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KOSHA hosted the 2nd Bureau Meeting of Section for a Culture of Prevention of ISSA

7th February

KOSHA voiced the application development in Dresden, Germany on Feb 6.

President Hun-ki Baek of KOSHA hosted the 2nd Bureau Meeting of Section for a Culture of Prevention of ISSA in Dresden, Germany on Feb 6.

The chair organization, KOSHA, invited leaders of 16 OSH organizations and public agencies from 16 nations including the U.S., U.K., France and Germany to deal with how to spread the culture of prevention across the world.

Agendas for the meetings are: developing global application for smart-phone users to share information on serious disasters or accidents; hosting symposium on culture of prevention in Helsinki, Finland 2013; approval of four organizations as members of the section; commitment to develop and disseminate the culture of prevention across the world.

The chairperson Baek said that he hopes to enhance the culture of prevention by strengthening global network of the section which was set in 2011 under the goal of settling down the culture of prevention around the world.



◀ Chairperson Baek (fifth from the left of the first row) and members of the section are taking a picture.

(after the meeting)



KOSHA signed arrangement for technical cooperation

delivering know-how to establish a professional prevention organization

23rd January

DLPW(Department of Labor Protection and Welfare) signed an Arrangement for Technical Cooperation with KOSHA to take the Korean organization as a model in the process of founding a professional prevention organization.

Mr. Seung-up Lim, director general for training and public relations of KOSHA met with head of DLPW, Mr. Pakorn Amornchewin at Century Park Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand on 22, to sign the arrangement in an effort to enhance the level of OSH technology of Thailand.

This signing of the arrangement would serve as an opportunity for DLPW to be trained by KOSHA through training sessions, invitation education and providing of materials, as the Thai department is about to establish the professional organization based on the Korean model.

KOSHA promised in that sense to support the OSH part of KOICA(Korea International Cooperation Agency)'s global projects as well.



◀ Director General Lim and Director General Lakorn Amornchewin are signing the arrangement.



Subjects for certification are expanded

Types of machines and device requiring Safety Certification increased to 11 and those requiring Self-regulatory Safety Check&Report increased to 25

23rd January

More machines are required to meet Safety Certification and Self-regulatory Safety Check & Report which certify quality, environment and safety of machines or device.

President Hun-ki Baek of KOSHA decided to expand the subjects of the Safety Certification from 8 types of machines and device to 11 types, from 3 types to 25 types for subjects of the Self-regulatory Safety Check & Report.

Now importers or manufacturers of dangerous machines or device which are the subjects of the Safety Certification have to have them certified by the safety certification organizations. Also, the Self-regulatory Safety Check & Report oblige them to report KOSHA about the result of assessing the safety level of those risky machines or device, based on the self-regulatory standards set by the Minister of the Employment and Labor.

Previously, subjects of the safety certification were 8 types: crane, lift, pressure vessel, press, shearing machine, aerial work platform, injection molding machine, and roller, to which 3 types, gondola, machine saw and press brake were added to be 11 types in total.

Types of the subjects of the Self-regulatory Safety Check & Report were centrifuge, air compressor and gondola but soon expand to cover grinding machine, cutting machine, drilling machine, circular sawing machine and printing machine to be 25 types in total.

The newly added subjects are those that have frequently reported industrial accidents.

According to the 'report on status of occupational accidents by types of machines and device' that analyzed the risks and dangers of subject machines and device of the Safety Certification from 2005 to 2011, press and shearing machine cause the most accident cases while cranes report the highest number of fatal accident cases.

* Status of occupational accidents by types of machines and device
(2005-2011.9, by Occupational Safety and Health Research Institute)

	No. of injuries	No. of fatalities
press, shearing machine	14,219	56
crane	13,468	411
injection molding machine	1,495	20



	No. of injuries	No. of fatalities
lift	1,281	78
aerial working platform	635	37
roller	534	6
air compressor	266	4
gondola	120	6
drying equipment	95	4
centrifuge	94	2
pressure vessel	44	4

Application of Safety Certification and Self-regulatory Safety Check & Report starts from Jan. 24 through KOSHA's web site and headquarters or area offices of KOSHA. Changes are applied from Mar.1.

A person from KOSHA said "more than 20% of accidents in the industrial fields are due to machines." adding that expanded coverage of dangerous machines would reduce accident cases as more machines or device whose safety is secured would be used and distributed.



Laying a firm ground for zero accidents

KOSHA opens Major Accidents Prevention Department

25th January

KOSHA celebrated the opening of the Major Accidents Prevention Department on Jan. 25.

The nation-wide demand for such a department that prevents and responds major accidents has increased since recent hydrogen fluoride leaks affected the country, making KOSHA decide to establish the team to deal with serious accidents within the headquarters.

