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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH CENTER, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT, PHILIPPINES • NO.1 SERIES OF 2005

EDITORIAL

By: DR. DULCE P. ESTRELLA-GUST



World Congresses on Occupational Safety and Health are held every three years and attract thousands of policy makers, researchers and practitioners from around the world. Last September, the XVIIth World Congress on OSH was held in Orlando (USA) with focus on four themes: Impact of Globalization; Leadership in Safety and Health; Challenges in a Changing World of Work; and Prevention is a Value in a Globalized World.

Far from being mere jamborees, these global events bring together the best and the brightest from the four corners of the world to take stock of the state of the art, to compare notes on different experiences and research and to design plans for international action and cooperation. For the Philippine delegation, the Congress offered an excellent opportunity to project our national experience and to contribute to the debate on OSH in the years to come.

In her keynote address, Mrs. Corazon de la Paz, President of the International Social Security Association (ISSA) and of the Philippine Social Security System (SSS), emphasized the need for global efforts in preventing occupational illnesses. This was in line with the ILO's global strategy to give OSH a prominent place it deserves in the international agenda and national plans on Decent Work. As members of the Philippine delegation, OSHC experts presented research and communication papers on OSH prevention for young workers, construction workers and seafarers.

What were the lessons learned from the Congress and what can be done to operationalize the key messages in the national setting in the Philippines? There was a clear consensus at the Congress that investment towards preventive OSH be undertaken in all types of workplaces, including the often neglected sector, the informal economy. Safer workplaces protect workers, their families and businesses and add up to higher productivity and profits and greater job satisfaction.

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XVIIth World Congress on Safety and Health at Work

Prevention in a Globalized World – Success through Partnerships

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TUBERCULOSIS

DOLE Issues Guidelines on TB Prevention at the Workplace

Dr. Teresita S. Cucueco and Ma. Luisa P. Sebastian

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas, represented by Undersecretary Benedicto Ernesto Bitonio, led the launching of Department Order 73-05 on the Guidelines for the Implementation of Policy and Program on TB Prevention and Control in the Workplace held last July 18, 2005 at the OSHC in Quezon City.

Under the new DO, all private companies must have a policy and program on tuberculosis prevention and control in the workplace. It was developed after a series of consultations with the tripartite sector.

Alarming

TB at the workplace has been an increasing concern following the 2003 data from the Philippine Tuberculosis Initiatives for the Private Sector (PhilTIPS) which revealed that 75 Filipinos die daily from the disease, translating to P7.9 million lost wages annually. In addition, foregone wages and benefits due to premature deaths of workers who had TB accounts for about P27 billion. On a micro level, an average worker spends anywhere from P216-P451 daily to treat TB.

"The DO requires all private companies to have a TB policy and program that has the following components: prevention, treatment, and restoration to work and as part of social policies. A Safety and Health Committee must be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the company's TB policy and program," explained Dr. Dulce Gust, Executive Director of OSHC.

Among the preventive strategies that companies must implement is an information dissemination program that will increase workers' knowledge on the nature; frequency; transmission; treatment with the Directly-Observed Short Course (DOTS); and control and management of TB at the workplace.

Stress on Prevention

DOTS is a strategy under the Comprehensive and Unified Policy for TB Control in the Philippines. It utilizes a very successful method where a treatment partner records the daily intake of the patient's TB drugs. This ensures that the 6 to 8 months TB treatment regimen is fully complied with.

DO 73-05 also stresses that workers must also be taught on how to strengthen their immune system against TB infection, examples of which are: information on good nutrition, adequate rest, avoidance of tobacco and alcohol, and good personal hygiene practices. Workplaces must also be improved through appropriate and adequate ventilation and sanitary facilities. Also, the number of workers per required work area must not exceed the required number of workers as per the standard space requirement provided under the Occupational Safety and Health Standards of DOLE.

Safety and Health committee members or the company health personnel must undergo training on TB awareness raising and TB case finding, case holding, reporting, and recording of cases as well as the implementation of the DOTS.

DO 73-05 requires private companies to report to DOLE diagnosed cases of TB using the Annual Medical Report Form. This will, in turn, be submitted to the TB Registry of DOH.

In terms of social policy, DO 73-05 states that workers who have or had TB should not be discriminated against. Through agreements made between managers and workers, flexible work arrangements; rescheduling of working times; and arrangements for return to work is also encouraged. The worker may be allowed to return to work as determined by the company Health Care Provider and/or the DOTS provider.

Workers also have roles and responsibilities under DO 73-05. If they have TB symptoms, they must seek immediate assistance from their health service provider. Similarly, those with family members with TB, must do the same. Once diagnosed, they must avail of the DOTS and adhere to the prescribed course of treatment.

Employers, on the other hand, must trace TB cases in the workplace and clinically assess the same. In the context of Corporate Social Responsibility and OSH related programs, they are also encouraged to extend the TB program to their workers' families and respective communities.

The Occupational Safety and Health Center will provide the preventive and technical assistance in the implementation of the Workplace TB program at the enterprise level.

The Bureau of Working Conditions and the DOLE Regional Offices through their labor inspectors shall enforce DO 73-05 following the labor standards enforcement framework. The Guidelines will take effect in August 2005.

Launching

Joining Undersecretary Ernesto Benedicto Bitonio in the launching of DO 73-05 was Dr. Ethelyn D. Nieto, Undersecretary for Health Operations of DOH; Atty. Rene Soriano, President of the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP); Atty. Zoilo V. Dela Cruz, Vice-President of the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP); and Dr. Aye Aye Thwin, Chief of the Population, Health and Nutrition of the US Agency for International Development.

Paper presentations on the various issues concerning TB at the workplace were also featured during the launching. Among the papers presented were: TB Issues at the Workplace: Equality and Non-Discrimination; TB and HIV/AIDS Co-Infection; TB Issues in the Workplace: Medical Fitness for Employment; TB and other Respiratory Diseases in the Workplace; and Capability Building Program on TB for Health Professionals.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque and Dr. Jean Marc Olive, World Health Organization Representative in the Philippines, were the guests of honor during the closing ceremonies.

The launching was spearheaded by OSHC-DOLE in partnership with the Philippine College of Occupational Medicine and with support from the Philippine Tuberculosis Initiatives for the Private Sector.

Workplace Assessment of Selected Local Government Offices in Metro Manila

Bufford Ang

Introduction and Methodology

In June to August 2003, OSHC conducted a study that focused on office workers' exposure to various indoor air contaminants. Dust particulates, formaldehyde, carbon monoxide and volatile organic compounds were among the indoor air pollutants evaluated. Illumination and existing ventilation systems in each office were also measured. Three (3) offices, namely: Engineering Office, Office of the Treasury and Office of the Local Civil Registry from seventeen (17) cities/municipalities of the Local Government Units (LGUs) in Metro Manila were covered in the study.

Work environment measurement through the use of sampling devices for indoor air contaminants was performed. Survey forms containing information on building structure, office facilities, furniture, equipment, and interior finishes were administered. Questionnaire on the employees' welfare on safety and health was also accomplished through interview to selected respondents from each office.

Results

The offices surveyed were found to be structurally modern, enclosed, air-conditioned and with installations of glass for countertops, walls and windows. Their fixtures are a combination of contemporary and old chairs, racks and cabinets either made of wood, plastic and metal.

Indoor-air pollutants like dust, carbon monoxide, volatile organic compounds and formaldehyde were present in these offices but only formaldehyde showed high concentration.

Thermal comfort was found to be acceptable. Unfortunately, the local government offices are not providing sufficient lighting to their employees because most areas measured fall below the minimum lighting requirement of 300 lux as prescribed by the OSHS.

Most employees of local government offices were not aware of the policy of the Civil Service Commission on working conditions at the workplace and the necessity for the establishment of a safety and health committee in their offices. Their health and safety concerns were responsibilities of the municipal or city health office. Despite the limited knowledge of employees, their local government units have met the other essential components of CSC Memo No. 33, Series of 1997 like provision of health programs, adequate number of comfort rooms, first aid kit facilities, hazard insurance and the implementation of "No Smoking Policy".

Recommendations

Formaldehyde Concentration in Air

Since high concentration of formaldehyde was proven to be directly associated with the building materials in the new office buildings and furnitures, the most effective strategy is to avoid using building materials, furnishings and or other products that emit formaldehyde, especially the pressed-wood products. Solid wood or pressed wood - products that are fully covered by a water-repellant finish is recommended such as polyurethane varnish or thick vinyl film be applied in multiple or thick layers that cover all surfaces and edges of the product.

Adequate supply of fresh air is important to reduce formaldehyde concentration in both new and old offices. Thus, increasing ventilation rates especially in air-conditioned offices

should be considered. To further improve general ventilation condition in these offices, it is recommended that supplemental fans such as wall and ceiling fans be provided to increase air movement. Size and capacity of the air-conditioning unit should be checked and regularly maintained for each office.

If feasible, supply of fresh air should be provided in the offices through installation of a mechanical system to dilute contaminated air and improve indoor air quality in the offices. Likewise, moderately cool temperatures inside offices should be maintained because emissions of formaldehyde increase as temperature increases. Exhaust fans should always be operating to reduce humidity and consequently reduce the emission of formaldehyde inside the work area. Supply and exhaust fans should be present in the work areas to ensure fresh supply of air and exhaust airborne contaminants.

Illumination

The average level of illumination should be equal to the level of illumination required for the task that will be carried out. The lighting system should be equipped with anti-glare devices (grills, diffusers, reflectors and so on). Light should be distributed toward the ceiling and the upper part of the wall. Light sources should be installed as high as possible, to minimize glare and achieve illumination that is homogenous as possible.

