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'Excellent' level in audit

KOSHA earn the best level in estimating internal audit of agencies

13th June

After estimating 145 organizations' audit activities, the Board of Audit and Inspection gave 'excellent' level to KOSHA, which is the best level of all.

This estimation was conducted against central administrative agencies, local autonomous entities, public agencies and government-affiliated organizations. KOSHA, as one of public agencies, was especially appreciated in its prevention audit, handling of the audit's result, and post management of the audit.

The Board of Audit and Inspection focused on an organization's capability to run the audit team, efforts to conduct audit activities well, supervise the expense and post management of wrong doings, when it evaluates the organization's performance in 2011.

Meanwhile 22 out of 145 organizations received the 'excellent' level among which five out of 34 government-affiliated organizations, six out of 35 central administrative organizations, seven out of 51 local autonomous entities and four out of 25 public agencies won the best level.

*the five government-affiliated organizations are : KOSHA, Korea Gas Safety Corporation, Human Resources Development Service of Korea, Korea Asset Management Corporation and Korea Rail Network Authority.

Mr. Hae-soo Kim, the auditor of KOSHA said that the result of this estimation will be an opportunity to pursue a tangible outcome in audit and inspection so that KOSHA can improve the working environment and save the waste at the same time, and minimize inconvenience of customers, adding that his auditing team will continue to work hard to help finally contribute to enhancing the working environment to the level of advanced nations. End.

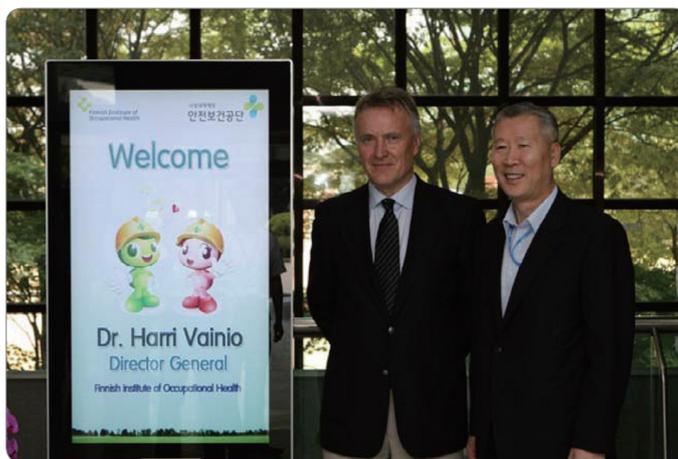




KOSHA decide to host joint symposium with FIOH

Strengthen the global network of the culture of prevention with FIOH

19th June



KOSHA's president Hun-ki Baek(2nd from the left) and Director General of FIOH Harri Vainio are taking a commemorative picture.

KOSHA reached agreement with FIOH, one of the world's prestigious OSH organizations, to cohost the global symposium and to develop joint research which is conducted as part of cooperation businesses.

KOSHA's president Hun-ki Baek had a meeting with Director General Harri Vainio who visited KOSHA's headquarters on 19th June and they both agree to host the international symposium in Helsinki, Finland on September 2013.

The symposium is held for three days from 25, September 2013 under the motto of '2013 global symposium of the culture of prevention-concept and approach for the future', supported by ISSA and the Finnish Ministry of Society Affairs and Health.

This symposium is one of KOSHA's efforts to disseminate the culture of prevention across the world as the chair-organization of the ISSA's International Section for a Culture of Prevention, together with FIOH, the vice-chair organization, to deepen the global network.

*ISSA's International Section for a Culture of Prevention is: A global network to disseminate the culture of prevention, consists of five vice-chair organizations: INRS(France), DGUV(Germany), FIOH(Finland), NSCI(India), ASSE(U.S) with 43 member organizations, under the advisory of the ILO and ISSA.

The world-famous expert in work related cancer, Director General Harri Vainio asked KOSHA to maintain joint research as the agency's efforts help not only the both parts but the whole world develop the occupational safety and health during his visit.

President Baek said "I expect hosting of the global symposium with FIOH will be an opportunity to expand the network of the preventative culture, which is the world's best OSH organization.", expressing that he hopes to deepen the tie with FIOH to promote domestic OSH technology through aggressive joint research. End.



