

Contents

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KOSHA News

- 01_ KOSHA launches a new international framework for prevention
The 1st General Assembly of the ISSA Section for a Culture of Prevention held in Turkey
- 02_ Special Safety Inspection Targeting Small Construction Sites
Reducing accidents in construction sites of Hwaseong-si
- 03_ Protecting Workers from Suffocation Hazards and Intense Heat Training provided by Jeju Area Office, KOSHA
- 04_ ILO-KOSHA Workshop for Improving Working and Employment conditions
Organized by KOSHA, 29 August - 2 September, 2011
- 05_ Dr. Kogi of ICOH commends Worker's Health Center of Korea
- 06_ KOSHA - Korean Red Cross Sign MOU to Promote Workers' Health
Aimed at providing customized health promotion programs



KOSHA launches a new international framework for prevention

The 1st General Assembly of the ISSA Section for a Culture of Prevention held in Turkey

September 15, 2011

The 1st General Assembly of the ISSA(International Social Security Association) for a Culture of Prevention, the 12th International Section of the ISSA's Special Commission on Prevention was held on September 12, 2011 in Istanbul, Turkey. Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency(KOSHA; President: Hun-Ki Baek) led the launch of the new collaborative framework for the safety and health of workers.

With the launch of the new Section for a Culture of Prevention in ISSA, Korea-the chair country-will build a network of 43 professional safety and health organizations and related government bodies in countries around the world including China, France, Finland, Germany, India, Japan, UK, and the US, etc. The Section's activities will focus on promoting a culture of prevention, through global network.

* ISSA: International Social Security Association

- Founded in 1927, the ISSA has some 350 members from 150 countries. As a non-profit organization specializing in social security, the ISSA has the Special Commission on Prevention with 12 Sections including the recently established Section for a Culture of Prevention.

The newly established Section's 1st General Assembly was held during the 19th World Congress on Safety and Health at Work in Istanbul, Turkey. The World Congress was a five-day event, which took place from the 11th to 15th of September.

For the past years, KOSHA has stressed the importance of a new Section in the ISSA, which promotes a culture of prevention for facilitating OSH activities across the globe. In June 2010, the bureau of ISSA approved the establishment of the 12th Section, "Section for a Culture of Prevention."

"The International Section of the ISSA for a Culture of Prevention is a new engine, which helps workers in countries around the world to work in safe and healthy conditions. To spread the Seoul Declaration adopted and signed by 46 tripartite representatives during the last World Congress in 2008, KOSHA will expand our cooperation and exchanges with many international organizations within the framework of the new Sections," said President Hun-Ki Baek of KOSHA through his opening remarks at the 1st General Assembly of the Section.



◁Description: President Hun-Ki Baek of KOSHA(3rd person from the left, front row) is posing for a picture with the members of the ISSA Section for a Culture of Prevention, after the 1st General Assembly



Special Safety Inspection Targeting Small Construction Sites

Reducing accidents in construction sites of Hwaseong-si

July 27, 2011

- Special safety inspections are to be conducted jointly with the Ministry of Employment and Labor in August 2011, to strengthen penalties and enforcement actions for violations.
- Target: small-scale construction projects worth less than KRW 2 billion.

Southern Gyeonggi Area Office of KOSHA had been carrying out various accident prevention projects to reduce injuries and illnesses in its jurisdiction, Southern Gyeonggi-do area. However, according to the official statics released late May, the number of injured construction workers increased by 37 year-on-year (an increase of 31.1%) in the area.

Against the backdrop, Southern Gyeonggi Area Office and the Ministry of Employment and Labor designated Hwaseong-si as the main target to focus its occupational accident reduction efforts. In addition, small construction sites in the area will be subject to special safety inspection, while imposing strict penalties and legal actions against any safety and health violations.

The special safety inspections will focus on small-scale construction projects worth less than KRW 2 billion, which are located nearby factories, residential areas, and schools.

Furthermore, managers and workers of the construction sites will receive safety trainings. The informative training will teach workers about the seriousness of occupational accidents, the importance of safety management facilities within the site, and ultimately contribute to reducing injuries.

[Related Data]

● Accidents in Construction Sites Hwaseong-si, Gyeonggi-do

	June 2011		June 2010		increase (in no. of workers)		increase (in %)	
	No. of injuries	No. of fatalities	treatment injuries	No. of fatalities	No. of injuries	No. of fatalities	No. of injuries	No. of fatalities
Hwaseong-si	156	2	119	0	37	2	31.1	200.0



Protecting Workers from Suffocation Hazards and Intense Heat Training provided by Jeju Area Office, KOSHA

August 2, 2011

Jeju Area Office of Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency(KOSHA) provided training to workers to protect them from suffocation hazards and exposures to excessively high temperatures. The training aims to protect the health of workers by tackling some of the common hazards in summer.

