

Newsletter

Protecting Worker's Life and Health

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KOSHA signed an MOU with SK Hynix

Spurring the preparation for ICOH Congress 2015



3,400 participants from 120 countries

April 14, 2014


ICOH 2015 Secretariat held a signboard hanging ceremony for full-fledged preparation

The preparation of KOSHA for the 31st International Congress on Occupational Health (ICOH Congress 2015) is in full swing. This international triennial event, also known as “Occupational Health Olympics”, aims at enhancing the health of workers around the world with a history of a hundred years.

ICOH Congress 2015, the first in Korea, will run for 6 days from May 31 to Jun 5, 2015 at COEX in Seoul. At the congress, occupational safety and health (OSH) professionals from all over the world will gather to participate in various events including symposiums and policy forums on latest trend in and studies on occupational health. Some 3,400 participants from home and abroad including OSH professionals from 120 countries worldwide will attend ICOH Congress 2015. The effect on production inducement, worth

KRW 60 billion, is also expected. For the success of ICOH Congress 2015, KOSHA held a signboard hanging ceremony of the Secretariat on Monday, April 14, and plunged into the preparation.

KOSHA has run ‘a national organizing committee’—in charge of overall organization and management of the congress—and ‘a national scientific committee’—organization of academic programs—which consist of academic professionals in the field of occupational environment, medicine, hygiene and ergonomics, and OSH; representatives of businesses, laborers, and government officials. The agency has collected opinions from the members of the committees as well. With the ceremony as a momentum, the Secretariat will enhance cooperation between the national organizing committee and the national scientific committee and pay full attention for the successful hosting in cooperation with the international organizing committee.

In line with this, the Secretariat is in charge of accepting theses for presentation, organizing programs for the enrollment, selecting topics, speakers, and moderators, running the official website of ICOH Congress 2015, and planning exhibitions. Baek, Hun-ki, President of KOSHA, said “the 31st International Congress on Occupational Health is the third event in Asian region following Japan and Singapore.” “We will spare no effort to enhance Korea’s status to a higher level with the successful hosting of the Congress” he added. 



ICOH 2015 Secretariat held a signboard hanging ceremony for full-fledged preparation

Identifying Hazards of unknown toxic chemicals becomes possible

KOSHA started the construction for Korea's first 'Chronic inhalation toxicity test facility' For prevention of workers' health problems of low-level and long-term exposure to chemical materials

April 30, 2014

Korea's first 'Chronic inhalation toxicity test facility' will be established to identify occupational cancers or hazards to human body due to low-level and long-term exposure to chemical materials.

KOSHA held a groundbreaking ceremony for 'Chronic inhalation toxicity test facility' on April 30, which will be a three-floor building with 6,295 m² of total floor space, located in the Daedeok Science Town, Yuseong-gu, Daejeon-si. This is the first time to build 'Chronic inhalation toxicity test facility' in Korea, while an 'Acute inhalation toxicity test facility' was introduced in the Daedeok Science Town in 1997.



KOSHA started the construction for Korea's first 'Chronic inhalation toxicity test facility' For prevention of workers' health problems of low-level and long-term exposure to chemical materials

'Acute inhalation' is related to workers' exposure to highly-concentrated chemicals for short-term period in the poor working environment. On the other hand, the test facility was designed on the need for studying chronic toxicity prediction and preventing occupational cancers due to workers' low-level and long-term exposure to chemical materials.

The test facility will be involved in studying occupational diseases caused by long-term exposure in the production process of electronics, automobiles, and tires and assessing possibility of developing cancer and hazards of nano-materials and all sorts of unknown toxic materials using in the IT industry. In addition, it is expected to contribute to protecting workers' health by providing information including hazard classification for chemical materials and set-up for exposure standards in working environment based on test results.

The construction of test facility is scheduled to be completed in November, 2015 on a budget of total 37 billion won. It will be equipped with 48 inhalation chambers, in which predictions and assessments of hazards to human body will be carried out by exposing laboratory rats to chemical materials.

The tests in the facility include a chronic toxicity test for laboratory animal's 2-year exposure to chemical materials, a subchronic toxicity test for 3-month exposure and an acute toxicity for 24-hour exposure.


Identifying Hazards of unknown toxic chemicals becomes possible

KOSHA's Occupational Safety and Health Research Institute (OSHRI) will push ahead with earning 'AAALAC-I', an international standard for research ethics and 'GLP', an international standard for research credibility in order to secure credibility in terms of toxicity test results through the international accreditation.