The observations and findings of this research study led to the following recommendations:

1. Organize a health and safety committee in each local government unit (LGU) to develop and implement health & safety programs like accident prevention, emergency preparedness, and industrial hygiene.
2. Local government units should establish health and safety programs and allocate appropriate resources as an integral part of health service to its employees.
3. This research study should be presented and circulated to appropriate agencies (Civil Service Commission, Department of Interior and Local Government, Department of Labor and Employment and other concerned offices), for information dissemination and for implementation.
4. The DOLE through the OSHC should conduct an intensive drive to educate, render technical services & research, and protect the welfare of employees in the public sector.
5. This research only represents the 17 LGUs in Metro Manila. A study should be conducted in other regions or in a national level to assess the OSH conditions in the public sector.

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An Evaluation of Analytical Methods, Air Sampling Techniques, and Airborne Occupational Exposure of Metalworking Fluids

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Abstract:

This article summarizes an assessment of air sampling and analytical methods for both oil and water-based metalworking fluids (MWFs). Three hundred and seventy-four long-term area and personal airborne samples were collected at four plants using total (closed-face) aerosol samplers and thoracic samplers. A direct-reading device (DustTrak) was also used. The processes sampled include steel tube making, automotive component manufacturing, and small part manufacturing in a machine shop. The American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) Method PS42-97 of analysis was evaluated in the laboratory. This evaluation included sample recovery, determination of detection limits, and stability of samples during storage. Results of the laboratory validation showed (a) the sample recovery to be about 87%, (b) the detection limit to be 35 μg , and (c) sample stability during storage at room temperature to decline rapidly within a few days. To minimize sample loss, the samples should be stored in a freezer and analyzed within a week. The ASTM method should be the preferred method for assessing metalworking fluids (MWFs). The ratio of thoracic aerosol to total aerosol ranged from 0.6 to 0.7. A similar relationship was found between the thoracic extractable aerosol and total extractable aerosol. The DustTrak, with 10- μm sampling head, was useful in pinpointing the areas of potential exposure. MWFs exposure at the four plants ranged from 0.04 to 3.84 mg/m^3 with the geometric mean ranging between 0.22 to 0.59 mg/m^3 . Based on this data and the assumption of log normality, MWFs exposures are expected to exceed the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health recommended exposure limit of 0.5 mg/m^3 as total mass and 0.4 mg/m^3 as thoracic mass about 38% of the time. In addition to controlling airborne MWF exposure, full protection of workers would require the institution of programs for fluid management and dermal exposure prevention.

Keywords:

airborne exposure, ASTM analytical method, metalworking fluids (MWFs), size selective sampling, thoracic aerosol, total aerosol

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Upper Limb Dynamic Responses to Impulsive Forces for Selected Assembly Workers

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Abstract:

This study evaluated the upper limb, dynamic, mechanical response parameters for 14 male assembly workers recruited from selected jobs based on power tool use. It was hypothesized that the type of power tool operation would affect stiffness, effective mass, and damping of the upper extremity; and workers with symptoms and positive physical examination findings would have different mechanical responses than asymptomatic workers without physical examination findings. Participants included operators who regularly used torque reaction power hand tools, such as nutrunners and screwdrivers, and nontorque reaction power hand tools, such as riveters. The mechanical parameters of the upper limb were characterized from the loading response of an apparatus having known dynamic properties while worker grasps an oscillating handle in free vibration. In addition, all workers underwent a physical examination, magnetic resonance imaging, and completed a symptom survey. Workers were categorized as controls or cases based on reported forearm symptoms and physical exam findings. A total of seven workers were categorized as cases and had less average mechanical stiffness (46%, $p > 0.01$), damping (74%, $p > 0.01$), and effective mass (59%, $p > 0.05$) than the seven workers categorized as controls. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) findings suggestive of muscle edema were observed for two workers classified as cases and who regularly used torque reaction power tools. No MRI enhancement was observed in the seven subjects who did not regularly use torque reaction power tools. The ergonomic consequences of less stiffness, effective mass, and damping in symptomatic workers may include reduced capacity to react against rapidly building torque reaction forces encountered when operating power hand tools.

Keywords:

forearm, magnetic resonance imaging, mechanical model, power tool use, stiffness, work-related musculoskeletal disorders

EDITORIAL... (from page 1)

This clear message from the international community has provided that basis for the extensive discussions and consultations, among all stakeholders concerned with OSH, of the National Occupational Safety and Health Plan. Adopted in November 2005, the National OSH enlists all stakeholders in the private and public sectors to join concerted efforts in making OSH a greater reality for Filipino workers whatever they do and wherever they work.

Co-sponsors of the Congresses apart from ISSA were ILO and the US National Safety Council (NSC). We take this opportunity to extend our gratitude to our sponsors the National Security Council. We hope to reciprocate your generosity in one way or another here in the Philippines.

We look forward to participating in the 2008 World Congress to be held in Korea together with key leaders and program implementors of workplace safety and health.

Local reports

OSHC Focuses on Work-Relatedness of Injuries and Illnesses

Dr. Beatriz Villanueva

Exposure to work hazards is an essential factor to ascertain when determining the cause of injury or illness in a worker. Specialized training for physicians is needed to adequately recognize, diagnose, and treat diseases with an occupational cause.

But there are other activities needed to build evidence to support or oppose the work-relatedness of an injury or illness. Nurses, industrial hygienists, human resource personnel, supervisors and other health and safety practitioners contribute to these exercises.

In the Philippines, occupational and work-related diseases continue to be under-recognized and underreported. Ensuring the awareness and skills of all occupational health and safety practitioners is vital in improving the recognition of occupational diseases that will eventually lead to the protection of other workers with similar exposures.

Pilot

The Seminar-Workshop on Work Relatedness of Injuries and Illnesses is the first training program in the country that aims to update knowledge and skills to understand concepts and issues on occupational and work-related illness. In addition, the workshop discusses case studies and issues on sickness claims filed in the SSS and GSIS to determine whether the illness is work-related or not. Initially designed for medical evaluators from SSS, GSIS and ECC, the training module has undergone revisions to make it more responsive to the needs of OSH practitioners in enterprises who are not physicians.

For the first semester of 2005, the OSHC embarked on a regional information and education campaign to allow more OSH practitioners to have access to this training program. The following regions were visited: Region VII- Cebu; Region X-Cagayan de Oro; Region VI-Iloilo; Region XI-Davao; and CAR-Baguió City. A total of 102 participants from 86 companies attended the training program. The participants were physicians, nurses, supervisors and other safety and health practitioners coming from various sectors such as hospitals, schools, hotels, manufacturing and service delivery establishments.

Within the year, the OSHC will continue with its training activities to cover regions apart from those already visited. In line with this strategy of building regional capabilities in OSH, the OSHC will also continue to monitor the participants to determine the value of the training to their respective enterprises in achieving better disease and injury surveillance as well as preventive efforts.



INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND HEALTH TRAINING FOR OFWS TO SOUTH KOREA UNDERWAY

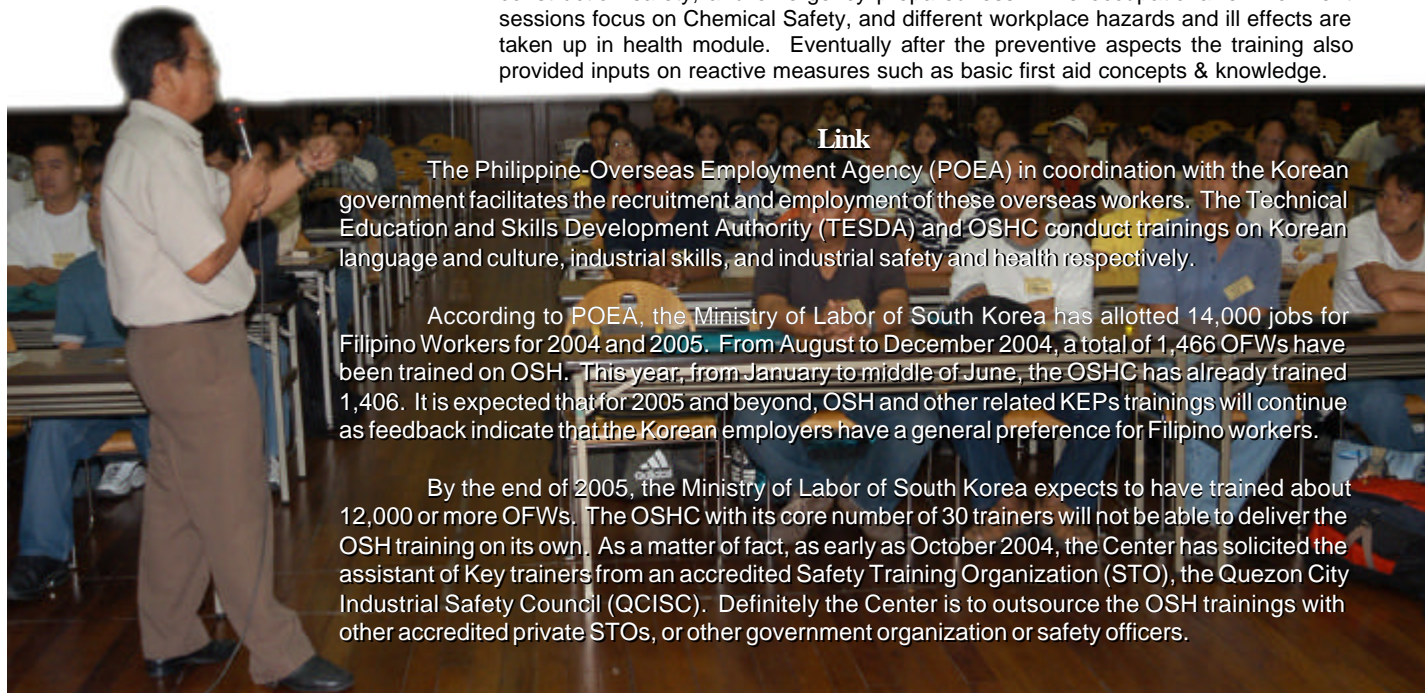
Angelito Bonifacio

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he Occupational Safety & Health Center (OSHC) since August 2004, has been conducting a series of two-day course on Occupational Safety for Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) bound to South Korea.

