

NEWS LETTER

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KOSHA makes the 2015 ICOH Congress the world-wide event





KOSHA makes the 2015 ICOH Congress the world-wide event

The agency hosts a meeting to establish National Organizing Committee

8th May

KOSHA held an inaugural meeting to establish National Organizing Committee, in an effort to make the 2015 ICOH Congress successful, in Sejong Hotel located in Jung-gu, Seoul on May 8.

The ICOH Congress is triennial event where experts in occupational medicine, hygiene, nursing and ergonomic industry gather together to share the latest information on occupational health. The 31st congress is held in Seoul, Korea. Last event, the 30th congress was held in Cancun, Mexico for 6 days last year where some 2,500 experts joined from around the world.



In the meeting, 38 members of the committee consists of those from workers, management, government, academia, related organizations, employers' representatives, received official appointment letter, and share their thoughts on preparing the congress.

in particular, members dealt with issues related with selecting domestic keynote speakers, organizing national scientific committees that will run presentation sessions during the 2015 congress, arranging international safety and health exhibition which will be held during the congress, and how to encourage participation.

One of the participants from KOSHA gave further information that the 30th APOSHO Conference and the 26th Korea-China-Japan Joint Conference on Occupational Health, and the 9th WHO Collaboration Center's Meeting are hosted during the period of the 31st ICOH Congress, all of which would help make the ICOH Congress all the more successful.



Large companies support safety of subcontractor

Best Practice Competition successfully ends

3rd May

SK energy, Ulsan Complex and Lotte Hotel, Seoul had an honor to be selected as the best companies in the 'Best Practice Competition on joint cooperation for OSH', organized to encourage large conglomerates to support safety and health of their partnered subcontractors.

The award ceremony was held in Yousung hotel located in Daejeon on May 3 where president Hun-ki Baek of KOSHA awarded 7 companies that showed great achievements in terms of supporting subcontractors' safety and health.

Among them SK energy's Ulsan Complex won the grand prize in the manufacturing sector whose 68 subcontractors joined the OSH joint cooperation programs. The company also released countermeasures against dangers of the subcontractors, based on each of their risk assessment. All of these efforts helped the subcontractors remain in the same level of safety to that of SK energy.

Meanwhile, another grand prize in the service sector was given to Lotte Hotel, Seoul as the company set environment safety team that charges in promotion of joint programs with the subcontractors. This task force team extended its service to hotels in other areas and achieved safety and health management system certification, to lay a firm ground for the OSH system finally.

Lotte hotel's another efforts include: change of old electrical facilities based on the result of risk assessment; providing of safety ladders for janitors all of which helped improve the working environment.

Doosan Infracore followed the SK innovation as its Incheon Complex promoted training and consulting for its partnered subcontractors. Hyundai Elevator's Icheon Complex was ranked higher than others for its support of workers at partnered subcontractors with personal protective equipment and cross safety check to reach 'zero-accident'. Hyundai Department Store, Busan, LG MMA, Dongwoo Fine-chem, Pyeongtaek Complex are other companies that won awards.

The 'OSH joint cooperation programs' was set by the Ministry of Employment and Labor in 2012, to encourage large companies to help their subcontractors promote safety and health. The top 500 companies in terms of sales are awarded annually based on their performance.

Some 600 large companies and 8,000 subcontractors joined the program last year, leading to help reduce injury rates by over 40%. A person from KOSHA said that this competition would be an opportunity to spread the best practices contributing to reducing occupational injuries and promoting OSH activities.

	Companies awarded	Type of the prize	Prize money
grand Prize	SK energy, Ulsan Complex (in the manufacturing sector)	Minister of Employment and Labor Prize	KRW 2 million
	Lotte Hotel, Seoul(in the service sector)		
the first prize	Doosan Infracore, Incheon Complex	President of KOSHA Prize	KRW 1 million
	Hyundai Elevator, Icheon Complex		
prize for excellence	Hyundai Department Store, Busan	President of KOSHA Prize	KRW 500,000
	LG MMA		
	Dongwoo Fine-chem, Pyeongtaek Complex		



Representatives of companies that were awarded are taking a picture with Mr. Shin-jae Lee, Director General for Technology(the 3rd from the left in the first row) of KOSHA



KOSHA is determined to prevent chemical accidents in Ul-san area

MOU between KOSHA, SK Innovation and Ulsan city

7th May

President Hun-ki Baek of KOSHA signed MOU to get rid of nation-wide concerns over chemical accidents that have been occurred frequently, and to guarantee safety of workers related. The MOU was signed in SK Energy located in Nam-gu, Ulsan-si on May 6. The third parties of the MOU are: KOSHA, SK Innovation and Ulsan City. Ulsan is one of industrial cities in Korea where Ulsan Petrochemical Complex is located.

The city also experienced a series of chemical accidents recently, being required to come up with thorough safety management. Considering that workers from partnered companies are in charge of large companies' chemical plant arrangement and repairing, it is important to set prevention policies to keep them safe at work.