Rising temperature and heavy rain in summer make an ideal condition for microorganisms to multiply quickly in confined spaces. Toxic gases, namely hydrogen sulfide accumulate in confined spaces and pose life-threatening suffocation hazards to workers working in the area. As there are higher fatalities resulted from asphyxiation in the months from June to September, special attention should be paid to prevent related hazards.

** Hydrogen sulfide is often produced by anaerobic bacteria. When inhaled in high volume in confined spaces like sewer facilities, the gas blocks the transfer of oxygen into a human body, causing affected worker to faint.*

For the past 11 years from 2000 to 2011, a total of 200 workers died from suffocation in confined spaces. During the four-month period from June to September, 52% of the fatalities occurred. The workers must observe the following three safety measures when working in manholes, sewer facilities, storage tanks, or water tanks: measuring the level of oxygen and hazardous gases before and during operations; continuous ventilation in high-risk work sites; and wearing PPEs in rescue operations.

The recent fatalities resulted from asphyxiation in U-do(an island) is just one of the many examples. To prevent the reoccurrence of similar accidents, the trainers called on designers, installers, and managers of sewer treatment facilities and facility maintenance companies to observe the three safety measures.

In summer, the risks of health hazards increase due to excessive heat. Exposures to hot environment and intense physical labor in agricultural and cattle farms, construction sites, and outdoor worksites can lead to symptoms like muscle spasms, dizziness, vomiting, fatigue, dry skin, rash, erythema, blisters, fainting, coma, and in extreme cases, deaths. Director Eun-Hee Choi of Nursing Service in Halla Hospital explained to the trainees about the necessary measures to be taken to protect themselves from health hazards in hot summer, as well as first-aid treatments. Director Choi expressed her wish that there will be no more accidents or injuries caused by suffocation and hot weather this year in Jeju island.

To make sure no more health threats are posed to workers in Jeju Island, a special autonomous district, Jeju Area Office of KOSHA called on the leaders of towns and villages to pay special attention to workers' health against suffocations hazards and high temperatures. Also, Jeju Area Office provided information about financial aid, workplace safety inspection, training, posters and so on, which can be provided to workplaces free of charge to protect workers' safety and health, and encouraged to take full advantage of them.



ILO-KOSHA Workshop for Improving Working and Employment conditions

Organized by KOSHA, 29 August - 2 September, 2011

August 29, 2011

From August 29 to September 2, 2011, Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency(KOSHA; President: Baek, Hun-Ki) and the International Labour Organization(ILO) co-organizes a workshop on "Participatory Approaches to Improve Working and Employment Conditions" in the headquarters of KOSHA, in Incheon, Korea.

Eight experts will give presentations on 17 topics including best practices of improving working and employment conditions, and 'ÆWork Improvements in Small Enterprise(WISE)' program. The participants of the workshop are some 20 officials in labor-related Ministries in seven Asian countries including the Philippines, Cambodia and Indonesia. Through the workshop, the participants will have the chance to share their countries' experiences on occupational safety and health, and have group discussions.

Four experts from the ILO are to take the leading roles in the workshop, to explain the ILO's standards on OSH and working conditions. In addition, discussions and presentations will be made on topics including small-scale construction sites, job stress and working hours of domestic workers, and ways to improve working conditions.

"I believe the workshop will be beneficial to all participants as they can share with the neighboring countries, the exemplary cases and experiences on OSH. By sharing the experiences and know-how with the international community, KOSHA will strive to strengthen OSH capacities in countries around the world," said an official from KOSHA.

OSH Specialists from the ILO and presentation topics

Dr. Kazutaka Kogi
(President, International Commission on Occupational Health)
- Improving work environment in small and medium-sized enterprises and the Basic Occupational Health Services

Dr. Ton That Khai(ILO OSH Specialist)
- ILO Standards relating to OSH and working conditions

Ms. Sudthida Krungkraiwoong(ILO Regional OSH Specialist)
- WISE Sessions

Ms. Sandra Yu(ILO Regional OSH Specialist)
- Local economic development and participatory approaches to improving the working conditions

OSH Specialists from Korea

Dr. Myung-Suk Lee(Korean Industrial Health Association) & Dr. Kuck-Hyeun Woo(Soonchunhyang University)
- Korean experiences in participatory training methodologies & Good practice photo contest

Dr. Jung-Sun Park(Occupational Health Department, KOSHA)
- National OSH System in Korea and the Roles of PAOT

Mr. Byoung-Nam Choi(Deputy Director, International Cooperation Center - KOSHA)
- Seoul Declaration