* AAALAC-I (Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care-International): Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care

* GLP (Good Laboratory Practice): Laboratory practice for research manpower, test facilities and test methods

The groundbreaking ceremony held on Wednesday, April 30 was attended by some 100 participants including Baek, Hun-ki, president of KOSHA, An, Gyeong-deok, director of Industrial Accident Prevention and Compensation Bureau, Cho, Myung-haing, president of Korean Society of Toxicology, regional assembly men, related officials from Daejeon-si, and representatives of labor and management and academic organizations.

Baek, Hun-ki, president of KOSHA in his greetings in the ceremony said, "In Korea, the number and use of new chemical materials is consistently increasing with the industrial development." "The establishment of 'Chronic inhalation toxicity test facility' is expected to significantly contribute to preventing workers' health problems and occupational cancers to secure safety of chemical materials," he added. 



Executives take the lead for safety in workplaces



KOSHA held 'the board of directors in workplaces', visiting workplaces to see contingency responses for oil spill accidents and check occupational accident prevention system

May 9, 2014

With growing interest and response efforts of CEOs from enterprises for recent occupational safety accidents in succession, KOSHA's executives came forward for a workplace inspection. The executives of KOSHA including president and executive directors visited the Onsan plant of S-OIL located in Ulsan-si on Thursday, May 8 and checked the actual state of safety management in the chemical plant. This visit was made by the KOSHA executives responsible for major decision making about occupational accident prevention projects, organization and budget to directly check the safety and health operating system to prevent major accidents.


In particular, the executives visited S-OIL to check the actual state of operation of 'the joint prevention center for chemical accidents', which had been established until the beginning of this year in cooperation with six industrial complexes across the country.

As for S-OIL, over 140,000 barrels of oil were spilled on April 4. At the time, the company had a possibility of serious secondary accidents such as fires, explosions and environmental pollution, but thanks to the effective risk management system, secondary accidents was avoided.

The executives of KOSHA visited the accident site and looked when and how KOSHA's contingency response measures were carried out in 'the joint prevention center for chemical accidents' when the accident had

occurred. On that day, the briefing in the workplace said, "Immediately after the accident, KOSHA responded to the contingency equivalent to the alert level according to the contingency response manual and it was possible to prevent secondary accidents by taking the actions to check the accident situation; to call for spraying fire extinguishing medium on the possibility of explosion; to provide technical assistances to prevent spread of damage such as managing ignition source; and to carry out the 24-hour monitoring."

KOSHA's executives listened to the explanation from the officials of the company about the measures to enhance safety and prevent the recurrence of accidents based on the identified cause after the accident.

On the visit to the site, Baek Hun-ki, president of KOSHA said, "After the recent major accident, now is the time to pay attention to safety more than ever." "Safety accidents in chemical plants could threaten the safety of people. Therefore, please make the best efforts for prevention in advance and swift and systematic responses," he added. 



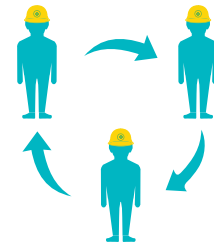
Baek Hun-ki, President of KOSHA (the person holding hands up), executive directors and other executives of KOSHA are checking the state of safety and health operation in S-Oil.



Baek Hun-ki, President of KOSHA (second from the right) is talking with the related official of S-Oil about the response of the oil spill accident.

A need for safety and health communication on construction sites

KOSHA checked the state of safety & health management on major construction sites in Jeju. Discussing measures to reduce occupational accidents with major construction managers



May 24, 2014

Baek Hun-ki, President of KOSHA, visited construction sites in Jeju to seek measures to reduce occupational accidents on Friday, May 23.


Recently, tourism accommodation facilities, an innovation city, and English education city are being built in Jeju. Accordingly, intensive safety and health management is required for workers in those construction sites.

President Baek and its related officials visited a construction site in Gangjeong-dong, Seogwipo-si, Jeju-do, where civilian-military complex port is being built by a construction company, Daerim, to check the state of safety and health management and KOSHA's support.

On the site, construction of quay, breakwater, and dredging and reclamation are underway with an aim of completing the construction by September this year.