In that sense, KOSHA decided to sign MOU with SK Innovation to develop jointly safety management model on maintenance, in its efforts to prevent injuries of 60 partnered companies and 3 subsidiary companies as well as SK Energy headquarter. The content of the MOU between KOSHA and SK Innovation includes: conducting risk assessment against hazardous and risky works outsourced by partnered companies; developing and spreading work safety standards for the partnered companies; developing safety training material; supporting workers' OSH training.

Meanwhile, Ulsan city helps work places at Ulsan Petrochemical Complex be equipped with safety management model developed by SK Innovation and KOSHA through the MOU, in an effort to make the community safer than ever before. A person from KOSHA said "this MOU was forged followed by meetings where 30 representatives from the

top management of chemical conglomerates gathered to come up with prevention actions against chemical accidents."

adding that the memorandum would serve as an opportunity to spread OSH information across establishments and lay a firm ground for preventing accidents.



President Hun-ki Baek from KOSHA(left), Mayor Maeng-woo Park of Ulsan(middle) and Mr. Koo, CEO of SK Innovation(right) are taking a picture



A new application checks whether the workers received basic training on construction safety

9th May

KOSHA creates and uploads application to help employers check whether day laborers completed basic training on safety and health they hire in the construction work sites. Under the Article 31(2), the employer shall have day laborers in the construction work sites take basic training on safety and health before they begin working.

In that sense, KOSHA created and uploaded a new application where safety and health managers and related staffs in the construction work site can check whether workers they hire completed training sessions, using their name and date of birth. When they find any of the workers fail to receive the basic training, they have to provide information necessary on training centers with training schedules and subjects to them.

Also, the safety and health managers and related staffs give answers for frequently asked questions about the construction safety and health. To use the application, you can access either Android Market or Apple's Appstore and search with the keyword 'KOSHA' to download it. Meanwhile, the basic training on safety and health is four-hour session and deals with information workers have to know on risk factors and safe works. Workers can take only once to be qualified.

This basic training began last March and covers workers at construction projects with more than KRW 50 billion budget but is going to extend to those with KRW 12 billion budget from June, this year, expected to spread across all the construction sectors at the end of next year regardless of the size of the project budget. Around 340,000 workers completed the training over the past 14 months since the service began and the information on the training was the most used among others in the website of KOSHA, reaching 200,000 in the number of clicks.

A person from KOSHA said "Lots of work sites are interested in this basic training as shown in the number of clicks in the website." adding that this application would be widely used as more construction work sites will choose to give their workers the basic training.



image of the application



Prevention is more important than post management

KOSHA discussed prevention policies of the chemical accidents with LG Siltron in Gumi Complex

10th May

A meeting was called to find causes and come up with prevention policies of a series of recent chemical accidents. President Hun-ki Baek of KOSHA visited the second Gumi complex of LG Siltron, manufacturer of semiconductor component, on May 10, to have the meeting. KOSHA exchanges various ideas on risk assessment for processes that deal with risky chemical materials, permission of prior arrangement and inspection, and ways to secure safety of partner companies.

Also, the president had a time to listen to the voice of the field about receiving consulting on prevention, and looked around the complex to check safety status of facilities.

He said that prevention is all the more important than post management as recent accidents shows, adding that work places that deal with hazardous chemical materials should pay more attention to safety to eradicate accidents.



President Baek(second from the right) is checking the safety in Gumi Complex of LG Siltron on May 10



Sawing industry lags in preventing injuries

KOSHA supports workers' training and work environment provement

14th May

President Hun-ki Baek visited Seoul Sawing Industry Association in Jongro-gu, Seoul and looked around two sawing work places to check the safety and health status, and working environment.

Many of the sawing work places are small sized with fewer than 5 workers, having witnessed accidents from being crushed between machines and amputation cases, and trips in a narrow place. In that sense, KOSHA decided to give intensive training for workers in this industry on preventing injuries, and assistance to help those work places improve working environment.

Meanwhile, the president joined a discussion on preventing slips and trips in the service industry before coming to the sawing work places, where representatives from academia, related organizations and private associations joined, in Northern Seoul Area Office of KOSHA.



President Baek is checking the safety management status in the sawing work place he visited, with a related person from the industry



Large food distributors move together for workers' OSH

KOSHA signs agreement with 9 food distributors on preventing injuries, and promotes building OSH system for some 15,000 partner companies

13th May

President Hun-ki Baek of KOSHA signed MOU on preventing injuries in the food distributing sector, with representatives from 9 large food distributors including CJ Fresh Way, on May 20.

The MOU signed as the large distributor are required to have prevention policies for their partner companies, would help the large conglomerates to promote safety and health of workers in not only headquarters but partner companies. Those 9 large distributors that signed are: CJ Fresh Way, ECMD, Dongwon Home Food, Lotte Food, Shinsegae Food, Our Home, Arakor, Hanhwa Hotel and Resort and Hyundai Green Food.