Roles for the newly-opened department include: evaluation and check of the process safety report and comprehensive assessment of the chemical plant's safety; helping settle down process safety management through trainings at the vulnerable factory in terms of chemical management; giving assistance to investigate causes of chemical accidents; preventing chemical accidents by arranging and running the crisis response manual; development and dissemination of the OSH technology guidelines and implementing projects for strengthening fundamental of chemical accidents' prevention by encouraging chemical factories to use the leadership for prevention.

In accordance with these tasks, KOSHA builds the information system on work places with which they deal with hazardous chemical materials, and expands the subject materials and work places of the PSM (Process Safety Management) as part of its efforts to improve the PSM.

Meanwhile, KOSHA arranges the crisis responding manual and runs the committee to meet the accidents in a systemic manner. To improve its professional competence for preventing chemical accidents, KOSHA also sets a new training plan by grades of the hazards, and conducts researches on serious accident cases overseas.

A person concerned from KOSHA said that new movement of the agency will help make the zero accident a reality as it put prevention and quick response of major accidents on a priority.





Caution on anti-freezing substance at the construction work sites

KOSHA provides three guidelines for the accidents that occur frequently in winter

29th January

President Hun-ki Baek of KOSHA released the three guidelines for preventing workers from drinking anti-freezing substance by mistake, widely used at construction worksites especially in winter.

Over the past year 24 died of the anti-freezing substance poisoning of which all cases occurred during winter, January, November and December.

KOSHA urged caution last November and January on the accidents and distributed warning stickers at construction work sites. Now the agency releases the prevention guidelines and strengthens prevention activities as the accidents do not wind down.

The three guidelines by KOSHA are: not using water for making concrete paste as drinking water; putting warning stickers on the bottle that contains anti-freezing substance; providing drinking water in a designated place and separating it from toxic materials with certain marks on it.

※ The anti-freezing substance, a chemical material, is used to prevent concrete

treated in construction work sites from freezing. The substance is a liquid without smell and color which make it difficult to distinguish it from drinking water. As such some workers have low awareness on its hazardousness, ending up with drinking it which is usually contained in plastic bottles as water is.

Under such a circumstance, KOSHA decided to add some color to the substance, together with 9 manufacturers of the dangerous material last year, and is thinking of combining bitter taste with it this year.

In addition, materials for training workers to prevent such accidents would be provided when KOSHA delivers its technical assistance at the construction worksites. Also, the agency would ask training organizations for the construction worksite to include content related with anti-freezing substance, in their training sessions.

A person from KOSHA said “Drinking water contains anti-freezing substance could lead to dyspnea, even killing you sometimes.” encouraging OSH managers at the construction worksite to pay more attention to prevent the accidents.





Financial assistance to small work places

8th January

KOSHA continues to give financial assistance this year, to small-sized work places with less than 10 workers for work environment assessment and specific medical check-up as they are more exposed to risks than those in large companies.

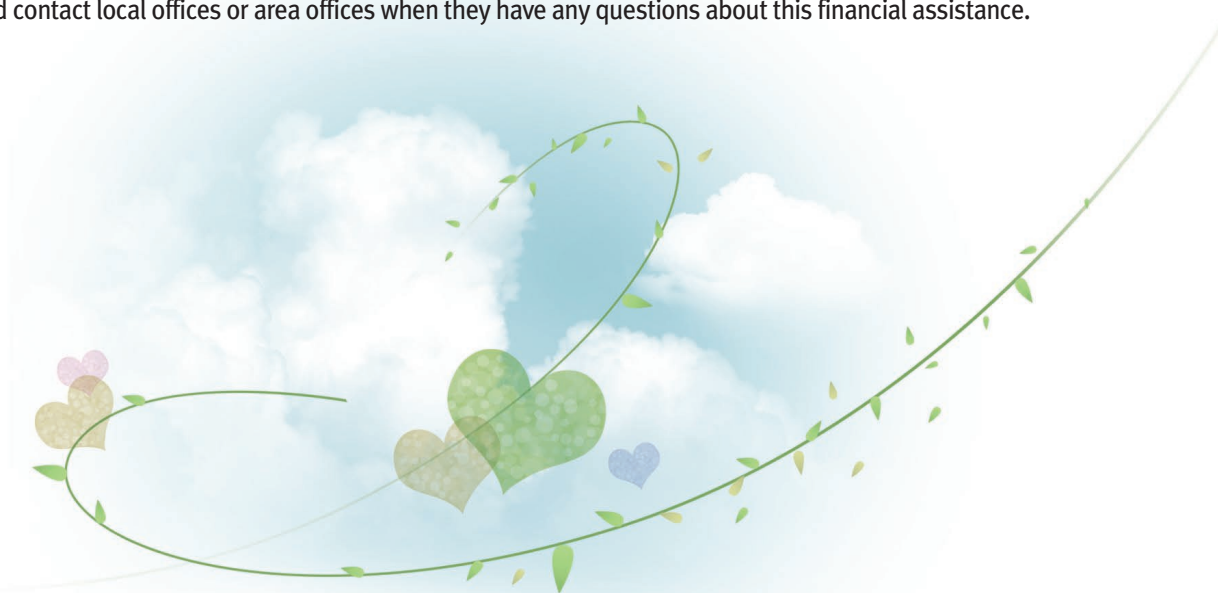
President Hun-ki Baek of KOSHA said on Jan. 21 that the financial assistance would support workers who are highly exposed to risks such as chemical materials, dust and noise at small-sized work places.