Encouraging safety at forestry worksites

KOSHA inspect OSH in Chung-cheong Province

20th June

KOSHA visited a forestry worksite located in Cheong-won, Northern Chungcheong Province on 20th, as part of efforts to help along the workers find out their OSH problems and come up with prevention measures.

President Hun-ki Baek and staff members of KOSHA inspected the safety status of machines such as power saw, used for pruning and logging. Also they encouraged workers to wear face shield and ear plug or other personal protective equipment needed at the worksite.

Meanwhile the province reported 64 cases of accidents at forestry worksites up until April this year. KOSHA, knowing the statistics, had a meeting with Northern Chung-cheong region's representatives from National Forestry Cooperative Federation after it inspects the worksite.

President Baek mentioned that field workers at forestry worksites should remember to wear personal protective equipment and stick to the safety rules as they are always exposed to risks. End.





KOSHA alerted a warning against fire, explosion and leakage in summer

27th June

KOSHA alerted a warning against fire, explosion and leakage as it witnesses a series of accidents: hazardous gas leakage in Yeo-su industrial complex; chemical factory explosion in Hwa-sung, Gyung-gi province; explosion of oil reservoir in Yeong-cheon area.

As flammable liquids changes into vapor by an extreme weather continue and the happenings of static-electricity by dry weather, KOSHA alerted the warning with 'the five rules for safety work'.

The five rules for safety work are: not overrunning the chemical reactor; checking whether the gas is left in a confined places such as drums, tanks and pipes; getting permission before fire work; removing or isolating inflammable gas or liquid; removing or blocking liquid or gas remaining before beginning the job.

The agency sent an official note to some 3,000 enterprises among which are process safety management regulated worksites; waste oil refining companies; glue manufacturers, to ask cooperation in reducing the accidents. In addition, KOSHA issued the warning against fire, explosion and leakage through its website and electronic displays.

As part of efforts to prevent the accidents, KOSHA's nationwide five prevention centers of serious occupational accidents designated enterprises with high possibility of fire and explosion, to give special training to employers and conduct a special inspection together with the Ministry of Employment and Labor against waste oil refining worksites and glue manufacturers.

Further, KOSHA makes and provides posters of recent cases of the fire, explosion and leakage accidents with enterprises that experience high possibility of the accidents.

President Hun-ki Baek said that he hopes the special responses and safe rules KOSHA provides would encourage employers and workers to raise awareness and pay more attention to prevent fires and explosions which bring a serious damage once occurred. End



KOSHA issues warning over electric shock in the monsoon

killing many in July and August

16th July

accident cases

1. A 50-year-old man died of electric shock after contacting cooling gas pipe where the current runs while the worker moves a facility at the worksite outside the cold storage in Busan, July 2011.
2. A worker was killed at the apartment complex construction worksite in Incheon. The worker was repairing the water with a hand-breaker to break down concrete when he was exposed to the electrocution.

The possibility of electrocution is high in the humid monsoon season when a person gets contact with sheath peeled off or electric facilities with lowered resistance of a human body in a rainy season.

According to the KOSHA's statistics of occupational accidents, July and August are the most concentrated months in terms of deaths from electrocution.

Among 117 fatal electrocutions in recent 3 years, 51 cases

were concentrated in July and August, accounting for 44% of the total fatal electric shocks.

Last year 22 cases of electrocution deaths were reported in July and August, which is a whopping number considering it is 2 or 3 cases a month. This means that 52%, more than half of the total killings from electrocution are concentrated in the monsoon season.

〈Table1〉 Monthly fatal electrocution in recent 3 years

(Unit: person)

	total	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2011	42	2	2	3	0	2	3	11	11	3	2	1	2
2012	36	1	0	4	0	2	6	5	9	5	1	1	2
2013	39	0	4	2	2	6	3	6	9	1	3	2	1
total	117	3	6	9	2	10	12	22	29	9	6	4	5

Meanwhile KOSHA analyzed the reason of 40 cases of fatal electrocution occurred from 2010 to March, 2011 which tells works at high volt lead to the shock more easily than at low volt.

According to the Rules on Occupational Safety and Health, 'low voltage' refers to Alternative Current under 600 volts which killed 28 out of 40 electrocution cases.

In that sense KOSHA issued the warning against fatal electric shocks encouraging workers to stick to the 'three prevention rules' which are: conducting grounding; setting up the circuit breaker; cutting the power supply during the repair of electric facilities.