The civilian-military complex port construction is now 50 percent completed. On this day, KOSHA granted Daerim a certificate of achieving zero-accident record for three years and four months from December 2010 to March 2014.

KOSHA had a major accident prevention meeting with ten construction managers from companies including Daerim, Hyundai Asan Corp. for new hotel construction and Kumho Industrial Co. for apartment construction. The items for discussion in the meeting included measures to strengthen safety system in workplaces to prevent major accidents on construction sites, what has been done for promoting safety and health by each workplace, and the consequential difficulties improvement plans.

In the meeting, President Baek said, "Construction work requires special attention because there are many different workers including subcontractors at each level of construction." "In order for safety system to be operated properly, communication in workplaces is necessary," he added. 



Baek Hun-ki, President of KOSHA (next to one in a black suit) and major construction managers in Jeju are discussing occupational accident prevention.



Baek Hun-ki, President of KOSHA (the person holding a hand up) is checking the state of safety and health management on a major construction site in Jeju.

A visit to a construction site to prevent major accidents

KOSHA checked the state of safety and health in major construction sites in the capital area and discussed measures to reduce accidents with ten major construction managers.

May 17, 2014

KOSHA came forward to find a solution to prevent major accidents in construction sites.

Baek Hun-ki, president of KOSHA and other participants visited a construction site for high-speed railway between Suseo and Pyeongtaek, checked the condition of safety and health and had a meeting with managers of ten major construction sites in the capital area.


The ten major construction sites are construction sites of metropolitan high-speed railway between Suseo and Pyeongtaek, Pangyo complex shopping mall, new logistics center, Wirye apartment, road between Seongnam and Janghewon, double track railway from Seongnam to Yeosu, etc.

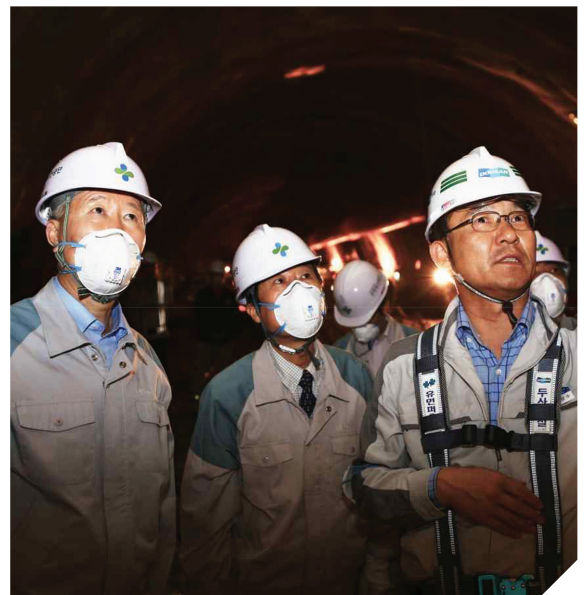
The purpose of the visit was to share the state of growing construction accidents with safety managers and gather opinions about major accident prevention measures from the construction sites.

According to statistics of occupational accidents, the total number of victims of occupational accidents on construction sites was 23,600, 251 more than last year. Among them, the number of fatalities increased by 71 to 567 year on year.

* The number of victims of construction occupational accidents was 23,349. Among them, the number of fatalities was 496 in 2012.

KOSHA visited the underground tunnel excavation site for metropolitan high-speed railway between Suseo and Pyeongtaek and checked its safety system. After the visit, a meeting was held to check the state of safety and health system, analyze the cause of accidents at construction sites and discuss countermeasures for them.

On the other hand, before the meeting, there were presentations of best practices and examples of failure for safety management activities in construction sites. The construction managers reaffirmed their determination to eradicate major accidents in construction sites by understanding and improving risk factors of workplaces, conducting thorough safety education, and reinforcing safety management in compliance with safety manuals and work procedures. 




Providing measures to prevent a recurrence of accidental chemical poisoning

Baek Hun-ki, President of KOSHA visited an accident site in SK Chemicals in Ulsan and asked strengthening of safety management

May 20, 2014

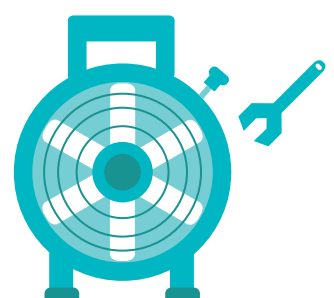
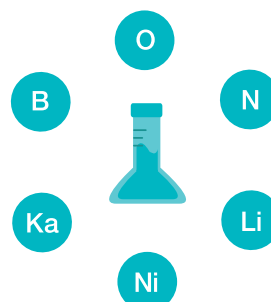
Baek Hun-ki, President of KOSHA and officers from KOSHA visited SK Chemicals, in which accidental chemical poisoning had occurred recently, to provide measures to prevent a recurrence of accidents with related officials on Tuesday, May 20.