Mr. Dong-Chan Kim
(Senior Manager, International Cooperation Center - KOSHA)
- Accident Prevention in the Manufacturing Industry in Korea - Technical Support System and 4M risk Assessment



Dr. Kogi of ICOH commends Worker's Health Center of Korea

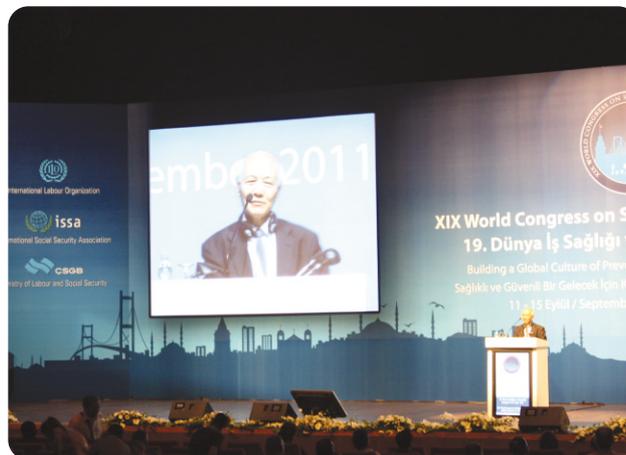
September 19, 2011

At the 19th World Congress on Safety and Health at Work held in Istanbul, Turkey from 11th to 15th of September, President Kazutaka Kogi of the ICOH(International Commission on Occupational Health) spoke of Worker's Health Centers, being operated in Korea. During the round table meeting of ENSHPO(European Network of Safety and Health Professional Organizations), Dr. Kogi introduced Workers' Health Centers to European experts as an exemplary public health service targeting workers.

ENSHPO is a forum for the exchange of the latest information and best practices amongst OSH professionals in Europe. The topic of the forum was about improving the quality and professional level of occupational health service providers.

As an exemplary case of quality professional service providers in occupational health, Dr. Kogi mentioned Worker's Health Centers being operated in Korea. Dr. Kogi explained that the Health Centers are for workers in small-scale workplaces employing less than 50 workers, where the resources for in-house OSH services are limited. Three Health Centers opened its doors for the first time in 2011. The Worker's Health Center is a free public health service provided by the Korean Ministry of Employment and Labor and Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency. Dr. Kogi complimented that professionals in occupational medicine including occupational nurses, psychologists, hygienists, ergonomists, etc. provide a comprehensive health service through the Health Centers.

Worker's Health Centers started operation in April this year in Incheon Metropolitan City, Ansan City and Gwangju City. The key health services being provided are consultations on occupational diseases, work environment, stress, and early intervention of musculoskeletal disorders for vulnerable workers and those working in small enterprises. New Worker's Health Centers will be built nationwide in the years to come.



⟨Photo: Dr. Kazutaka Kogi, giving a presentation at the ENSHPO round table meeting⟩



KOSHA - Korean Red Cross Sign MOU to Promote Workers' Health

Aimed at providing customized health promotion programs

September 19, 2011

Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency(KOSHA) and Korean Red Cross signed an MOU to spread health culture in workplaces.

The signing of the MOU took place in a meeting room of Korean Red Cross on September 19(Mon.) at 11 a.m. located in Jung-gu, Seoul. President Hun-Ki Baek of KOSHA and President Chong-Ha Yoo of Korean Red Cross signed the MOU, promising future cooperation.

Signing Ceremony

- Date: 19 September 2011 from 11:20 ~
- Location: Meeting room on fifth floor, Korean Red Cross, 10 Sopa-gil, Jung-gu, Seoul
- Participants: President Hun-Ki Baek of KOSHA, President Chong-Ha Yoo of Korean Red Cross, etc.
- Based on the MOU, the two organizations will work together for the following areas:
 - Development and distribution of customized health promotion campaign
 - Development of first-aid training curriculum in workplaces
 - Occupational and non-occupational accidents(e.g. volunteer workers)

As part of the MOU, KOSHA will help the Korean Red Cross' efforts distribute first-aid training(e.g. CPR) curriculum in many workplaces. On the other hand, the Korean Red Cross will include the prevention of work-related illnesses(e.g. musculoskeletal disorders) into its "health and safety training" curriculum in order to prevent injuries and illnesses among volunteer workers.

Joint campaigns, seminars and other related activities will be good opportunities for both organizations to spread health promotion activities in workplaces.

"Korean Red Cross is an organization that upholds humanitarian values through rescue and voluntary works, and safety and health activities. I have high hopes for our society becoming healthier and safer as we continue to carry out various initiatives with the Red Cross," said a representative from KOSHA.

<http://www.english.kosha.or.kr>