Also the agency plans to disseminate electrocution accident cases at work places and to provide prevention methods with intensive training and education.

Mr. Lee, Director of Occupational Safety Department said "summer in Korea, very humid, is easy to cause electric shocks. In addition, the heavy rainfall floods electric facilities. High temperature, meanwhile, makes workers avoid to wear protective equipments. Another reason is lowered resistance of a human body with sweat in summer." pointing out that workers should pay more attention to deal with electric tools, electric wire, and portable electric equipment at work places.
End.



Youth protects OSH

KOSHA had a launching ceremony of youth volunteers group to protect OSH on 17

17th July

KOSHA and Incheon province jointly launched the 'Youth OSH-protection group' at the business center, located in Nam-dong industrial complex, on 17.

The 'Youth OSH-protecting group' consists of 100 students and graduates of engineering department of Incheon University. They visit industrial fields to identify problems and provide OSH materials. Also, they monitor status of technology assistance and tour around construction worksites to check the situation.

Members of the group will be involved in the protection activities until November for roughly six hours a day. They receive some fiscal assistance to be used for their activities. The result of the monitoring would be harnessed as a reference to support the work places.

President Hun-ki Baek said that the group's activities would help the volunteers experience prevention activities by themselves and cherish the importance of the safety culture, as they are the one who will lead the industry soon. End.



President Baek delivers the name tag to one of the members of the 'Youth OSH-protecting group'





KOSHA visits disabled and shares a meaningful time

conducting a talchum - a traditional Korean mask dance, for the backache prevention, helping distribute meal and cleaning the shelter.

19th July

Staff members of KOSHA(president Hun-ki Baek) and its labor union (head of the Labor Union Mr. Hwang) visited 'Soo-bong shelter' located in Su-won area, where mentally challenged people are staying on 19, July.

The visitors showed Song-pa mask dance which gives a fun dance and helps prevent back-pain at the same time, attracting the audience. In addition, some 20 workers of them cleaned the shelter and helped distribute the food as part of their voluntary activities.

President Hun-ki Baek said "I am planning to expand voluntary activities to: assisting students whose parents are victims of occupational accidents with voluntarily-collected scholarship by KOSHA's workers; inviting lonely seniors to Thanks-giving event." End.



President Baek (left end from the picture) and head of labor union, Mr. Hwang, are distributing food at the shelter.



President Baek and volunteers of KOSHA are enjoying the Song-pa mask dance with inmates of the shelter.

Gimpo makes safe workplaces

KOSHA signs arrangement on preventing occupational accidents with Gimpo

20th July

Gimpo, Gyunggi province kicks off its efforts to make safe workplaces.

KOSHA's president Hun-ki Baek and Mayor Yoo signs 'arrangement on making safe workplaces in Gimpo', also known as a creative city, at the city hall on 20th.

There are around 6,000 manufacturers and some 5,000 service businesses totaling 13,000 workplaces in Gimpo which poses an increasing threat to record more occupational accidents especially for migrant workers, with recent moving of enterprises once located at the metropolitan area.

Under the arrangement, KOSHA supports Gimpo by providing OSH technology, training and facilities. In addition, the city would strengthen OSH activities for publicly contracted construction enterprises. Joint program to promote OSH and campaigns for making a safe workplace are other plans they are thinking of.

President Baek of KOSHA said that KOSHA begins to witness a tangible outcome as it signed arrangement with some 50 local governments nationwide to prevent accidents, adding that he hopes this arrangement with Gimpo would contribute to making the safe workplace.



President Baek(sixth from left), Mayor Yoo and others are taking a picture.



Five supermarket chains works together for OSH

KOSHA signs with them to boost safety and health of 80,000 workers of 400 markets

24th July

President Hun-ki Baek of KOSHA signed MOU on creating a safe mart, with the top five supermarket chains in Korea, E-mart, Home-plus, Lotte mart, Hanaro-club and E-land retail, on 24th July, at EL tower in Seoul, as part of its effort to reduce accidents for mart workers.

Summary of the MOU

- date: 24, July 2012
- time: A.M. 11:00
- venue: first basement of EL Tower at Yang-jae dong, Seo-cho gu, Seoul
- participants: President Hun-ki Baek from KOSHA, representatives from E-mart, Home-plus, Lottemart, Hanaro-club, E-land retail

According to the statistics on occupational accidents, Wholesale and Retail Sale of Household Equipment Maintenance and Repair Service is witnessing rising accident recently.