The purpose of this visit was to discuss comprehensive safety measures about accidental chemical poisoning which had occurred during washing a tank on May 8 and prevent a recurrence of such an accident in workplaces of the same kind.

During the visit, KOSHA requested SK Chemicals to provide comprehensive safety measures including urging workers to wear protective equipment, strengthening education on chemicals, and improving ventilation equipment. On that day, President Baek said, "Recent successive accidents were man-made disasters which were preventable by in-depth safety management and safety rule compliance by workers." "In particular, companies should reinforce safety and health management for their subcontractors," he said to the related officials in the workplace. 



Baek Hun-ki, President of KOSHA (the person holding hands up), who visited SK Chemicals, is exchanging opinions about measures to prevent a recurrence of accidents with related officials in the workplace on Tuesday, May 20.



Cooperation for 'a Safe airport' and 'a Safe city'

KOSHA cooperates with local governments and public institutions to prevent occupational accidents
MOUs with Goyang-si and KAC

March 18, 2014

KOSHA signs MOUs with local governments and public corporations to jointly prevent occupational injuries.


The agency signed an MOU with the Mayor of Goyang-si at 10:00 on Friday April 18 in Goyang-si, Gyeonggi-do followed by another MOU signing with CEO & President Seok-Ki Kim of Korea Airports Corporation (KAC) at 16:00 on the same day.

The agreements aim at gathering capacities on national safety and health in collaboration with public institutions, local governments, labour and management, occupational associations, and businesses.

KOSHA has signed MOUs with about 330 institutions and organizations up to date. The MOU with Goyang-si was made to secure the safety of workers on workplaces ordered by local governments. In accordance with the MOU, KOSHA and Goyang-si will provide technical training and safety equipment to the construction workplaces ordered or permitted by Goyang-si as well as to confined spaces in wastewater processing/discharge facilities. In addition, the two will play a leading role to improve the working condition of cleaning and waste disposal companies.

The MOU between KOSHA and KAC will secure the safety and health of more than 5,000 workers including about 40 partner companies of KAC.

It is to that end that KOSHA and KAC will jointly endeavor to manage risk assessment technique to prevent accidental disasters; to establish a mutual cooperation program between KAC and its partner companies; and to manage the health of workers by utilizing the workers' health centers of KOSHA.

KOSHA will also take the lead in disseminating a safety culture by running campaigns to raise awareness of the safety in cooperation with organizations which the agency signed MOUs with. 



Expanding content sharing for virtual safety experience In workplaces

KOSHA signed an MOU with SK Hynix

April 25, 2014

To make efforts to activate the utilization of 3D and virtual reality videos and expand education for workers

Cooperation will be made to enhance effectiveness of safety and health education for workers.

KOSHA signed 'an MOU for sharing video contents for virtual safety experiences' with SK Hynix located in Icheon on Friday, April 25.

The MOU is aimed at enhancing the effect of occupational accident prevention education by sharing educational video contents owned by KOSHA.

Through the MOU, KOSHA will support 20 types of 3D video content and 36 types of virtual reality video content for SK Hynix. SK Hynix will utilize the video content to educate workers of its headquarters and subcontractors in its Education Pavilion which started its operation last year.

In addition, posters and hazard label stickers developed by KOSHA will be provided to SK Hynix.

SK Hynix will develop its own video content for safety and health education. Once the development is completed, the video content will be jointly utilized by SK Hynix and KOSHA.

For business owners of SK Hynix's subcontractors with less than 50 employees, which are vulnerable to safety and health, KOSHA plans to implement the safety and health education including introducing the discount system for occupational accident insurance premium on the basis of the improvement in workplace's risk factors.

Since 2003, KOSHA has signed MOUs for exchanging educational videos for virtual safety experiences with six companies including POSCO Pohang Steel Plant, expanding the availability of using content for safety and health education in workplaces. 