This is actually a pre-employment training under the Korean Employment Systems (KEPs) for foreigners. The system allows the employment of foreigners in small and medium enterprises (SMEs) classified as dirty, dangerous, and difficult while protecting the rights of such workers.

Primarily, the training modules deal with relevant issues and concerns on occupational safety, health & environment. Particularly the safety module covers machine and electrical safety, safety in transporting and handling materials, tools & equipment, construction safety, and emergency preparedness. The occupational environment sessions focus on Chemical Safety, and different workplace hazards and ill effects are taken up in health module. Eventually after the preventive aspects the training also provided inputs on reactive measures such as basic first aid concepts & knowledge.



Link

The Philippine-Overseas Employment Agency (POEA) in coordination with the Korean government facilitates the recruitment and employment of these overseas workers. The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and OSHC conduct trainings on Korean language and culture, industrial skills, and industrial safety and health respectively.

According to POEA, the Ministry of Labor of South Korea has allotted 14,000 jobs for Filipino Workers for 2004 and 2005. From August to December 2004, a total of 1,466 OFWs have been trained on OSH. This year, from January to middle of June, the OSHC has already trained 1,406. It is expected that for 2005 and beyond, OSH and other related KEPs trainings will continue as feedback indicate that the Korean employers have a general preference for Filipino workers.

By the end of 2005, the Ministry of Labor of South Korea expects to have trained about 12,000 or more OFWs. The OSHC with its core number of 30 trainers will not be able to deliver the OSH training on its own. As a matter of fact, as early as October 2004, the Center has solicited the assistant of Key trainers from an accredited Safety Training Organization (STO), the Quezon City Industrial Safety Council (QCISC). Definitely the Center is to outsource the OSH trainings with other accredited private STOs, or other government organization or safety officers.

Need Trainings on Work Safety and Health?

Ma. Luisa P. Sebastian

Training workers on technical and non-technical subjects on occupational safety and health is a main strategy of OSHC to strengthen the commitment of organizations and companies to work safety and health.

OSHC now has 26 training programs of various topics that respond to current and emerging issues on occupational safety and health. Following is a list of these training programs:

- I. Mandatory Training Programs
 1. Basic OSH
 2. Construction Safety
 3. HIV/AIDS and the Workplace
 4. Drug-Free Workplace
 5. Tuberculosis in the Workplace
- II. Special Topics
 1. Appreciation Course on OSH
 2. Zero Accident Program-Management System
 3. Industrial Fire Safety
 4. Crane Safety

5. Forklift Safety
6. Fundamentals of Industrial Hygiene
7. Safe Use of Chemicals at Work
8. Industrial Ventilation
9. Work Environment Measurement
10. Work-Relatedness of Diseases
11. Prevention and Control of Lifestyle-Related Diseases in the Workplace
12. Blood Lead Analysis
13. Stress, Alcohol and Drugs, Violence, HIV/AIDS, and Tobacco (SOLVE): Policy Level
14. Work Improvement in Small Enterprises and the Informal Sector
15. Implications of Hazardous Work on Children's Health and Safety

III. TCTP
Third Country Training Programme on OSH for Small and Medium Enterprises

IV. Training of Trainers
-On the 5 mandatory training programs-

As a pioneering effort on training, OSHC is set to offer the Distance Learning on Basic OSH by December 2005. Visit our website at www.oshc.dole.gov.ph for the course outline and schedule of our training programs.



2005 Chemical Safety Training Updates

Bufford Ang

The OSHC recently conducted the "Seminar on the Safe Use of Chemicals at Work" at Mango Park Hotel, Cebu City last May 3 – 5, 2005 and at Hotel Tepeyac, Baguio City last July 19 – 21, 2005. The seminars conducted in Region 7 and Cordillera Administrative Region were attended by 45 and 38 participants, respectively. Participants of both seminars came from diverse backgrounds, some of which are safety, health & environment officers, pollution control officers, chemical handlers and the academe.

The "Seminar on the Safe Use of Chemicals at Work" consisted of a wide array of topics dealing on various aspects on the practice of chemical safety in the workplace, which include "Chemicals in the Workplace," "GHS Labeling," "Chemical Handling & Storage," "Toxic Effects of Chemical Exposure," "Fire & Explosion," "Chemical Emergency Procedures," "Principles of Operational Control," "Chemical Waste Management," "Management of Chemical Control Program," and "OSH & Environmental Laws including the Elimination of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)."

The three-day seminar culminates with a plant visit which is intended to apply the basic principles of chemical safety gained by the participants from the lectures, and a workshop led by the participants to discuss plant visit findings and recommend measures aimed in improving the practice of chemical safety in the plant visited.

Welcoming Students

Ma. Luisa P. Sebastian

A career as safety officers awaits engineering or medical-related students as reports on the increasing demand for safety officers reach OSHC. For instance, Department Order 13 or the Guidelines Governing Occupational Safety and Health in the Construction Industry which was passed in 1998 requires that before any construction project starts, a safety officer must be designated.

To encourage more students to pursue a career on safety and health, OSHC regularly conducts a tour of its facilities for college students. In the first half of 2005 alone, more than 300 students from various engineering schools in Metro Manila visited the OSHC facilities and were briefed on the basic concepts of preventing work-related accidents and illnesses.

These schools included: University of the Philippines, Ateneo de Manila University, Technological University of the Philippines, Polytechnic University of the Philippines, College of Perpetual Help in Laguna, MAPUA Institute of Technology, among others.

The students were encouraged to pursue a career on safety and health. Majority of engineering students were impressed with the OSHC laboratories and these visits enhanced their knowledge on safety which is a subject taught in school.



Another Chance.. Another Challenge on OSH to Asia-Pacific Region

On its 10th year, OSHC and the Japan International Cooperation Agency will be holding again the Third Country Training Program on Occupational Safety and Health for Small and Medium Enterprises on November 21 – December 9, 2005.

Cieliza C. Roque

The Course provides the participants a chance to enhance their knowledge and techniques on safety and health in the workplace. It also challenge them to formulate re-entry plans with which they can contribute to the improvement of national occupational safety and health conditions in their respective countries.

workplaces, most of their plans were to develop and conduct training programs among their co-employers and workers. Participants from the government sector also recommended to improve their manual and checklist on safety inspection at the enterprises.

Nineteen representatives of the government, employer and worker sector from Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam and Philippines joined the 9th TCTP held at the Occupational Safety and Health Center in November 22 – December 10, 2004.

Philippine Labor Assistant Secretary Jeffrey Cortazar delivered a closing message where he offered his congratulations not only to the participants but also to the organizers, the OSHC and JICA. He noted their active participation and willingness to share observations, experiences, and even practical recommendations with fellow participants. He hoped that they were able to gain not only knowledge and information but also fostered solidarity among countries as well. He also asked them to replicate their learnings in their respective organizations and countries to encourage more OSH advocates. And finally, he bid them a safe and healthful journey back home.

In his keynote message, Philippine Labor Assistant Secretary Benedicto Ernesto Bitonio, Jr., congratulated both the OSHC and JICA for their joint efforts in the conduct of TCTP for the past eight years with a total of 145 graduates. He advised the participants to take full advantage of the course and build appropriate linkages with each other for future cooperative endeavours as well as strengthen the solidarity in the Asian region.

Following is the list of participants of the 9th TCTP.
Mabuhay kayong lahat!

Topics

GOVERNMENT SECTOR

The 3-week course discussed topics like Globalization and OSHC Concerns; Workplace Cooperation for Health and Safety; Overview of Hazards in the Workplace; Materials Handling and Storage; Housekeeping; Electrical Safety; Fire Protection and Control; Machine Safety; Personal Protective Equipment; Safety Inspection; Accident Investigation/Recording; and Recognition, Evaluation and Control of Chemical and Physical Hazards.

1) Cambodia

Mr. Neang Sivatha

Safety Labor Inspector, Ministry of Social Affairs, Labour, Vocational, Training and Youth Rehabilitation

2) China

Mr. Zhang Wei

Division Director, Small & Medium Enterprises Department, National Commission of Development and Reforms

3) Indonesia

Ms. Agustin Wahyu Ernawati

Staff of Workers Health, Ministry of Manpower and Transmigration

4) Indonesia

Ms. Lena Kurniawati

Occupational Safety Inspector, Ministry of Manpower and Transmigration

5) Myanmar

Mr. Soe Thein

Staff Officer (Factory Inspector), Factories and General Labour Laws Inspection Department, Ministry of Labour

6) Myanmar

Mr. Nay Soe Hlaing

Staff Officer (Factory Inspector), Factories and General Labour Laws Inspection Department, Ministry of Labour

Special topics on OSH such as Issues in Women OSHE; OSHE and Lifestyle; OSHE and Child Labor; Zero Accident Program; Approaches to Training, Research and Information on OSH; Behavioral Management Systems; and Philippine OSH Standards were also discussed. Each participant presented a country paper, thus, giving a perspective on how OSHE is implemented in their countries. Three days were devoted to a mini-training of trainers where the participants were taught on how to manage a training process.

The training program used various methodologies like workshops, audio-visual presentations, plant visits, role playing, simulation exercises, among others.