As for the food distributors, they largely depend on their partner companies while workers at the partner companies lack of OSH management. In particular, workers at partner companies are widely exposed to injuries such as burning during cooking, falling on the slippery floor, cutting, amputation and puncture by cookware.

In that sense, president Baek decided to sign the MOU with the 9 food distributors to help them promote safety and health of workers in the food industry. The MOU also encourages the food distributors to set up OSH system for some 15,000 partner companies.

After the MOU, KOSHA develops and provides standard model of risk assessment customized by sectors, supporting the headquarters and partner companies to set joint OSH program. The agency also plans to give technical assistance for them to establish OSH management system.

Meanwhile KOSHA is beginning joint campaigns through which it can encourage workers in the related industry to be committed to preventing injuries, and help CEOs to promote OSH by putting it on its top priority.

President Baek said that "It is very meaningful that those 9 representing companies move together for the safety and health of workers in the food industry." adding that he would spare no effort to advance the OSH status of the food distributing industry through this MOU.



President Hun-ki Baek(5th from the left) is taking a photo after signing the MOU.





Large construction work sites beef up prevention of injuries

KOSHA looks around construction work sites in new town

21th May

President Hun-ki Baek visited work sites in newtowns of Suwon and Hwasung in southern Gyunggi area, on May 21, in an effort to prevent injuries there.

The size of the work sites for new communities in southern Gyunggi area is 15 times that of Yeouido which requires specific prevention injuries.

President Baek and his delegation visited work sites where R&D center of a company is being built in Yeongtong-gu, Suwon and then moved to another construction work place in Dongtan, Hwasung, to exchange views and ideas on occupational safety and health with workers and related people.

Meanwhile he had a meeting with safety managers' counsel consists of 27 construction companies in southern Gyunggi province, before he went to the Dongtan's work sites. There, he had a time to encourage members of the counsel to work safely especially for subway and new communities construction.



President Baek(in the middle of the photo) is checking the safety status in the construction work place with related people on 21th.



Fill up the safety of gas station

KOSHA signed MOU with KOSA

22th May

KOSHA now supports gas stations to prevent injuries and boost safety of the facilities there. President Hun-ki Baek signed MOU with president Moon-sik Kim of KOSA (Korea Oil Station Association) on May 22 for creating safe and clean gas stations. The MOU was signed in the building of KOSA located in Ban-po, Seoul and both parties agreed to focus on preventing fire and explosion, collisions of cars, crushes in the car washer and boosting health of workers in the gas station.

In November 2012, an accident occurred in a gas station located in Geo-yeo, Seoul, burned two workers who were cleaning the tank truck in the basement.

Also, in 2011, fire and explosion in another gas station killed four who were washing their cars and hurted three. Leak of the oil mist is suspected to be the cause of the accident. On the same day, oil mist leaked and two were injured due to following fire and explosion in a gas station located in Hwa-sung. These accidents led to encourage KOSHA to enhance safety of facilities in the gas station which are widely exposed to dangers of fire and explosion, and promote health of workers there through the MOU. According to the MOU, KOSHA will implement prevention activities for around 13,000 gas stations nationwide, the members of KOSA.

Major prevention activities are: supporting risk assessment and consulting; financial assistance for improving work environment; developing and distributing OSH materials; carrying out prevention campaigns; assisting specific medical check-up of workers in the gas station.



President Baek said that recent series of fires and explosions show the importance of prevention, adding that he expects this MOU will serve as an opportunity to secure safety of filling up facilities and protect health of workers in the gas stations.

President Baek(4th from the left) is taking a photo with related people after signing MOU with KOSA



The culture of prevention creates better work places

KOSHA had a general meeting for the Korean Committee of the culture of prevention

22th May

President Baek of KOSHA hosted general meeting for the Korean Committee of the culture of prevention in Seoul on May 22, in an effort to spread the culture of prevention.

* The general meeting for the Korean Committee of the culture of prevention was held in Lotte hotel, on May 22 Seoul, from 07:30 ~ 09:15.

KOSHA is a chair organization of the ISSA Section for a Culture of Prevention which has 43 OSH related organizations and governmental agencies from the U.S., U.K., Japan and other nations across the world, playing the leading role in distributing the culture of prevention.

* ISSA (International Social Security Association)

- ISSA is an international non-profit organization with 336 member organizations from 157 countries and territories.

Founded in 1927, ISSA has prevention section of occupational risks under which there are 12 sub-sections including the section for a culture of prevention established in 2011. The Korean Committee of the culture of prevention consists of representatives from workers, employers, private OSH-related organizations, and related institutions and it focuses settling down the culture of prevention across the nation.

During the meeting, participants from some 30 organizations had a lecture on the culture of prevention and presentations on their efforts in the past and plans for the future. They also set a direction for 2013 and discussed ways to run the committee.

President Baek pointed out the importance of the prevention during the meeting saying that recent series of chemical accidents show the prevention says a lot. He also expressed that he would like the committee to work hard to spread the safety culture across the nation.



President Baek is delivering an opening speech in the meeting of the Korean Committee of the Culture of Prevention