

# NEWS LETTER

Protecting Worker's Life and Health

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# Road to ICHO 2015 in Seoul all clear

KOSHA hosted on 16 Oct. an inaugural meeting of the National Scientific Committee for the 31<sup>st</sup> International Congress on Occupational Health to be held in Seoul in 2015.

The International Congress on Occupational Health is a triennial event where experts and scholars in the industrial medicine, hygiene, nursing, and ergonomics areas share academic findings and knowledge.

Since KOSHA passed over the function of Secretariat for ICOH 2015 Congress at 2012 Congress in Cancun, Mexico, KOSHA has been laying a ground work for the event and formed the National Organizing Committee in May, 2013. With the inaugural meeting of the NSC, preparation is now in full swing.

The meeting was attended by 32 committee members from various sectors including labor, government, academic, and business. They exchanged practical ideas and opinions for a successful hosting of the 2015 congress and agreed to have a special session for the labor and business community to make presentations about OSH agendas among Korean companies.

The 31<sup>st</sup> ICHO is to be held from 31 May till 5 June 2015 in Seoul during which many academic sessions and events will be held including workshops, symposiums, and poster sessions.

Since its first meeting in 1906 in Milan, Italy, ICOH was hosted in Europe 20 times, and North America 4 times. Korea is the third Asian country to host ICOH following Japan and Singapore.



NSC meeting participants are smiling with the hope of successful ICOH 2015 Congress.



NSC members are sharing their ideas on better preparation on ICOH 2015 Congress



NSC Chair Prof. Hong, Yun Chul (left); NOC Chair Mr. Baek (middle); NOC co-chair Prof. Kim, Yang Ho (right)

# KOSHA co-hosted international symposium on prevention culture

KOSHA co-hosted the International Symposium on Culture of Prevention: Future Approaches on 25-27 September in Passtiorni Hall in Helsinki, Finland with the International Social Security Association, the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, and the Institute National de Recherche et de Securite of France.

As a chair of the ISSA Section for a Culture of Prevention established in 2011, KOSHA hosted this symposium to lay a theoretical foundation for a global prevention culture and spread the culture throughout the world.

“Prevention culture is important to improve the quality of work and survive in this very competitive society,” President Baek Hun-ki of KOSHA said. “KOSHA will continue to play a leading role in spreading a prevention culture.”

The symposium was joined by about 200 OSH experts and government officials from countries like the U.S., Canada, Germany, and France.

The symposium was followed by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Bureau Meeting of the Section for a Culture of Prevention where bureau members and participants discussed a symposium on a prevention culture at the 2014 World Congress on Safety and Health at Work in Germany. Participants showed an enthusiastic response to the presentation at the meeting about the application Find Accident that KOSHA developed.



Mr. Baek is giving an opening speech at the symposium.

## News

# Safer airport for employees leading to better customer service

Incheon International Airport is seeking to improve customer services and safety by making the airport a safer and healthier workplace and KOSHA is ready to provide helping hands.

KOSHA and ICN Airport signed a MOU on accident prevention on 16 Oct in the airport headquarters to enhance airport's occupational safety and health.

About 7,000 workers are working for the airport including those hired by 40 contractors and, as the airport is building an additional terminal, construction workers safety is now at the center of attention.

The MOU includes joint projects like establishing airport workers' health center, OSH technical assistance from KOSHA and prevention activities at the airport construction site.



To be more specific, KOSHA will develop a health promotion plan considering job characteristics of airport workers, conduct risk assessment for airport's working environment, give support for joint OSH programs for the airport and its contractors, help health care of contract companies' workers and engage in accident prevention activities for the extra terminal construction site.

For the airport's part, they will fully cooperate with KOSHA in workers' health promotion activities, OSH training, and support for contractors and agreed to display OSH catchphrases promoted by KOSHA on airport billboards. Joint OSH campaign and sharing of training material and accident prevention technique are also part of the MOU.

"This is a great chance to systematically enhance and manage safety and health of airport workers who are engaged in a wide range of works," Baek Hun-ki, president of KOSHA said. "I hope Incheon International Airport can provide best possible services to customers by taking care of workers' health and safety."

## KOSHA applications awarded

KOSHA applications were awarded with the International Business Awards 2013 on 15 Oct. in Barcelona. The IBA, aka Oscar in the international business scene, is very prestigious award for global companies and organizations. Three KOSHA applications won medals; one gold medal in integrated mobile experience category and two silver medals in training, and utilities and service categories in app award category.



With 3,000 apps submitted from 50 countries, KOSHA entered 7 applications: Breaking Accident News; Interpreter; First-aid Treatment; Knowledge Reservoir; Biorhythms; Stretch Songs; and Total OSH App.

