

2009 Newsletter

HOME > > In Focus > Newsletter > 2009 Newsletter



- **Top Issues**

- ILO-KOSHA Holds International Workshop

- To Discuss the 'Participatory Approach to Improving Work and Employment Conditions'

An international workshop to develop a safety and health model at work where employers and employees work together to resolve matters emerging as international issues in relation to occupational safety and health, such as countermeasures against H1N1 flu at work, stress at work, and work hours, was held in Korea over a one-week period.

KOSHA held a workshop under themed A Participatory Approach to Improving Work and Employment Conditions with the International Labor Organization from 21-25 September in the meeting room on the 5th floor of the main office.

departments and labor and management representatives from nine countries across Asia joined in the workshop and the major agenda items included the ILO programs related to improvements in working environments and working conditions, presentation of cases of each country, and strategies suitable for the environment of each country. Three experts from the ILO, regional experts from Japan, Thailand, and Vietnam, and domestic experts gave presentations on the theme of improvements in working environments and conditions, along with a presentation of 'Occupational System and Organization' for each country.

In Korea, the head of the Technical Support Team of KOSHA, Chang-ryul Choi, introduced Korea's experience in supporting small and informal workplaces, and Director General of the Occupational Safety and Health Research Institute, Seong-kyu Kang, introduced Korea's occupational safety and health system.

The workshop also included group discussions under various themes and visits to workplaces in Korea.

President of KOSHA Min-ki Noh said, "This workshop was a great opportunity to share our experience in, and the best practices in, improvements in the work environment and conditions in

each country in Asia. The workshop will make a valuable contribution to the improvement of working environments in each nation.”

- Publication of Occupational Safety and Health Journal of International Authority
- Occupational Safety and Health Research Institute, Established Publication Committee Targeting Publication for July Next Year

The Occupational Safety and Health Research Institute commenced preparations for the publication of an international journal. OSHRI is pushing forward preliminary operations, such as collecting opinions from experts in order to publish the first issue of the journal in July next year.

OSHRI recently established the publication committee for the tentatively named 'IJOSH (International Journal of Occupational Safety and Health).' While there is no scientific journal of international authority on Occupational Safety and Health, OSHRI is planning to enhance the status of Occupational Safety and Health in Korea and internationalize the level of domestic studies through the publication of 'IJOSH.'

To this end, OSHRI intends to encourage the participation of world-renowned scholars from around the world, including the USA, Germany, Japan, and the Netherlands, in order to enhance the international reputation of the journal and also increase the expertise of the journal by including excellent papers from inside and outside Korea in the first issue.

'IJOSH' will be published quarterly, and about 1,000 copies will be issued for each publication. The journal will be distributed to occupational safety and health research organizations worldwide and related organizations.

Also, to increase the utilization of papers, OSHRI will develop a separate website so that users can find research papers on occupational safety and health online. OSHRI will also make an effort to have the journal listed in the SCI (Scientific Citation Index) of America, where only high quality papers are listed, judged in consideration of the number of citations, a measure of value of expertise.

OSHRI established a publication committee comprised of twenty occupational safety and health experts, such as the heads of domestic occupational safety and health related academic societies and staff from the Korean Association of Medical Journal Editors, on 27 August.

The founding head of the publication committee, Director General of OSHRI, Seong-kyu Kang, said, “The publication of an international journal will enhance the status of Korean occupational safety and health circles and provide a window to access the latest in safety and health studies. It will also contribute to the internationalization of the level of domestic occupational safety and health studies.”

- **Korea's OSH News**

- Specialized Prevention Plan for Categories with Increased Accidents Such as Forestry
 - Ministry of Labor Announces a Second Half Plan for 'Achieving a Reduction of Victims by 10,000'
- Safety Management of 10 Acute Poisoning Chemicals in Each Process
 - Ministry of Labor, Professional Guidance for 2,000 Workplaces Handling Harmful Chemicals
- "Social Responsibility of Broadcasting on Safety and Health Must be Strengthened"
 - The Federation of Korean Trade Unions Submitted Safety and Health Monitoring Results and Requests to Broadcasting Companies

- **KOSHA News**

- President Min-ki Noh Wins the '2009 Korea Global CEO Prize'
 - For the Successful 18th World Congress on Safety and Health at Work and Contribution to the Dissemination of the Seoul Declaration on Safety and Health at Work

President of KOSHA Min-ki Noh received the '2009 Korea Global CEO Prize' for contributing to the internationalization of domestic occupational safety and health.