Re- Entry Plans

Since majority of the participants have raised the issue on lack of knowledge/awareness on OSH in their respective

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7) **Philippines**

Ms. Rowena H. Recio

Labor & Employment Officer III, Department of Labor and Employment - Regional Office No. IV-A

8) **Sri Lanka**

Mr. Matota Ralalage Wijetunga

Factory Inspecting Engineer, Ministry of Labour Relations and Foreign Employment

9) **Thailand**

Ms. Jiraporn Boontam

Government Officer, Regional Center for the Improvement of Working Conditions and Environment Area 3

10) **Thailand**

Mr. Sakdisilpa Tuladhorn

Technical Labour Officer (L7), National Institute for the Improvement of Working Conditions and Environment

11) **Vietnam**

Mr. Nguyen Manh Khang

Senior Expert, Department of Occupational Safety, Ministry of Labor - Invalids and Social Affairs

EMPLOYER SECTOR

12) **Bangladesh**

Mr. Md. Shah Alam

Chief Trainer and Incharge, Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee

13) **Indonesia**

Ms. Herliana Dewi

OSH Auditor and Trainer, PT Sucofindo

14) **Malaysia**

Mr. Anis Fahmy Bin Pauzi

Associate Consultant on OSH, Malaysian Employers Federation

15) **Sri Lanka**

Mr. Neraj Sanjay Ihalagama

Industrial Relations Advisor, The Employers' Federation of Ceylon

16) **Vietnam**

Ms. Nguyen Hong Ha

Deputy Director of Bureau for Employers' Activities, Vietnam Chamber of Commerce & Industry

WORKER SECTOR

17) **Pakistan**

Ms. Rashida Nusrat

Coordinator, All Pakistan Trade Union Congress

18) **Philippines**

Mr. Bernard D. Bairoy

Project Coordinator, National Union of Building and Construction Workers

19) **Vietnam**

Mr. Vo Van Chinh

Vice-Chairman, The Labour Union of Thua Thien Hue Province



OSHC Strengthens ZAP in the Regions

Rosanna M. Tubelonia



"Occupational safety and health (OSH) is a concern which is a responsibility shared by all sectors,"

This is just one of the comments made by a group from one region regarding work safety and health and was incorporated in one of the many resolutions passed during the regional activities done by the OSHC in the first semester of this year.

It is an observation that was welcomed by the DOLE constituents as the department further strengthens its efforts to prevent work-related accidents and illnesses in the workplace through the Zero Accident Program (ZAP) - an intention enshrined in a Memorandum signed by Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas in November 16, 2004.

Training

Going through a total of seven regions, the OSHC embarked on a series of training, information, and networking activities to enhance awareness of and increase the number as well as capability of OSH personnel in the regions. Among the provinces visited were: 1) Region VII- Cebu and Bohol; 2) Region X-Cagayan de Oro; 3) Region VIII- Tacloban; 4) Region VI-Iloilo and Bacolod ; 5) Region IX-Zamboanga; 6) Region XI-Davao; and 7) CAR-Baguio City.

Training activities included the conduct of the following courses, either alone or in combination with others: 1) Basic Occupational Safety and Health for Supervisors (BOSH); 2) Construction Safety Training (CST); 3) Work-relatedness of Diseases (WRD); and 4) Safe Use of Chemicals at Work (Chemical Safety). An exception is the training in Marinduque where OSH concerns were integrated in a livelihood demonstration for some 40 LGU representatives and potential entrepreneurs in Sta. Cruz, Marinduque. The trainings drew an aggregated 457 of participants broken down as follows: 1) 241 for BOSH; 2) 68 for CST; 3) 103 for WRD; and 4) 45 for Chemical Safety.

New Partners

On the other hand, information activities included radio/TV guestings, meetings with key organizations in the area and an uZAPang OSH with the theme: "Sharing of Best OSH Practices". The latter, multiplied the advocates of OSH as each participant signed in a resolution to advance the cause of work safety and health in their areas.

The meetings of OSHC with key stakeholders in the regions like employers and workers' group; and safety and health training organizations; expanded the network of OSHC in the provinces. Consequently, discussions on the nature of OSH situation in the region visited and the services that OSHC and the concerned DOLE-Regional office could provide given their specific OSH needs, served as a plan for future activities of both parties.

In several regions, OSHC was able to forge a Memorandum of Agreement with key organizations. As per provision of the MOA, follow-up trainings, information and other projects on OSH would be implemented with the Associated Labor Unions-Trade Union Congress of the Philippines; Bohol Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Bohol Association of Hotels, Resorts, and Restaurants; and Mindanao Safety Association. A landmark commitment-setting was done in Cebu, under the leadership of Director Rodolfo Sabulao of DOLE-Regional 7, when local government units, professional organizations, and other government agencies signed a MOA with DOLE-7 and OSHC to sustain work safety and health activities in the region.

Working Closely

According to Dr. Dulce Estrella-Gust, OSHC Executive Director, plans on ZAP regionalization include designating regional ZAP focal points; institutionalizing April 28 as World Day for Safety and Health at Work so that OSH- and OSH-related activities are conducted on or before said day; conducting region-specific training, information, and research activities; and profiling of each region with respect to their specific OSH needs.

The ZAP regional focal points, Dr. Gust further added, are critical to the success of the program. The OSHC intends to provide them with a series of trainings to improve their present capabilities. It is envisioned that the ZAP focal persons, together with the key persons and organizations, can catalyze OSH activities in the regions.



Get our Latest Publications for FREE!



Ma. Luisa P. Sebastian

Visit OSHC anytime to get copies of these information materials we produced in 2005 or early this year. Among the most recent were brochures on the Department Orders on OSH issued by the Labor Secretary in the past recent months. Others were reproduced due to high demand.

Brochures

- **Department Order 73-05:** Guidelines for the Implementation of Policy and Program on TB Prevention and Control in the Workplace
- **Department Order 53-03:** Guidelines for the Implementation of Drug Free-Workplace Policies and Programs for the Private Sector.
- **Department Order 13:** Guidelines Governing OSH in the Construction Industry
- **A Primer on HIV/AIDS and the Workplace:** Based on RA 8504 or the Philippine AIDS Prevention and Control Act of 1998
- **5th Gawad Kaligtasan at Kalusugan** brochure

Booklets

- **Safety in Confined Space**
- **Let's Talk About Safety and Health!**
(A compilation of information corner advertisements on various topics on work safety and health)

Flyers

- Health and Safety in the Use of Computers
- Hearing Conservation Programs

Comics

- **Ligtas at Malusog ka ba sa iyong Hanapbuhay?** (Construction Safety)

Poster

- **Ano ang Panlaban mo sa HIV/AIDS?**

However, due to austerity measures in government today, OSHC is looking for partnership with organizations that could assist in reproducing these information materials. We will gladly welcome your inclusion of OSH in your Corporate Social Responsibility Programs!

LISTEN LISTEN LISTEN

Tune in to these radio stations to learn more about safety and health by listening to the 28 episodes of radio dramas on OSH focusing on various topics on safety and health like drug abuse prevention in the workplace, HIV/AIDS and the workplace, chemical safety, construction safety, among others.

We wish to thank the station managers of these radio stations for the free airing of our radio dramas.

Radio Station and Location	Day and Time of Airing	Period of Airing
Radyo Veritas, 846 Khz Manila	Saturdays, 4:30-5:00 pm	Dec. 6, 2003-July 31, 2005
DZMM, 1278 Khz Manila	Sundays, 12:00-12:30 pm	March-December 2005
DYLA, 909 Khz, Cebu City	Saturdays, 3:00-3:00 pm	January-December 2005
DWRM, 648 Khz Palawan	Saturdays, 12 nn-1:00 pm	July-December 2005
DWEE, 101.7 FM Community Radio of Pampanga	Wednesday, 1:00-1:30 pm	January-December 2005

Companies can dub the radio dramas for free, but they will have to provide the CD. OSHC is currently looking for private companies and other organizations that are willing to support the airing of the episodes in the provinces to sustain the information activities there. For those who are willing to help, you may contact Ms. Louie Sebastian of the Training and Public Information Division at 924-2414, 927-0926.

DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE PROGRAMS

Safety and Health Risks in Clandestine Laboratories

Dr. Ronaldo M. Fajardo

Clandestine laboratories, by their nature, are hazardous places because safety and health precautions are, admittedly, the least of the priorities of the drug-law enforcement officers. In their efforts to enforce the law, they oftentimes disregard safety and health regulations that would prevent their exposure to risks and hazards.

Toxic chemicals and accidents such as explosions are some of the hazards that law enforcement officers face inside clandestine laboratories. Thus, the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB) and the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) deemed it wise to include the safety and health components in the guidelines on clandestine laboratory investigation for law enforcement officers.

The OSHC was instrumental in the formulation of the Guidelines for the investigation and dismantling of seized drugs. There have been concerns about the possible health and safety implications of law enforcement officers and other persons involved in the handling of dangerous drugs and chemicals – from seizure to disposal. The guidelines would also ensure that observers during the destruction and disposal of seized drugs and chemicals are adequately informed and protected during the process of destruction.

OSHC will also be involved in the future training programs on safety and health for PDEA officers.



Workers in a clandestine laboratory in a clean-up operation

Advanced Clandestine Drug Laboratory Training:

My Personal Experiences

Bufford A. Ang

Last April 11-15, 2005, I had the honor of representing OSHC to the Advanced Clandestine Laboratory Training held at PDEA. The training was organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs & Crime, and was led by three (3) national clandestine drug laboratory experts from Sweden, Greece and the Netherlands.

Intensive

The first day of training kicked off with a lecture on **"Amphetamine Type Stimulants (ATS) production: a Global Survey."** The lecture traced the origin, current situation and future of ATS production in various regions of the world. As new ATS substances are developed and clandestine ATS laboratories are established in subregions, legislations in different countries regarding ATS production are left behind. Main areas for illicit production of synthetic drugs worldwide were shown. Various ways were suggested for countries aiming to prohibit the negative trend on ATS production, such as appropriate national legislation, increasing awareness on the negative effects of ATS, and working jointly with other countries through international organizations that targets ATS-related criminality, among others.

The second lecture focused on **"How to Recognize an Illicit Laboratory."** An illicit laboratory can be found in various areas, such as in a truck, a container, a garage, a garage-box, an industrial district, a residential quarter, a holiday resort, and a rural area.

TO NEXT PAGE ➔

Drug Prevention in Schools

Dr. Ronaldo M. Fajardo



Schools, like workplaces, are critical areas for instituting and implementing drug-free programs given its organized set-up and large population. Against this background, OSHC assisted the Department of Education (DepEd) in the curriculum development and implementation of a training programs for its national Drug Education Program (NDEP) Coordinators.

The NDEP Coordinators serve as the focal persons in the drug prevention, education, and referral activities of the school.