These apps, available on iOS-based and Android-based devices, are regularly updated: Oops Guidelines have recently uploaded onto Knowledge Reservoir.

Two more applications are in the pipeline: one for weather news and the other for real time global serious accident news.

"This award shows how excellent the Korean OSH system is," Baek Hun-ki, president of KOSHA said. "KOSHA will continue to work on developing efficient applications for workers and general citizens."

### ※ KOSHA applications

No.	Title	Function	No. of downloads	Contents	Launch date
1	Interpreter	Interpreting for migrant workers	49,487	300 sentences in 10 language	9.7.2012
2	Breaking Accident News	Giving real-time accident news and accident reporting	25,081	1,500 accident cases	6.29.2012
3	Biorhythms	Showing physical and emotional quotients	23,439	-	11.13.2011
4	First-aid Treatment	Giving tips on emergency measures like CPR	44,047	67 emergency measures for 7 situations	11.29.2012
5	Knowledge Reservoir	Giving safety rules by industry	7,772	1,505 rules	11.29.2012
6	Stretch Songs	Giving advice on stretching to prevent musculoskeletal disease	19,494	7 types	09.10.2012
7	Total OSH App	Bundling all related apps	23,641	-	11.29.2012

# Typhoon and storm preparedness manual for construction sites available

## <Accident case 1>

On July 15, 2013, heavy rainfall flooded the Han River and a nearby construction site of tunnel pipeline killing 7 workers.

## <Accident case 2>

On May 8, 2012, a flood killed two workers doing maintenance work at the basement of the Daegu Industrial Complex.

The Ministry of Employment and Labor and KOSHA distributed the Typhoon and Storm Preparedness Manual for Construction Site. Heavy rainfall and strong wind are very likely to cause damages to, especially, construction sites like flooding of the site or landslide.

The manual covers basic understanding about typhoons and storms, relevant accident cases, types and causes of disasters, and safety measure to help the construction industry to more thoroughly prepare.

In detail, the manual explains about localized torrential rainfall and typhoon, good drainage system in preparation for flood, how to prevent drowning of workers, antilandslide measures, and how to manage electric devices against electrocution. It also contains several useful forms and checklists like composition and duties of an emergency team, key facility condition check list, emergency contract lists forms, emergency work log, and accident report form.

The 30-page-long manual is available in KOSHA's regional and area offices throughout the country and on its home page.

An official from KOSHA said, "Mindful of typhoon Maemi in September 2003 that caused massive personal and property damages, construction companies should set up accident prevention plans and emergency response measures as they are especially vulnerable."



Cover of the manual

# KOSHA discussed safety and health measures with a chemical company and its suppliers

Amid a series of fires and explosions including a fatal explosion at a chemical plant in Yeosu on March 17, KOSHA discussed safety measure and accident prevention plans with officials from LG Chem, a chemical factory in Yeosu, and its suppliers. LG Chem's factory in Yeosu produces petrochemical products like PVC and more than 2,000 employees are working at the Yeosu factory including those of 20 or so suppliers.

President of KOSHA Basek Hun,ki and others, in a visit to the Industrial Complex in Yeosu, South Jeolla Province, checked how safety and health measures are managed and had a discussion about how to prevent chemical accidents.

The visit comes ahead of the fall season when chemical factory maintenance works increase and so does the possibility of chemical accidents. The visit was joined by LG Chem's general OSH manager and representatives from its 23 suppliers.

With safety and health measures for maintenance works of the suppliers topping the agenda, others include how to strengthen safety and health training for new entrants at the suppliers, support for OSH program of the suppliers, plan on risk assessment by process, and KOSHA's consulting service.

Recent occupational accidents statistics show that the total number of victims by chemical accidents is on a decrease over the last five years but the victims of fire, explosion, or leakage are increasing.

※ **No. of fire, explosion, leakage victims at chemical product manufacturers (5yrs)**

Year		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Total		2,911	2,925	2,900	3,032	2,798
Crushes, trip, electrocution, etc		2,803	2,810	2,792	2,913	2,670
The No. of victims	Sub-total	108	115	108	119	128
	Fire	23	40	18	35	41
	Explosion	48	32	40	37	39
	Leakage	37	43	50	47	48

Against this backdrop, KOSHA has launched a special taskforce for chemical accident prevention and chemical accidents investigation committee to set up a chemical accidents response mechanism and had meetings with OSH officials to come up with strategic prevention measures.

“Recent chemical explosion accidents happened during a maintenance work by contractors,” Mr. Baek said. “Accidents occur especially when workers push the work too fast and accordingly fail to meet the safety standards. At any costs, the Process Safety Management should be strictly followed.”