The '2009 Korea Global CEO Prize' is given to a CEO who made a significant contribution to pioneering new markets overseas. CEO Min-ki Noh successfully held the 18th World Congress on Safety and Health at Work and has been making a tremendous effort to spread the charter on safety and health, adopted in this congress, the Seoul Declaration on Safety and Health at Work.

The organizer of the '2009 Korea Global CEO Prize', the Korea Institute of Management Evaluation, evaluated that the World Congress on Safety and Health at Work is the largest international event in the safety and health sector, and the congress in Seoul as the most successful in history in terms of scale and contents, with 4,550 participants from 121 nations.

They added that the Seoul Declaration on Safety and Health at Work is a declaration adopted jointly by the ILO, the International Social Security Association, and the representatives of safety and health fields from each nation. It has become an opportunity to inform the world about the importance of safety and health.

In his prize acceptance speech, CEO Min-ki Noh said, "I am quite honored to receive the 2009 Korea Global CEO Prize, and I would like to share the honor with everyone who works hard to protect the lives and health of workers."

He also added, "Safety and Health are key elements for management in the age of global competition. KOSHA will continue to strengthen its foundations as a leading safety and health agency, by continuously spreading the Seoul Declaration across the world."

The 'Korea Global CEO Prize' is organized by the Korea Institute of Management Evaluation and Hankook Ilbo Daily, and is sponsored by the Ministry of Knowledge and Economy. It began in 2006 and is now in its 4th year.

CEOs from three public organizations, including KOSHA and 16 corporations including Hyundai E&C, received the prize this year.

- Distribution of Guidelines for Swine Flu to Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises
- KOSHA Puts Forth the Latest Information of the 5 Principles for Prevention

As the prevalence of H1N1 flu is expected to increase, KOSHA has prepared and distributed guidelines for preventing H1N1 flu infection and countermeasures to 26,000 small and medium-sized enterprises to help prevent the spread of H1N1 flu at work and protect worker's health.

The guidelines suggest 5 principles for preventing the disease, such as the collection of the latest information to establish and practice preventive measures at the workplace, the establishment of countermeasures in each workplace, the reduction of physical contact between people, thorough personal hygiene management, and care for infected workers.

In detail, the guidelines recommend countermeasures for each workplace, such as the collection of the latest information about H1N1 flu and sharing information with workers, the purchase of raw materials to continue work operations in the event of H1N1 flu interruptions, measures for product transportation, methods for contacting medical facilities, and procedures of operations.

- 'Honest Talks about Safety and Health in the Field' Published in a Book
- Publication Party for 'A Safety and Health Recipe ? Happy Together' of KOSHA

A book comprising honest talks by people carrying out work in preventing industrial accidents has been published.

KOSHA held a publication party for 'A Safety and Health Recipe . Happy Together' at the Public Relations Exhibition Hall of the main office of KOSHA on the 17 September.

KOSHA published Happy Together to attract the interest and participation of those concerned with occupational safety and health as well as the general public in relation to safety and health, and it is the voice of the people engaged in safety and health work, collected by reporters in the field over six

months.

The book is organized under three themes. The first theme is 'Safety Protector', and it is composed of honest talks among people actually working to prevent industrial accidents in the field.

The second theme is 'Success through Safety Management', which introduces companies that have obtained noticeable results after introducing a safety and health management system. The third theme is 'Cases of Overcoming Accidents', illustrating examples of companies and individuals that actually faced accidents and how they overcame them.

The book introduces 18 real stories about safety and health in the field, including the stories of a person who used to be a gangster in the local community but became an evangelist of zero accidents, a person who exchanged protective gear provided to miners with raw rice wine, and a person who could not work because of the snivel.