Workplace with over 100 workers in the Wholesale and Retail Sale of Household Equipment Maintenance and Repair Service recorded 123 cases of accidents, increased by 30 cases year-on-year.

People working at the mart are easily exposed to varicose vein as they are working stand for a long time. Also, possibility of suffering from musculoskeletal disorder is high for them dealing with heavy loads. Other frequent accidents are trips and crashes.

Considering all of these, KOSHA jointly cooperate with the top five marts through accident prevention agreement as part of its efforts to prevent accidents in the service sector.

Once the MOU takes effect, those five chains set up a comprehensive safety and health management system together with their partners, through KOSHA's support.

Further they receive technology materials and training service from KOSHA to prevent illnesses caught from standing and dealing with heavy loads. The big markets' partners, whose employees are less than 50 also get financial assistance to improve working environment, after KOSHA's evaluation.

President Baek said that these efforts would help some 86,000 workers at around 400 marts run by the top five conglomerates, to improve workers' safety and health, adding that he expects to witness enhanced OSH level in the service sector. End.



KOSHA supports safe Winter Olympic Games

Sign agreement with Pyeong-chang, Gang-won province on prevention of occupational accidents on the 23th

23th July

KOSHA supports Pyeong-chang, Gang-won province where 2018 Winter Olympic Games are held, to prevent occupational accidents.

President Hun-ki Baek of KOSHA signed agreement with Governor Lee at the grand meeting room of the district office in the city, on 'creating a safety culture and preventing occupational accidents'.

The agreement was made following the idea that building up some KRW36 trillion-worth infrastructure for the Olympic Games would put many workers on the construction worksites which naturally requires necessity to support accident prevention.

As the agreement is signed, construction sites within Pyeong-chang could receive technology-related materials of KOSHA, once they are approved. In addition KOSHA also sends trainers as well as prevention technology.

KOSHA's president said that it is very meaningful to contribute to making a successful winter Olympic Games which is a nationwide festival, hoping that KOSHA would do everything to help make a 'safe' winter Olympic Games. End.



President Hun-ki Baek and Governor Lee take a photo after signing the agreement



KOSHA supports workers at hospital

sign convention on accidents prevention to support 4,000 hospitals in OSH

25th July



Description

KOSHA(President: Hun-Ki, Baek, Second from left), Korean Hospital Association(Chairman : Y.S.Kim), Korean Small and Medium Hospital(Chairman : S.K. Baek), Korea Association of Geriatric Hospital (Chairman : Y.B.Yun). They taking a memorial picture after MOU.

KOSHA(President: Hun-Ki, Baek) signed agreement with three associations related to hospitals, to prevent hospital workers from accidents, at the Korean Hospital Association, located at Ma-po, Seoul, on 25.

The three associations are: Korean Hospital Association, Korean Small and Medium Hospital Association, and Korea Association of Geriatric Hospital, all of whom have some 4,000 hospital members.

According to the agreement, KOSHA would help prevent hospital workers from syringe needle accidents, musculoskeletal disorders and varicose vein, as they usually deal with heavy loads.

In addition, KOSHA would give OSH consulting and risk assessment to create a 'safe hospital', together with fund to improve facilities if necessary.

President Hun-ki Baek said that he believes safety and health of hospital workers are very important as they are the one who provide the care for patients, adding that this agreement would serve as an opportunity to settle down a safety culture at hospitals. End.



Pursuing to reduce fatal accidents by 6%

KOSHA set out 3 strategies

26th July



KOSHA accelerates its efforts in training workers on the field, developing and disseminating materials and conducting promotion and education, as part of ways to reduce fatal accidents for the later part of this year.

The agency especially implements its strategies by targeting each sector: the manufacturing, construction and the service sector to meet the goal, reducing the fatal rate by 6%.

President Hun-ki Baek of KOSHA ordered regional and area offices as well as headquarters to come up with special strategies to fight against fatal accidents in a preemptive

manner, as the fatal accident's falling rate slows down recently, and employment rate and operating rate are likely to go up in the second half of 2012.

The three strategies that KOSHA released are: providing on-site training, developing and disseminating materials on information of sectors exposed to accidents more than others, and giving education and promotion of deeply-concerned sectors, all of which are efforts to meet the goal of 6%.