Mr. Baek (2<sup>nd</sup> from the left) is discussing safety measures with OSH officials.

※ **Chemical accidents in 2013**

When	Where	Company	Substance that caused accidents	Cause	Personal injury
Jan 11	Jeonju	Miwon Commercial	Inflammable vapor	Explosion of centrifuge due to inflammable vapor	One dead
Jan 12	Sangju	Woongjin Polysilicon	35% hydrochloric acid	Leakage due to pipe rupture	No personal injury

When	Where	Company	Substance that caused accidents	Cause	Personal injury
Mar 5	Gumi	Gumi Chemical	Chlorine	Backflow due to breakdown in cleaner equipment	One injured
Mar 14	Yeosu	Daelim	Polyethylene dust and more	Explosion during repair work	Six dead, eleven injured
Mar 25	Hwaseong	Dongjin Semichem	Acetic acid	Leakage of acetic acid solution due to damaged temporary wastes container	Two injured
Apr 14	Ulsan	Samsung Fine Chemicals	Chlorine gas	Chlorine gas leakage from FRP connecting to scrubber	Six mildly injured

## Answers are in the field

KOSHA is having meetings with officials from the manufacturing, construction and service industry to listen to the voice of the field and discuss effective anti-accident measures to prevent large scale accidents.

President Baek Hun-ki of KOSHA paid a visit to a chemical factory complex in South Chungcheong on 10 Sep. and will have meetings with officials from 34 large construction companies and 10 retailers separately on 11 Sep.

These meetings are to explain and discuss accident prevention policies after a series of large scale accidents including a fatal flood in the underground pipe line construction site and a ramp collapse at a bridge construction site in Seoul and gas leakage, fire, and explosion at the chemical factories.

The meeting on the 10th titled “Discussion Meeting to Prevent Large Scale Accidents” discussed safety management and effective support measures for businesses that handle chemicals and their suppliers including LG Chem Chungju factory and SK Innovation Jeungpyeong factory. This meeting was also joined by officials from cement manufactures and construction companies nearby to share opinions and grievances.

The meeting with the construction industry in the morning of the 11th is to discuss the accident at the Banghwa Bridge construction site in July and measures to prevent similar cases. Participants will discuss causes of recent construction accidents and pool the wisdom for prevention plans. The meeting will be chaired by Prof. Lee Myung-gu of Eulji University to have a more in-depth discussion on a recently growing fatal cases caused by construction equipment.

This meeting will be followed by another meeting with officials from 10 large retailers on risk assessment and best practices of safety and health measures for suppliers.

“Recent large scale accidents would have been prevented if basic safety measures had been followed,” Mr. Baek said. “Prevention of occupational accidents takes a strong commitment of employers and a sense of responsibility to follow safety and health measure among employees. These meetings are to find practical measures based on the voices of each industry.”



Mr. Baek (4<sup>th</sup> from the left) is discussing prevention measure in a visit to LG Chem Chungju factory.



# Love for safety and rural communities

Officials from the management and labor union of KOSHA volunteered for rural community in Gangwon-do on 29 and 30 of August as part of talent donation.

The community is a very small town called “Byeolcheonji maul” located in Pyeongchang-gun, Gangwon-do at an altitude of 700 meters where only 25 families live. The average age of residents is 60 and they are in needs of help from outside. KOSHA has developed a sister relationship with the town to fulfill its corporate social responsibilities.

20 officials from KOSHA and a voluntary group “Love for Safety” repaired old and damaged electrical facilities and helped harvest herbs and other crops.

Baek Hun-ki, president of KOSHA, reaffirmed his commitment to volunteer work saying, “KOSHA, as a public institution, will remain committed to corporate social responsibilities and continue the support for the vulnerable.”



Mr. Baek (person standing) and union leader Hwang Choo-yeon (person sitting) are harvesting tomatoes as part of community service.

## KOSHA Helps

# All hands on deck to prevent catastrophic accidents

Amid a series of catastrophic industrial accidents including a recent fatal flood in the underground construction site, organizations dedicated to occupational accident prevention and safety and health at work gathered.

The Ministry of Employment and Labor and KOSHA invited 10 organizations to Discussion Meeting with Representatives from Organizations for Accident Prevention on Catastrophic Accident Prevention in the KOSHA headquarters located in Bupyeong, Incheon.

Representatives from 10 organizations including the Korea Industrial Safety Association, Korean Industrial Health Association, and Korean Association of Occupational Health Nurses participated in and organization-specific catastrophic accident prevention strategies were announced.