The work environment assessment and specific medical check-up are two of the employers' obligations, who have to conduct them on a regular base if the work place uses chemical materials or create dust and noise, according to the Occupational Safety and Health Act, in Korea. This is however, gives burden to the budget of the small-sized work places and KOSHA has been supporting employers of the small-sized work places in that sense since 2009.

For the expense of the work environment assessment, employers may receive 70% of it maximum, within KRW 400,000. Meanwhile, newly-opened work places may be supported by 100% of the expense within KRW 1 million and cost for specific medical check-up at the 1st and 2nd stage, are assisted without limit.

KOSHA takes the application of employers through its website and pays the organizations that conducted assessment and medical check-up.

Over the past year, the agency supported 10,690 work places in terms of work environment assessment cost and paid 75,618 workers' specific medical check-up. A person from KOSHA said that employers' keeping of interest in this kind of assistance is all the more important as it supports workers' health and pleasant work places, adding that employers could contact local offices or area offices when they have any questions about this financial assistance.





The 5th CEO course begins

22nd January

President Hun-ki Baek of KOSHA announced on 22nd that the 5th OSH-CEO course opened. This OSH-CEO course, run by both Joong-ang University and KOSHA, was set up under the goal of creating new paradigm for occupational safety and health leadership which is emerging as one of the most important strategy for the corporate management in the 21st century.

The course recruits CEO and executives of private companies, head and executives of the disaster prevention organizations, safety officers of the government or public agencies, and head of local governments and others. They may apply for the course by Apr. 23.

The course is delivered every Tuesday for 22 week from Apr. 30 to Dec. 3 in Law School building of the Joong-ang University.

Its curriculum consists of business administration, CEO's leadership, global economy as well as occupational safety and health. The course also provides special lecture by celebrities and opportunity to go abroad for studying.

Any of those who want to join the course may apply through the website of OSHRI (Occupational Safety and Health Institute).





MOEL and KOSHA provides work places with less than 50 workers with medical service

14th January

More Worker's Health Center is likely to open to be 10 across the nation, which provides medical service for workers who are working in work places with less than 50 workers.

The first center opened in 2011 and there's 5 centers as of now. Additional 5 centers would begin their services within this year, according to the MOEL and KOSHA.

Workers in the establishment less than 50 workers may receive medical services without any expense, provided by occupational physicians and OSH experts. The center also provides counsel services on job stress as well as treatment and post management of disorders such as MSDS(Musculoskeletal disorders), cerebro and cardiovascular diseases, without any charge.

The existing five centers are in: Si-hwa industrial complex in Si-heung, Gyung-gi province, Nam-dong industrial complex in In-cheon, Ha-nam industrial complex in Gwang-ju, Sung-seo industrial complex in Dae-gu, and Chang-won industrial complex in South Gyung-sang province.

Around 2,000 working men and women used the centers a month last year, according to the MOEL and KOSHA. A worker visited the center four times on average. Working hours are flexible so that workers could use the center after finishing their work or weekends.

Meanwhile the statistics on occupational accidents show that 65% of occupational illnesses occurred in work places less than 50 workers between January and November last year.

In addition among 5,528 occupational injuries including MSDS and cerebro and cardiovascular diseases, 3,700 cases were reported in work places less than 50 workers.



Reflecting the ideas of employees in prevention policies

KOSHA visits fields in Dae-jeon to check status of OSH

14th February

President Hun-ki Baek of KOSHA visited industrial fields in Dae-jeon, Feb. 14 in an effort to find ways to develop safety and health strategies.

The president's delegation visited toilet paper manufacturer in Seo gu, and transportation company located in Dae-deok gu, to check general status of OSH and identify problems related with safety and health of workers.

As for the toilet paper manufacturer, they checked the assistance status of work environment improvement for the small-sized work places, discussing prevention measures against crushes.

Following the visit, they moved to the transportation company where they checked health risks such as MSDS of workers due to long hour driving, encouraging the employer to use KOSHA's 'financial assistance for enhancing the health of working men and women'.

President Baek said that he would listen to the voice of the field to reflect it in drafting prevention policies, continuing to visit work places across the nation to encourage employers to pay more attention to OSH of their workers.

President Hun-ki Baek is looking around the safety and health status at the toilet paper manufacturing factory.

