where more than 150 industrial hygiene and occupational health met to update and share knowledge and experiences.

Several Professional Development Courses (PDCs) were offered on topics related to industrial toxicology, human exposure to vibrations, and remote working, to name a few. The Ibero-American Board of Occupational Hygiene (JIHO) hosted the second certification examination for occupational hygienists, with five candidates from Mexico attended





2023 AIHN Annual Conference

Matthew Olota, MS, CMFOH, CIH, CSP, AIHN President email: matthewolota@gmail.com.

The Association of Industrial Hygienists in Nigeria (AIHN) held its second annual conference, a globally attended event, in the beautiful city of Port Harcourt, Nigeria, from November 2 to 4, 2023 under the theme of "Integrating Industrial Hygiene into Business Models for Social Sustainability,". Over 60 health and safety professionals on-site and more than 20 professionals virtually attended the conference.

The conference featured Professional Development Courses (PDCs) on qualitative exposure assessments, application of statistical tools and vibration controls. Technical presentations focused on health hazards and exposure controls across diverse industries. A particularly riveting panel discussion examined the challenges and opportunities inherent in integrating occupational health into business models. Global leaders from IOHA, American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA), and British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS), presented inspiring keynote addresses and technical presentations



Images from 2nd AIHN Conference

MEMBER UPDATES

AIOH 2023 -40th Annual Conference and Exhibition -December 4-6, 2023 "Future Ready" and Inaugural Hall of Fame

More than 600 attendees attended the event, which featured various technical content and social events. Several presenters spoke on the topics of the future of occupational hygiene. The topics included Artificial Intelligence (AI), the future of work, communicating our science, sensor technologies, and more.

The Inaugural Hall of Fame dinner was a highlight of the conference. It was an honor to celebrate many of those AIOH members who were the founding fathers and mothers of AIOH and have given back so much to the international community. Three of the inductees were also previous IOHA Lifetime Achievement Award winners. IOHA NAR Committee Chair Sharann Johnson was also an inductee. It was also a time to celebrate AIOH's achievement of more than 1,500 members!



Hall of Fame inductees: Janet Sowden (inductee) accepting on behalf of Pam de Silva, Brian Davies, and Sharann Johnson (inductee) accepting on behalf of Noel Tresider.

SOFHYT 2023 Conference

Nathalie Argentin, CIH, SOFHYT President, IOHA Treasurer, presidence@sofhyt.fr.

The SOFHYT 2023 conference was held on October 9 and 10, 2023 in Lyon. The conference theme was: "Physical Risks: From Detection to Action". The topics of presentations were, noise, Electromagnetic Fields (EMF), vibrations, thermal stress and UV radiation, to name a few.

As part of our international exchanges, the president of the Belgian Occupational Health Society (BSOH) and the vice president of the Italian Industrial Hygiene Association (AIDII) attended and presented technical presentation at the conference.





Dinner with SOFHYT Council and neighboring associations (AIDII and BSOH)

UPCOMING EVENTS



IOHA is organizing 13th IOHA International Scientific Conference in Dublin from the 9th to the 13th of June 2024 in association with the Occupational Hygiene Society of Ireland (OHSI) and the British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS).

The theme for this conference is 'Protecting workers from health hazards: Advancing in this changing world'.

The 2024 IOHA conference will also host a number of Professional Development Courses (PDC) on the Sunday (9 June 2024) before the conference starts.

Each PDC will provide 3 hours of free training to IOHA2024 delegates.

Please check the website for details of each PDC. Booking will open for registered conference delegates in April and will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

www.ioha2024.org

Pharmaceutical Industries

Wentilation System

Leadership Skills

Biological Monitoring

Ethics

Presentation Skills

Air Assessment

Sustainable Development Goals

Emergency Response

Exposure and
Risk
Assessment
Nanoparticles

Performance-Based Approach