Large pictures of the scenes, simple explanations about chemical substances, and precedents of industrial accidents help spice up the book.

On the commemoration of the publication of Happy Together, KOSHA is holding an event at the homepage (<http://www.kosha.or.kr>) and also intends to release the contents of the book through the latest update corner of the homepage.

President Noh said, "The publication of Happy Together will become a chance to spread the safety culture to all people by providing a new value in safety and health, showing safety as being fun and useful."

- **Special Events**

- International Seminar for the Latest Information on Occupational Cancer Prevention
 - Presentation of Domestic and Overseas Cancer Rates, Study on Cancer Causing Substances and Preventive Systems

An international seminar for sharing the latest information about occupational cancer was held.

KOSHA invited experts on occupational cancer prevention from overseas and held an international seminar to introduce the latest international efforts to fight occupational cancer at the International Conference Room of the Yonsei Severance Building on the 9 September.

At the seminar, a cancer epidemiology expert of the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), Paolo Boffetta from Italy, gave a presentation under the theme of 'Preparing a List of

Occupational Carcinogens and the Prevention of Occupational Cancer'. Dr. Paulo Boffetta explained studies on a carcinogen classification system and the harmful elements that cause occupational cancer.

Following that presentation, Dr. Hae-rim Shin of IARC gave a presentation under the theme of 'Occupational Cancer in Korea', discussing the estimation of the incidence of occupational cancer in Korea, and the role of each organization in carcinogen control and prevention systems.

IARC was established in 1965 and is a cancer exclusive research institute of the World Health Organization engaged in finding the causes of cancer so as to prevent cancer and working in other cancer-related research activities.

Director of Department of Occupational Health of KOSHA, Jeong-seon Park, said, "This year's international seminar was a chance to discuss the importance of occupational cancer prevention, and it will contribute to the establishment of related policies and systems, including the preparation of a list of carcinogens."

- **3-Day Event for Occupational Health Information Exchange among Korea, Japan, China**
 - **The Korean Industrial Health Association Held the 20th Academic Conference on Occupational Health****A 3-day event to share information on occupational health among three countries . Korea, Japan, and China . was held.**

The Korean Industrial Health Association held the 20th Korea-Japan-China Academic Conference on Occupational Health at the Capital Hotel in Itaewon, Seoul over three days from the 27 to the 29 August.

This year's conference had 200 or more participants concerned with occupational health from Korea, Japan, and China, including the president of the Korean Industrial Health Association, Byeong-su Choi, the former dean of the University of Occupational and Environmental Health, Toshiteru Okubo, and Professor Sheng Wang of Beijing Medical University.

The conference was comprised of a keynote speech, 14 sessions, and a symposium on occupational stress.

The President of KOSHA, Min-ki Noh, joined the opening ceremony on the 28th and congratulated the participants from the three countries. Awards for the 14th conference were given for the three categories of Best Presentation, Most Innovative, and Most Integrative.

The Academic Conference on Occupational Health started as the Korea-Japan Academic Conference in Seoul in 1984 and expanded to the Korea-Japan-China Academic Conference on Occupational Health from the 13th conference in 2001, with the added participation of China.

- **New Publications**

- Listen to Occupational Accident Experiences of Foreign Workers Online
 - KOSHA Prepared and Distributed 5 Videos for Safety Training

Experiences of foreign workers injured at work have been compiled into videos for safety and health training intended for distribution.

KOSHA announced on the 18 August that 5 videos were prepared and distributed online, comprised of interviews of foreign workers who experienced industrial accidents in Korea, hoping to inspire other workers with a consciousness about occupational accidents. The video was produced for companies in Korea hiring foreign workers and it can be downloaded from the KOSHA homepage: (<http://www.kosha.or.kr/bridge?menuId=1555>) A number of foreign workers from China, Vietnam, the Philippines, Mongolia, and Thailand appear in the videos and explain how they were injured, their rehabilitation process, and efforts for the prevention of accidents.