Aside from the OSHC technical staff, the training for NDEP Coordinators also involved experts from organizations such as the National Center for Mental Health, Family Wellness Center, and the Dangerous Drugs Board.

The three-day training was conducted in three batches – one each for Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. More than 500 participants from different public and private high schools nationwide completed the course. The DepEd is eyeing to train at least one NDEP Coordinator for each school.

The participants were trained on detection and early intervention of possible drug-related problems among students, interviewing techniques, and the use of screening tools.

Advanced Clandestine ...*(from page 13)*

The third lecture dealt with “**Properties and Chemical Hazards of the Precursor Chemicals found in Tables 1 and 2 of the UN 1988 Convention.**” The physical appearance, legitimate & illicit uses, and dangerous properties of the precursor chemicals were discussed. Chemicals frequently used in the manufacture of methamphetamine and MDMA (ecstasy) were also shown. Precursor chemicals are smuggled by tampering their labels or containers, repacking, and hiding them among other goods. Hazards in chemical laboratories can be criminal, physical or chemical in form. Hazardous properties exhibited by the precursor chemicals can be any of the following: flammable/ignitable, explosive, air or water-reactive, oxidizer, poisonous/toxic/harmful, and caustic/corrosive. Safety warnings in handling precursor chemicals were also discussed.

The fourth lecture concentrated on “**Diversion of Chemicals: Risk Assessment.**” The lecture focused on how criminals divert from the officially legal trade of ATS precursor chemicals. Other methods criminals use include: falsification of documents, smuggling by hiding illegal chemicals in legal cargo, and direct smuggling outside the legal trade. Criminals may cover shipments of precursor chemicals by changing or hiding containers and labels. Main routes of ATS precursors worldwide were shown. Suggestions were given on how to prohibit the diversion of chemicals in a national level. Ways on how to prohibit the diversion from the legal trade were mentioned.

The fifth lecture dealt with “**Illicit Manufacture of ATS**” The lecture was divided into two parts: synthesis of MDMA and Methamphetamine. Stages of manufacture were discussed in a chronological manner, namely: 1) Synthesis of precursors, 2) Synthesis of substance, 3) Separation, 4) Salting, 5) Drying & Mixing, and 6) Tableting & Packaging. Main MDMA precursors include: PMK (3,4-MDP-2-P), Safrole, Isosafrole and Piperonal. Common routes in the synthesis of MDMA include: from PMK, safrole, and Piperonal (nitrostyrene route). Chemicals used and hazards related in each route were mentioned. The equipments used, the characteristics of each route, and the products formed were shown.

The second part of the lecture dealt with the Synthesis of Methamphetamine. Various modes in the synthesis of Methamphetamine were mentioned, such as: from BMK, Ephedrine, Benzyl Chloride, Vicks inhaler, and (R)-(D)-Phenylalanine. Chemicals used and hazards related in each route were discussed. Kitchen reagents and equipment needed in Methamphetamine manufacture were shown.

The sixth lecture dealt with “**Crime Scene Management by an Illicit Laboratory**” The presentation included the Preliminary Investigation and Planning of Raid. Planning of Raid includes the Structure of the investigation team, Risk assessment, and Crime Scene control procedures. Risk Assessment emphasized the use of the REC Method: Recognizing, Evaluating and Controlling the potential dangers. Chemical hazards common to all laboratories include flammable atmospheres, oxygen deficiency and acid gases. Crime Scene procedures include having a Start Logbook, planning Work Zones, ensuring Crime scene security and safety during the investigation, having the necessary Monitoring and Protecting equipment, Exposure minimization, Pre-exploration, having a Crime scene or site map, Communication, Decontamination, and emergency situations.

Hands-On

The second day of training was highlighted by a workshop for the participants. The participants were divided into three (3) groups. They were given a situation wherein a certain clandestine drug laboratory is about to undergo investigation and raided by law enforcers. The participants were asked to outline their own procedures on how to conduct their Preliminary Investigation and plan their raid. The third and fourth day of training were dominated with practical exercises. The participants were divided into three groups and were asked to join the three clandestine drug laboratory experts. One group was tasked to join the Clandestine Laboratory surveying, another one joined the Decontamination procedures, and the remaining group was assigned with the sampling of evidence gathered from the clandestine laboratory. Each group had the chance to get involved in each practical exercise. The fourth day ended with presentations from the Philippine experts regarding the situation of the clandestine laboratories in our country. Practical examples and forensic investigations performed in clandestine laboratories were also presented.

The fifth day was highlighted by an evaluation of the practical exercises by the participants and experts, assessment of the seminar as a whole, and the graduation ceremony.

OSHC Involvement

The Advanced Clandestine Laboratory training has been very useful to me as a health and safety trainer. In the future, OSHC will be able to assist in any multidisciplinary national trainings, as OSHC is part of the inter-agency committee working on the technical guidelines for clandestine laboratories. It is also envisioned that health and safety officers contribute to the improvement of the cooperation between law enforcement and forensic experts in the investigation of clandestine drug laboratories.

All about Persistent Organic Pollutantsⁱ

Bufford A. Ang

How do we deal with POPs?

•By getting rid of existing POPs

- Disposing of obsolete and unwanted POPs
- Identifying equipment containing PCBs and managing it properly

What are Persistent Organic Pollutants?

• Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) are chemical substances belonging to the organochlorines and aromatic hydrocarbon groups that persist in the environment, bioaccumulate through the food web, and pose a risk of causing adverse effects to human health and the environment. They are also termed as the "Dirty Dozen."

What composes the "Dirty Dozen"?

- **Aldrin, Chlordane and Dieldrin** are pesticides, used for termite control.
- **DDT** is mainly used to control malaria-carrying mosquitoes and tsetse flies.
- **Endrin** is used to control mice and pests in corn, rice, cotton and sugarcane crops.
- **Heptachlor** is used to control termites, ants and cutworms.
- **Hexachlorobenzene** is a fungicide.
- **Mirex** is used to control ants and termites in crops, grassland, forests and buildings.
- **Toxaphene** is used in mosquito control and as agricultural pesticide.
- **PCBs** are used in various industrial applications, such as dielectric fluid for electrical equipment. These can also be formed as by-products of various processes involving organic chemicals and chlorine.
- **Dioxins and furans** are by-products of combustion and other processes involving organic carbons and chlorine.

Why are POPs a problem?

• Scientists have observed a range of health injuries in wildlife exposed to POPs:

- Reproductive failure and production declines
- Abnormally functioning thyroids and other hormone system malfunctions
- Feminization of males and masculinization of females
- Compromised immune systems
- Behavioral abnormalities
- Tumors and cancers; and
- Gross birth defects

Good evidence associates human exposure to specific POPs with health effects like:

- Cancers and tumors
- Neurobehavioral impairment including learning disorders and changes in temperament
- Immune system changes
- Reproductive defects and sex-linked disorders



- Disposing of PCB stocks in an environmentally sound manner
- Identifying alternatives to POPs

•By avoiding further production and use of POPs

- Finding and using alternatives
- Stopping and restricting further production and use
- Identifying chemicals with POPs characteristics and avoiding new POPs
- Limiting DDT use for malaria eradication

•By minimizing emissions of POPs that cannot be eliminated

- Identifying sources and reducing releases of unintentionally produced POPs (e.g., dioxins and furans)
- Promoting measures, including Best Available Techniques (BAT) and Best Environmental Practices (BEP)
- Continuing minimization and where feasible, ultimate elimination of the total releases to dioxins, furans and PCBs

How do we implement the abovementioned solutions?

- Identify the National Situation
 - Make inventories of sources and estimate releases
 - Assess needs and develop plans
 - Assess regulatory and other mechanisms
 - Assess capability to manage or dispose of stockpiles or wastes
- Determine solutions
 - Set national priorities
 - Identify needs for enhancing regulatory and other mechanisms
 - Develop strategies to dealing with POPs
 - Promote information, awareness and education measures
 - Encourage research and development
 - Prepare the National Implementation Plans

What are the current actions taken by our government to minimize and reduce POPs releases to the environment?

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All about Persistent.....(from page 15)

•Various government and non-government organizations have worked together to come up with a global action against POPs. A series of international meetings and conferences resulted to the ratification of the **Stockholm Convention on POPs**, a global treaty which aims to protect human health and the environment from the hazards that are brought about by POPs. The Stockholm Convention on POPs was adopted by 151 countries on May 22, 2001 in Stockholm, Sweden.

In 2004, the Department of Environment & Natural Resources (DENR) issued a **Chemical Control Order (CCO) for Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)**. This CCO aims to reduce and eliminate the importation, manufacture, sale, transfer, distribution and use of PCBs. It also aims to reduce the hazards and unreasonable risks posed to human health and the environment from improper use and management of PCBs.

How can we help to protect ourselves and the environment from POPs?

•Below are just a few ways of how we can help to reduce and eliminate the use of POPs:

- Avoid practices that may produce POPs, such as open burning and the like.
- Promote clean technology
- Patronize alternatives to POPs chemicals

•The development of a SAICM would be important in facilitating interaction among all stakeholders (governments, industry, academia, public, etc.) to identify appropriate priorities in chemicals management.

•A SAICM could produce guidelines and information on the sound management of chemicals for both international organizations and national authorities.

•A SAICM would lead to increased transparency and public participation in chemicals management.

•A SAICM could address the needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition for capacity building and technical & financial assistance to meet health and environmental protection requirements in the field of chemical safety.

•A SAICM would help address the issue of illegal traffic and generally facilitate compliance with multilateral environmental agreements.

•A SAICM would improve global chemical safety while preserving the economic interests of States and the private sector.

•A SAICM could address monitoring issues.

What is SAICM?ⁱⁱ

Bufford A. Ang

What is SAICM?

•At its seventh special session held in February 2002, the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) adopted decision SS.VII/3, in which it decided that there was a need to further develop a **Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)**. A key feature of the SAICM process will be its engagement of all sectors of society with an interest in chemical safety, including environment, health, agriculture, labor, industry and development.