The strategies include more technology support for high-risk establishment, safety and health training for construction workers, support for risk assessment, and more coordination in safety management system between principal employers and contract businesses.

KOSHA explained the background and future direction of the strategies before announcement and adopted The Resolution for Large-Scale Occupational Accident Prevention to renew their commitment.

One official from KOSHA said, "This discussion meeting is part of KOSHA's effort to listen to the voice of each sector about accident prevention and KOSHA will reflect ideas and suggestions from the meeting on future strategies."



Mr. Baek (center in the front row) and other participants are posing after a discussion meeting.



Mr. Baek (left) is committing to preventing large-scale occupational accident.

## Safe work guidelines for couriers

KOSHA made Safe Work Guideline for Couriers and Express Delivery Personnel to help prevent common accidents among couriers like traffic accidents and trips and protect their health and safety.

According to the "Interim Report on the Logistics and Transportation Industry in 2009" from the Statistics Korea, 21,380 couriers are working in 27 companies and 12,845 quick delivery personnel in 944 companies.

Couriers and express delivery personnel are more exposed to trips and traffic accidents in the process of collecting, transporting, and delivering packages.

According to an analysis on 175 couriers injured last year by KOSHA, traffic accident was most common followed by trips, falls, and collision.

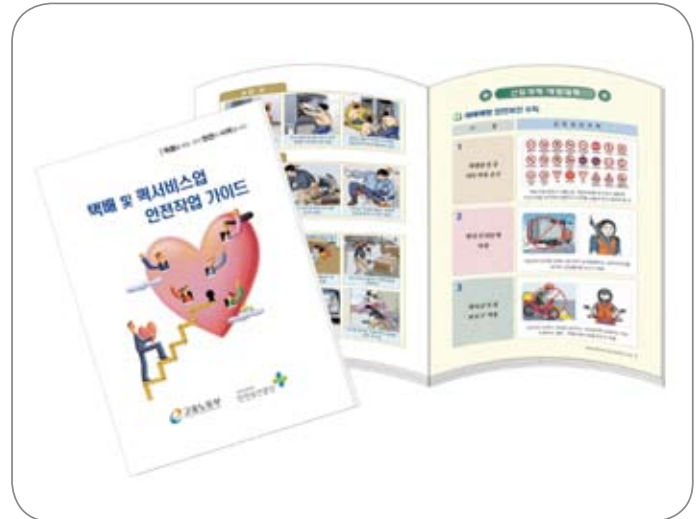
### ※ Occupational accidents in the logistics and transportation industry in 2012

	Total	Traffic Accident	Slips	Fall	Collision	Crushed	Hit	Buried	Occupational Illness	ETC
No. of ppl injured	175	88	20	15	12	10	9	7	7	7
Rate	100%	50.3%	11.4%	8.6%	6.9%	5.7%	5.1%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%

In this regard, KOSHA distributed Safe Work Guideline for Couriers and Express Delivery Personnel to big courier service firms that KOSHA reached MOUs with in July including KOREX and Lotte Logistics and trade organizations like the Korea Integrated Logistics Association so that it can be used as a training material. It will be also available on the KOSHA homepage.

This guideline provides 15 rules to follow including “Secure a clear view when delivering packages,” and “Use a cart when delivering heavy packages.” It also contains major accident cases and accident prevention tips to follow when doing jobs like sorting, transporting, and loading packages and a long distance driving.

One official from KOSHA said, “Couriers and express delivery personnel need to try to follow this guideline and safety training is also needed for them.” “This guideline, hopefully, will be very useful in preventing occupational accidents in the logistics and transportation industry,” the official added.



Safe Work Guideline for Couriers and Express Delivery Personnel

## Comprehensive occupational accident prevention plan is necessary

President of KOSHA Baek Hun-ki and a group of representatives from the labor, business, private, and government sector paid a visit to Taejin ENG, a manufacturer of various engineering equipment in Namdong-gu, Incheon to see firsthand how safety and health of workers is managed and to share opinions about it.

President Baek was joined by members from the Federation of Korean Trade Union and the Korea Employers Federation and safety managers. After the visit, they discussed practical accident prevention measures at the KOSHA headquarters located in Bupyeong-gu, Incheon.

Amid a series of large-scale industrial accidents, the government (the Ministry of Employment and Labor) plans to pay more visits to local businesses to collect opinions and to come up with a comprehensive accident prevention plan thorough meetings and discussions in which members from the labor, business, private and government sector all participate.



Mr. Baek (3<sup>rd</sup> from the right) and representatives from the labor, business, private, and government sector are sharing opinions during a visit to a local business to find practical accident prevention measures