KOSHA especially focuses on enterprises with 50 to 99 workers, chemical factories, the top five industrial machinery-equipped sites, and workplaces with migrant workers, in the manufacturing sector. In the construction sector, main targets are: construction contracts with less than KRW 12 billion; small-sized housing project; work platform. In the service sector, they are: hygiene and related service sector, and migrant-worker hiring enterprises.

KOSHA would spare no effort to reduce fatal accidents. Meanwhile, however, it would also focus on enterprises that witness increasing non-fatal accidents as well as fatal accidents. Lack of budget and man power is also problem to overcome and KOSHA, in that sense, works to change existing way of doing business, increase the range of assistance and find better follow-ups.

President Baek expressed his determination to make efforts to reduce fatal accidents rate, at the Yousung hotel in Daejeon, on the 16, where executives, directors of the headquarters and local offices, and director generals from the local offices gathered together to discuss prevention measures against occupational accidents.

He encouraged participants to focus on lowering fatal accident rate for the second half of this year so that fatal and non-fatal accident rates go down by up to 6%.



Example of Serious Accident in Construction

Fall During Steel Column Assembly

1. Construction Outline

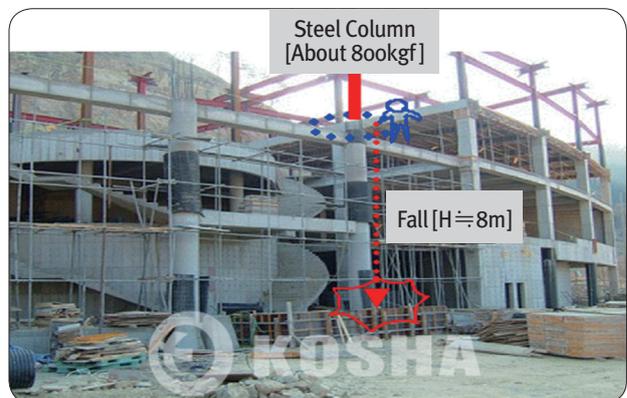
- Site : CC construction by Samjung CC
- Period : Sep. 2006 ~ Sep. 2008
- Scale : 27-hole golf course (land area 1,323,131m²)
- Price : KRW 7,00,000,000,000
- Process Rate : 72%
- Main Process : Club House Framework
- Damage : 1 death
- Date of Accident : Feb 12, 2008

2. Accident Outline

- Feb. 19, 2008(Tue.) at 10:30
- In the CC construction site by Co., Ltd.,
- The victim (male, 47 years old, steel-frame worker), subcontractor member
- Lost balance and fell on the ground (H≒8m) from the top of RC beam
- Occurred while the victim was connecting the steel column to the RC beam to erect the steel column on the second floor of the club house.
- 07:00 of the accident date
5 members including the victim (steel-frame worker, male, 47 years old) carried steel column materials to the slab on the second floor using the transportable crane and started the erection of steel column at 10:00.
- 10:30, while connecting nuts to the existing anchor bolt, with the chief at the top of the RC beam, to erect the steel column(H-300x300x10x15, length 8.5m, weight 800kgf) at the back of the second floor, the victim lost his balance and fell on the ground (H≒8m).



- Accident Situational Map -



- Front View of Accident Site -



- Transported Steel Column -



- RC Colum connected with the Steel Frame -



- Victim's Crash Site -

- Did not worn protective equipment (safety belt) and was not provided
- When working in places higher than 2m, such as the top of RC beam, workers should wear safety belt, but the victim did not.

5. Accident Prevention

- Install work plate
 - A safe work plate including scaffold or safety railing should be installed before starting work when connecting steel column in high places such as the top of RC beam.
- Install a fall prevention device
 - A fall prevention device should be installed in the bottom of the working site before starting to work when connecting steel column in high places, such as the top of RC beam.
- Provide and wear personal protective equipment (safety belt)
 - Workers should wear safety belt when working in places higher than 2m, such as the top of RC beam.

4. Reason of the Accident

- Did not install a safe work plate
 - A safe work plate, includes scaffold or safety railing, should be installed when connecting steel column in high places such as top of RC beam. In this case, the victim was working at the top of RC beam without a work plate.
- Did not install a fall prevention device
 - When connecting steel column in high places, such as the top of RC beam, a fall prevention device should be installed to prevent fall accident but was not installed in this site.