Why is there a need for a SAICM?

•Chemicals play a variety of roles in modern society that contribute towards raising the overall standard of living. On the other hand, sound policies are needed to protect public health and the environment from potential risks often associated with the production, use and/or disposal of chemicals.

•There is a need for a **global approach to address the global nature of chemicals issues and to reduce health and environmental risks**. The local, regional and global impacts of chemicals production, use and disposal require a SAICM.

With these in mind, the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Summit on Sustainable Development have initiated a multi-stakeholder process to develop a SAICM. As a foundation for this approach, the UNEP Governing Council endorsed the Bahia Declaration and the Priorities for Action Beyond 2000 adopted by the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS). The initiative was subsequently endorsed in Johannesburg which called for the completion of SAICM by 2005 and aimed to achieve, by 2020, that "chemicals are produced and used in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment."

What are the benefits of having a SAICM?

•A SAICM may contribute to national capacity building and regulatory performance. It may also provide a basis for a sound and enforceable chemicals management decisions at all levels.

•A SAICM could assist countries in making the best use of available resources to protect the environment and human health within the context of sustainable development.

What organizations are involved in overseeing the SAICM?

International organizations have formed a steering committee to oversee planning for the SAICM process. They comprise the Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC), the IFCS, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank. IOMC members include the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Labor Organization (ILO), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), UNEP, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), and the World Health Organization (WHO).

What is the Philippines' involvement in the SAICM?

•The Philippines has been actively involved in providing inputs aimed for the improvement of the SAICM. Our country's inputs can be divided into the following SAICM sections:

A. Policy Aspects

Goals and Objectives

•A need to outline the roles and responsibilities of international organizations, existing legal instruments, conventions and conference of parties to evaluate existing provisions, identify gaps, ensure consistency and focus efforts of priority areas.

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Scope

- Should include the following:
 - Health threats of chemical exposure during development, particularly during early gestation, but also throughout pregnancy, infancy, childhood and adolescence.
 - Health effects from the interaction of mixed chemicals
 - Strategies applicable for small-scale industries to implement agreed procedures and regulations
 - Include consumer products with potential to contribute as waste materials (mercury-containing fluorescent lamps, batteries, computers, etc.)
 - Clean alternative options
 - Chemicals used in health care facilities/management (thiomersal in vaccines, etc.)

Principles

•SAICM should take into consideration application of risk-based assessment and management methodologies in developing countries and countries in transition which may be inapplicable due to limitations in technical capability and availability of resources. Furthermore, considerable uncertainties are associated in terms of effects on human health.

•Globally harmonized acceptable technical guidance on risk assessment should be provided to member states especially in developing countries and countries in transition.

- Access to proprietary information

•Liability and compensation in terms of damage to the environment and human health for host countries to foreign military bases and international companies abandoning their operations and responsibilities in developing countries.

Proposals on Specific Topics

- Children's environmental health
- Cleaner technology options for disposal of obsolete drugs, chemicals including hazardous wastes to be made available to developing countries and countries in transition
- Endocrine-disrupting chemicals
- Environmental toxicants such as lead, mercury and arsenic
- Natural sources of chemicals including potential health effects to low dose chronic exposures
- Mixtures of chemicals
- Consumer products (i.e. mercury-containing fluorescent lamps)
 - Agricultural pesticides
- Proprietary information
- Chemicals used in health care facilities/management (e.g., thiomersal, phthalates in plastic materials, etc.)

B. Coordination

- Strengthen information exchange among countries (regional/global)
- Globally harmonized formats for databases with timely, readily available information

•Restrictions available in the transit of chemicals in countries who are not signatories to existing conventions

•Harmonize conflicting provisions of existing legally binding instruments to ensure consistency and improved coordinated mechanisms between and among international organizations

C. Capacity Building

•Technical and financial mechanisms to support developing countries and countries in transition in the following:

- Evaluation of technologies
- Information for chemicals management decision-making processes of government
- Health and safety considerations in handling, reuse, recycling and disposal of unwanted stocks, obsolete, expired and outdated chemicals
- Cleaner technology options in manufacturing processes, recycling and disposal of chemicals
- Building legislative capacities of governments
- Researches (Development of data to reduce uncertainties in risk assessment, Development of risk assessment methods and models especially for children, Risk management and risk communication, Health effects of mixed chemicals, Definition of health end-points, Health effects of low-dose chronic exposures, Health effects of chemicals at background levels)
- Foster cooperation and sharing of expertise
- Industry contribution to efforts of SAICM

D. Development and Implementation Aspects

•Ensure participation of developing countries in the conference of parties and governing bodies

•Ensure multi-stakeholder participation (i.e., environment, health, agriculture, industry, people's organization, etc.)

•Utilize existing coordinative set-up within the international organizations for follow-up and monitoring of implementation

Overall Priorities

•Capacity building remains as a top priority since implementation of these legally binding instruments would be at the country level and this would encompass cross-cutting issues on chemicals and its impact on health and the environment.

i On Persistent Organic Pollutants

•A Primer on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). Environmental Management Bureau, Department of Environment & Natural Resources.

•Chemical Control Order for Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs). Department of Environment & Natural Resources, 2004.

•What are POPs? Environmental Management Bureau, Department of Environment & Natural Resources.

ii On SAICM

•Buccini, John. *The Global Pursuit of the Sound Management of Chemicals*. The World Bank: February 2004.

•Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety. *Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management*.

•Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM): Further Input on Health Aspects of Chemical Safety.

•Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) Information Note.



Tripartism in Construction

Engr. Onna O. Cruz

W

hen government, employers, and workers join hands for a purpose – nothing will go wrong.

A fine example of such success is the Construction Industry Tripartite Council (CITC). Its creation led to the surfacing of industry-related issues and concerns and coming up with solutions where both the interests of business and the welfare and protection of the workers are carefully considered and balanced.

Landmark

Spearheaded by the CITC was the First Construction Safety and Health Congress in November 2004 in Metro Manila. The Congress reviewed and assessed the implementation of DO 13 or the Guidelines Governing Safety and Health in the Construction Industry. It brought out the issues and concerns on DO 13 implementation or non-implementation. A group of safety practitioners (now known as Philippine Construction Industry Safety Council or PHILCONSAFE) was also created during this Congress.



OSHC and the Construction Industry

Engr. Onna O. Cruz

Seven years in its implementation, DOLE's DO 13 or the Guidelines for Occupational Safety and Health in the Construction Industry continues to guide organizations and companies in instituting various programs to prevent work accidents and illnesses in construction sites.

Since the signing of the DO in 1998, the OSHC, for its part has undertaken and continues to implement several programs in the field of research, training, information dissemination and technical services.

For its second year, CITC plans to:

1. Study a ladderized system of accreditation for safety practitioners in the construction industry.
2. Participate in creating a scheme for the professionalization of the construction safety and health officers through continuing learning education and regular attendance in trainings and seminars.
3. Implement the Zero Accident Program (ZAP) in the Construction Industry.
4. Support the enforcement and implementation of DPWH's Department Order No. 56 "Guidelines for the Implementation of DOLE D.O. No. 13, Series of 1998, on Occupational Safety and Health in the Construction Industry".
5. Create a Task Force for the review of Department Order No. 19 or Guidelines Governing the Employment of Workers in the Construction Industry.

We congratulate the CITC for the success of the First Construction Safety and Health Congress and we wish you all the best in your future endeavors!

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Information

The OSHC, for its information dissemination campaign, has published various materials in the form of posters (Housekeeping, Safety and Health Committee, Personal Protective Equipment, Machine Safety) and brochures (Code of Practice on Tower Crane Safety, Confined Space Safety, Factors that Contribute to the Occurrence of Accidents in the Construction Industry, Department Order no. 13). To further our information dissemination capability, we also maintain a continuous working relationship with our past training participants including the monitoring of their re-entry plans.

Training

In the field of training, the OSHC conducts orientations on various construction-related topics such as crane safety, elevator safety and general construction safety. Half-day orientations on the Department Order No.13 are also conducted for the different Local Government Units in Metro Manila. The OSHC also regularly holds a 40-hour Construction Safety Training (CST) for safety officers and even general managers/owners of different companies from different regions.

The same training has also been undertaken for the city/municipal engineers of the entire Quezon province and building inspectors and engineers of the local government units in Metro Manila. The OSHC also signed Memoranda of Agreement (MOA) with various groups such as the National Union of Building and Construction Workers, Construction Workers Solidarity and Philippine Constructors Association and D.M. Consunji, Inc. regarding the conduct of the 40-hour CST for their respective members. Presently, labor inspectors from the different regions are also provided with two (2) free slots per training.

To date, the OSHC has already conducted forty-three (43) batches of Construction Safety Trainings for private companies, labor groups and government offices as well. Of these, ten (10) batches were conducted in different regions namely Cordillera Autonomous Region (CAR), Regions IV-A, VI, VII, X and XI, and CARAGA and four (4) batches were conducted solely for members of different labor organizations and private construction firm. The total number of participants is 1,212 representing about 814 companies. Also included in this figure are 40 city/municipal engineers from the province of Quezon, 26 building inspectors and engineers from the Local Government Units in Metro Manila and 32 DOLE inspectors from different regions.

Technical Assistance

- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Testing.** By virtue of Executive Order 307 which recognizes it as the agency for such, the OSHC undertakes performance testing of both imported and locally-made personal protective equipment (PPE) such as safety shoes, hard hats, spectacles and harnesses that are available for workers' use.

To date, the OSHC has conducted performance testing of both imported and locally-made PPEs: Safety Shoes (468), Hardhats (69), Safety Spectacles/Goggles (54), Electrical Gloves (81) and Full Body Harness, Body Belt and Lanyard (56).

The data generally cover products from large, reputable manufacturers and distributors which are either not available retail or simply not so affordable to ordinary consumers. On the other hand, not all PPE that can be bought at an affordable rate and can be easily accessed (found in malls, marketplaces, commercial centers) by the ordinary workers have undergone testing. Subsequently, the OSHC is presently undertaking a research aimed at determining the integrity of this group of products as to its capability to provide ample protection to the users.

- **Safety Inspections.** Crane and elevator inspections are also performed by the OSHC personnel as part of the technical assistance/service it provides for its clients.

Issues, Gaps, and Concerns

The First Construction Safety and Health Congress conducted by the Construction Industry Tripartite Council (CITC) in cooperation with the Philippine Constructors Association on November 19, 2004 identified several issues on OSH in the construction industry. The OSHC as member of the CITC was involved in the following activities such as:

- Development of a ladderized system of accreditation for safety practitioners in the construction industry. It hopes to reduce the stringent requirements in the accreditation of safety practitioners in the construction industry.
- Development of scheme in professionalization of the construction safety and health officers through continuing learning education and regularly attending trainings and seminars.
- Support activities for the enforcement and implementation of Department of Public Works and Highways Department Order No. 56 "Guidelines for the Implementation of DOLE D.O. No. 13, Series of 1998, on Occupational Safety and Health in the Construction Industry" for government owned construction projects.
- Review of Department Order No. 19 "Guidelines Governing the Employment of Workers in the Construction Industry".

Another issue that definitely needs to get addressed is the breakdown and quantification of the Cost of Construction Safety and Health Program or its corresponding Pay Item in the Tender Documents and the Contract Documents.

The Department of Public Works and Highways recently issued a Department Order, DO 56 series of 2005, to address the issues on work safety and health in government-funded infrastructure projects. However, the said DPWH DO has to undergo continuous review for further improvements. Actual compliance to DO 56 also remains to be seen as evidenced by many government construction projects we see along the roads everyday.

One Great Learning Episode

Alex Marlo V. Sacabon

My first opportunity to travel beyond the boundaries of our native land was indeed a wonderful learning experience...for me and I must say, for our Asian brothers as well. This was in December 2004 when I, together with a *kababayan*, represented the Philippines to the Sub-Regional Workshop on Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) in Small Construction Sites in Lao PDR, formerly Laos.

There was actually no difficulty in adjusting to the new environment (not that there was much time anyway since it was only a 2-day activity) because everything, well, *almost* everything is the same. The climate, the surroundings, and the people...yes, you could even mingle with them, pose like a local and leave unnoticed! Fact is I was even mistaken for a Lao. But that was before I started to speak.

Similar Issue

The extent of the similarity it turned out extends to the present conditions of our small construction sites. Listening to the testimonies of our Asian brothers, one thing became clear: *at this point in time, we still deal with the same problem of lack of awareness and non-practice of OSH in the construction industry which have led to the loss of so many lives and limbs of our workers.*

Some nations, notably the Philippines, have already made great strides toward the management of OSH in construction sites by coming up with definite policies/guidelines and programs unique to the industry. Other neighboring countries such as Thailand have also

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One Great Learning...*(from page 19)*

already taken significant steps by conducting trainings, particularly Work Improvement in Small Construction Sites (WISCON) and OSH information campaigns. Yet others have just started to take the bull by its horn. Nevertheless, the great news is: *we are all going in the right direction with some of us just ahead of the others.*

Sharing Notes

Herein lies the biggest contribution of the undertaking, the sharing of past and present experiences by the member nations from which everyone certainly learned a lesson or two. A learning that should help improve the safety and health of our construction workers and ensure a bright future for them, their children, and their children's children.



Participants of the Sub-Regional Workshop on OSH in Small Construction Sites in LAO, PDR after the graduation ceremonies.

So, while I have indeed gained knowledge from their experiences on one hand and have shared with them ideas from our country on the other, I also took the most out of this opportunity to learn of our hosts' culture, food, and yes, just enough words of their language that the next time I try to pretend as a native, I will enjoy much better success!

Young Workers

School Health and Safety a Priority



These are only some of the incidents that school officials and staff continuously and consciously aim to prevent everyday of the school year.

Have you ever come across news items involving hazing in schools; students hurt because a school's walls have collapsed; school staff electrocuted because of exposed wirings, and the like? Or have you comforted your child because he or she was bullied in school or hurt (though slightly) in the school grounds or in the laboratories?



Against this backdrop, the OSHC, in cooperation with the Private Schools Health Officers Association (PSHOA) conducted a one-day course on "Implementing a Comprehensive Safety and Health Program in Schools" last August 12, 2005. A total of 40 faculty members, school administrators, safety officers of different private schools here in Metro Manila completed the course.

The training, according to Dr. Dulce P. Estrella-Gust, intends to assist key school officials come up with, or further strengthen, a safety and health program for the schools' workers, students, faculty and other clients.

The training intends to provide knowledge on the identification of current and potential hazards in schools, as well as present the ranges of controls and responses a school can take to combat such hazards. They include discussions on housekeeping and materials storage and handling; fire and electrical safety; environmental hazards in schools; and occupational health concerns such as psycho-social issues. At the end of the course, the participants developed an action plan to either develop or strengthen their respective school's safety and health programs.

Dr. Gust said that with such committed social partners, schools would be a much better area for shaping an individual's learning experiences on safety and health.

Work Safety and Health Trainings for Hotel Workers

Dr. Maria Pureza A. Fontelera



Hotels, being one of the top revenue earners in the country is also considered as one of the most hazardous industry today. Based on the 2000 Occupational Injuries Survey, the hotel industry ranked 2nd among industries with the highest number of injuries and illnesses.

In response, OSHC conducted occupational safety and health trainings for several hotels in Region 1 and the National Capital Region last year. Training personnel, human resource personnel, OSH officers, nurses, maintenance personnel, security staff and safety engineers/ personnel attended the trainings.

Objectives

The training course aims to enhance the knowledge of participants on the basic concepts and principles of OSH; increase their awareness on the different organizations and agencies that promote and enforce OSH; and for them to contribute to the development of their company's safety and health policy and enhance their capability in the implementation of preventive approaches on OSH problems.

The orientation course include general safety topics such as fire and electrical safety, emergency preparedness and the importance of good housekeeping, this is to address the common causes of injuries and accidents in the industry.

To deal with workplace hazards and their adverse health outcome, the course also includes recognition, identification and control of workplace hazards. Health effects of workplace hazards, emphasizing on working in poor work environment conditions and dealing with ergonomic risk factors, e.g. noisy environment, working in extremes of temperature, are also some of the highlights of the orientation course.

Commitment

The course encourages the active participation of all participants in the formulation of an action plan that will tackle problems they might have identified in their respective workplaces to eventually improve working conditions and promote workers' welfare.

†† a Crossroad...(from page 22)

Future

At this point in my life, I am preparing myself for a career move. I am hoping that I could go back to school for a formal education either in the field of commerce to continue my undergraduate degree, or in the field of public communication as my present job requires.

I'm also looking forward to attending trainings and seminars in the field of OSH, both technical and non-technical. I know that these trainings would fully enhance my abilities and talents in the field of training and public information. In the future, I see myself in a higher position, confident in performing larger responsibilities, and hopefully I am still at OSHC. If not, then I will try to explore work in other government or private offices, but advocating safety and health will be a lifelong commitment for me.

Truly nothing in this world is permanent but everything changes. I have so many dreams for myself... for my career. At a time, I only focused on things of my interest. But now, I am open to doing things that I think I can do, not only on the things that I used to like.

P E R S O N A L E S S A Y S

Life at OSHC *At a Crossroad*

Maritess D. Sison

They say, it takes two to tango. If taken literally, this is about dancing. But figuratively, for me, this is my part in any responsibility given to me.

First Timer

It was in 2001 when I joined OSHC for a special project on with the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Child Labour Programme in the Footwear Industry. The employment contract lasted for almost a year. Since it was my first job, there was a feeling of fear and at the same time, excitement. A little lady from the province of Bulacan is now in the real world of work.

Two years after, with so much blessings from our Creator, I was able to land a permanent position at OSHC as Clerk III under the Environment Control Division (ECD). My duty was to assist the industrial hygienists in preparing their reports for the conduct of Work Environment Measurement (WEM).

I enjoyed my work at ECD because I learned so much about many companies, may they be large, medium or small through the reports of the industrial hygienists that I helped finalize. Although I have not visited any of the factory where a WEM was conducted, I was able to visualize not only the physical set-up but as well as the real working condition inside their work area as I was able to read through the reports. I considered every WEM report an accomplishment because I felt I was a part of the team that contributes in assuring the safety and health of the workers in their workplaces.



Move

As part of career development, the management needed to re-assign several personnel to different divisions and I was one of them. I was transferred to the Training and Public Information Division in September, 2003. I felt I was starting all over again given the new workmates, different duties which spell new challenges.

Being part of the training and information team is a big challenge. Training is like teaching. Well, when I was a kid, I never dreamed of becoming a teacher. For me, teaching is very boring since you tackle the same subject again and again.

But TPID proved me wrong. I have learned that training on OSH is a vocation. It is a mission that emanates from the heart making every training an exciting one to look forward to.

In the field of training and public information, one has to be very careful on communicating anything. With this in mind, I admit that I speak less because I am afraid to commit mistakes in delivering wrong information. For me, it would be hard to bring back the trust of a person once broken. So when I got involved in training, I really prepared myself in everything - mentally, socially, emotionally and physically. Hmmm! I even discovered my talent in public relations.

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Did You Know that?

even a diabetic mother can breastfeed?

The Food and Nutrition Research Institute of the Department of Science and Technology said that the milk of patients with tightly controlled insulin dependent diabetes or Type 1 diabetes had no difference in milk triglycerides, lactose, protein, cholesterol, glucose, and no abnormalities in total fatty acids composition. But The Philippine Diabetes Association still cautioned that lactating women who are on insulin may breastfeed provided they are carefully monitored by endocrinologist.

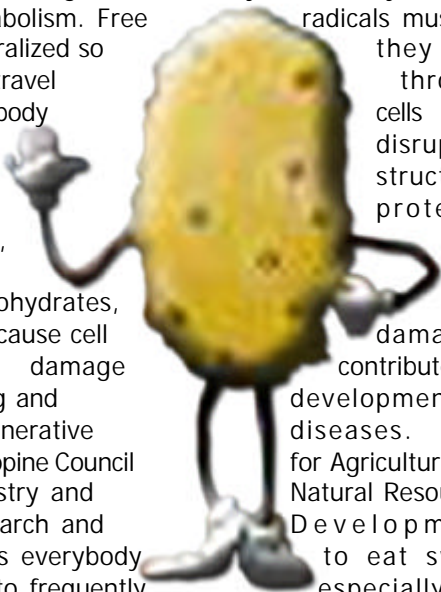


sweet potato contains anti-aging nutrients?

A new study done by South Korea's Rural Development Administration shows that sweet potato has antioxidants that neutralize the free radicals generated by the body during metabolism. Free radicals must be neutralized so they will not travel through the body

the of lipids,

carbohydrates, and cause cell damage. Such damage contributes to aging and degenerative diseases. The Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development urges everybody to eat sweet potato frequently especially the leaves to maintain good health.



disrupting structures proteins,

damages. contributes to development of diseases. The

GAME KANA BA? From page 24

ANSWER KEY:

P	A	S	O	S	H	C	J	E	A
O	T	J	P	B	O	S	H	L	B
L	A	L	A	R	M	U	A	T	C
I	D	I	S	I	E	P	I	F	N
C	M	V	S	A	F	E	T	Y	U
L	B	E	N	C	F	R	V	E	R
I	P	D	A	T	A	V	M	X	S
V	O	E	G	N	A	I	I	E	V
N	L	R	N	O	I	S	E	L	O
R	I	F	U	V	B	O	S	T	K
A	C	S	R	T	E	R	T	V	Y
L	Y	O	S	A	C	C	B	E	G
A	E	L	E	G	S	A	M	A	N

GAME KANA BAO?

By: ALLAN B. CUYA

P	A	S	O	S	H	C	J	E	A
O	T	J	P	B	O	S	H	L	B
L	A	L	A	R	M	U	A	T	C
I	D	I	S	I	E	P	I	F	N
C	M	V	S	A	F	E	T	Y	U
L	B	E	N	C	F	R	V	E	R
I	P	D	A	T	A	V	M	X	S
V	O	E	G	N	A	I	I	E	V
N	L	R	N	O	I	S	E	L	O
R	I	F	U	V	B	O	S	T	K
A	C	S	R	T	E	R	T	V	Y
L	Y	O	S	A	C	C	B	E	G
A	E	L	E	G	S	A	M	A	N

ZAP GAME QUESTIONNAIRE/ANSWERS

1. Required training course before attending a ZAP-MS course ----- BOSH
2. In operating a Fire extinguisher, observe ____ -----PASS
3. Key person in the prevention of accident. ----- SUPERVISOR
4. A systematic approach in identifying work steps, hazards and recommendation before an accident happen ----- JHA
5. It is for the protection of people, property, process, products and profits -----SAFETY
6. Most accidents are the result of unsafe _____ ----- ACT
7. Any unwanted sound is _____ ----- NOISE
8. The head of the First Aid Group is the _____ -----NURSE
9. The organization that deals with any emergency in the workplace (acronym) ----- ERT
10. In manual handling, use your ____ not your back -----LEGS
11. A 10-15 minute meeting held to keep workers alert for safety before the start of any work ----- TBM
12. An OSH____is needed to guide everybody to what the Company goals in attaining a safe and healthy workplace -----POLICY
13. A system that aims to prevent recurrence of an accident (acronym) ---- A I
14. Material Safety _____ Sheet ----- DATA
15. In case of fire, first sound the _____ ----- ALARM
16. Kind of radiation found on welding and sun light -----U V
17. Class C fire refers to _____ electrical equipment ----- LIVE
18. A Company outreach program for the community (acronym) ----- CSR
19. When working ____ ft. or more above ground, it is advisable to wear body harness for fall protection ----- SIX
20. A new classification of fire involving fires in combustible cooking fuel ---- K

ANSWER KEY ON PAGE 23

World Congress on Safety and Health at Work:

A Rare Chance of Meeting the Best on Safety and Health

Ma. Luisa P. Sebastian

The air was filled with excitement when the World Congress on Safety and Health at Work opened last September 18, 2005. About 4,000 participants from 65 countries gathered for the 5-day Congress held in Orlando, Florida, USA.

The World Congress is a much-awaited event since it is only held every three years and jointly organized by International Social Security Association and the National Safety Council (NSC). Also, it was the first that time the World Congress was held in the US and was done simultaneously with the National Safety Council's 93rd Annual Congress and Expo.

Technical discussions including paper and poster presentations; Ways on Partnering on OSH; Benchmarking on the best in-class solutions; and a first-class exhibition of over 750 companies worldwide highlighted this year's World Congress. Four themes covered the sessions, including: impact of globalization; leadership in safety and health; challenges in a changing world of work; and prevention is a value in a globalized world.

Rich Source

More than 200 technical papers and 250 posters were presented during the 5-day World Congress. While about 750 manufacturers or suppliers of industrial and safety and health products and services were showcased during the NSC Expo.

Two papers and two posters from the OSHC presented in the World Congress. Following were the papers presented:

Paper Presentations

- a. Filipino young workers' health and safety by Dr. Dulce P. Estrella-Gust, Executive Director
September 19, 2005; 2:00 to 3:30 pm

- b. A Knock on the Hard Hat: A Case Study on Communicating and Implementing OSH Practices in Filipino Construction by Ma. Luisa P. Sebastian, Information Officer III
September 19, 2005;
11:00 am-12:30 pm

Poster Presentations

- a. Work Environment Conditions in Local Government Units in Metro Manila
- b. Fun and Hazards in Bars and Discos: A Case Study by Engr. Nelia G. Granadillos, Chief of the Environment Control Division

A Film and Multimedia Festival was held all throughout the World Congress. A wide range of films, spots, and presentations on safety and health issues were shown in this festival. A total of 82 films were shown and vied for the Best Entry of the Congress. The OSHC submitted the film "Seaworthy" which is a 15-minute documentary about the hazards of seafaring. Entries from Germany and Canada won the Film Festival.

Technical tours were also held during the Congress. Among the technical tours were at Walt Disney World; Kennedy Space Center; ER Jahna Industries' Green Bay Sand Mine; Rinker Materials' FCS Brooksville Quarry and Plant; Orlando's Regional Transportation Center; and several others. Each technical tour provided insights on how these places deal with safety and health issues.

A National Night Out was held at Disney MGM Studios where the participants were able to take part in the American culture and lifestyle. It also gave an opportunity to meet new colleagues in the field of health and safety.

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The SEARCH for the
BEST Practitioners of Work Safety and
Health is on...

JOIN the **5th** Gawad
*Kaligtasan at
Kalusugan*

GOAL: TO ACHIEVE ZERO ACCIDENT IN THE WORKPLACE



THE GKK
FRAMEWORK

workers' protection and welfare
reduction in accidents/injuries & illnesses
increase in machine uptime, in resource savings and in output

Deadline for Submission of Application/Nomination Forms is
on **April 20, 2006**

Celebrate Work Safety and Health All Year Round!

(based on Proclamation No. 115-A and other new Memoranda)

Month	Activity
<i>January</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *General Orientation on Safety and Health *(16-22) National Cancer Consciousness Week
<i>February</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Air Safety Month *Heart Month *National Health Insurance Program Month
<i>March</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Fire Safety Month *Women's Month *(8) Women's Health Day *Burn Injury Prevention Month *(24) World Tuberculosis Day
<i>April</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *(28) World Day for Safety & Health at Work *(7) World Health Day *Vacation Hazards Month
<i>May</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *(1) Labor Day *(2) World Asthma Day *(9-15) Safe Motherhood Week *(23-29) Healthy Workplace Week *(31) World No Tobacco Day
<i>June</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Sea Safety Month *No Smoking Month *National Kidney Month *(5) World Environment Day *(14) World Blood Donor Day
<i>July</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *School Safety Month *National Disaster Consciousness Month *(11-17) National Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation Week *(18-24) National Diabetes Awareness Week
<i>August</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Farm Safety Month *Mines Safety Month *National Lung Month *National Tuberculosis Awareness Month *Sight Saving Month *Family Planning Month *(12) International Youth Day
<i>September</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Liver Cancer Awareness Month *(2-9) Obesity Prevention and Awareness Week *(26) World Heart Day
<i>October</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Industrial Safety Month *National Children's Month *National Statistics Month *(1-7) Elderly Filipino Week *(9-15) National Mental Health Week *(17-23) Food Safety Awareness Week *(26-27) 10th National Occupational Safety and Health Congress and the 5th Gawad Kaligtasan at Kalusugan
<i>November</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Campaign on Violence against Women and Children *National Skin Disease Detection and Prevention Week *(10-16) Deaf Awareness Week *(7-13) Substance Abuse Prevention Week *(14) World Diabetes Week *(17) Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) Awareness Week
<i>December</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Firecracker Injury Prevention Campaign Month *Holiday Hazards and Homes Month *(1) World AIDS Day *(5-11) Health Emergency Week *(10) National Youth Health Day



Changing World

The NSC's Annual Congress and Expo formally opened last September 21. About 10,000 NSC members from all parts of the USA attended the event.

US Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao delivered the keynote speech for the NSC Congress. She cited the need to address the challenges in a changing world of work such as the concerns on safety of health of migrant workers in the US.

The last Congress was held in Vienna, Austria and previous to that was in Brazil. It gathered about 3,000 occupational safety and health practitioners, representatives from governments, employers and labor groups, and experts in various fields such as on communication.



Recipients of scholarships from the National Safety Council, USA last September. In photo is the OSHC contingent led by Dr. Dulce P. Estrella-Gust (3rd from left), Engr. Nelia G. Granadillos, and Ms. Ma. Luisa P. Sebastian. Also in photo are grantees from other Asian countries.

JOIN!

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