

Newsletter

Protecting Worker's Life and Health

No. **67**
Feb. 2014



COVER STORY



Front view of
KOSHA
Headquarters

- 01 KOSHA, Take-off as A Workplace
-focused Agency for Industrial
Accident Prevention
- 02 Korean occupational safety and
health going global

NEWS

- 01 New Construction of Chronic
Inhalation Toxicity Test Facility
- 02 KOSHA, "one of the best" in anti-
corruption competitiveness
assessment
- 03 ICOH 2015 Seoul Congress is going
smoothly
- 04 KOSHA and Defense Installation
Agency concluded MOU for
construction disasters prevention
- 05 Chemical Accident Prevention
Center to be established
at Yeosu Industrial Complex

KOSHA HELPS

- 01 KOSHA awarded Hyundai Amco
Co. Ltd. the safety and health
management system certificate
- 02 "Cooperation with Civil Accident
Prevention Agency for Industrial
Accident Prevention"



KOSHA awarded
Hyundai Amco
Co. Ltd

KOSHA, Take-off as A Workplace-focused Agency for Industrial Accident Prevention

Opening Ceremony In The Innovative City Of Ulsan,
On March 7, Promoting Innovative Measures
For Accident Prevention.

Minister Of Employment And Labor Visited
Workplaces And Emphasized The Safety And Health
Management For Partners.

March 7, 2014



Front view of KOSHA new headquarters


KOSHA(headed by President Baek Hun-ki), an affiliated organization of the Ministry of Employment and Labor (headed by Minister Phang Ha-nam), held an opening ceremony on March 7 to celebrate the successful relocation of its headquarters into the innovative city of Ulsan. KOSHA is poised to take off as a center of industrial accident prevention through the reorganization plan of industrial accident prevention project.

The reorganization plan of industrial accident prevention project provides innovative measures to realize problems and limitations of projects so far and to secure the fundamental safety in workplaces.

In the plan, KOSHA proposed three major factors to promote the innovative prevention of industrial accidents: "Systematization of Workplace-focused", "Improvement of Timeliness", and "Maximization of Effectiveness"

The reorganization plan was promoted as fatal accidents had occurred in succession last year despite the decrease of accident rate and many thought safety management did not efficiently take root in industrial sites.

The Minister of Employment and Labor attended the opening ceremony and urged KOSHA to become a specialized organization which is workplace-focused as well as pursues industrial accident prevention.

More than 500 persons attended the opening ceremony including Minister of Employment and Labor Phang Ha-nam, Mayor of Ulsan Bak Maeng-woo, members of local assembly, representatives of the automobile and chemical plants in Ulsan area, representatives of labor bodies and communities, local residents, etc. 

Overview of the opening ceremony

11:00 AM~, Friday, March 7, 2014,
Grand Hall at KOSHA headquarters (400, Jongga-ro, Ulsan)

After the opening ceremony, the Minister visited SK energy, a large chemical company in Ulsan, checked the safety and health management system for partner companies and observed the joint fire drills dealing with emergency situations in chemical plants. President Baek Hun-ki of KOSHA said, "Taking this as a momentum, KOSHA will mark a turning point in the development of safety and health in Korea." He added "I will do my utmost to reach the acme of safety culture in Ulsan, the most industrialized city in Korea." in his speech at the opening ceremony. 



1



2

1 Night view of KOSHA headquarters

2 Tree-planting ceremony for relocating

3 Ribbon cutting ceremony for relocating



3

Korean occupational safety and health going global

KOSHA signed agreements with Myanmar and Indonesia and held discussions in Finland to prepare for an international congress.

Feb. 8, 2014



KOSHA President Baek Hun-ki (left) signed the technical cooperation agreement with Deputy Minister U Htin Aung of the Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security of Myanmar on Friday, Feb. 7.

KOSHA (headed by President Baek Hun-ki) has just started to strengthen global networks for occupational safety and health once again. President Baek Hun-ki and other members of KOSHA visited Myanmar on Friday (Feb. 7) to strengthen OSH cooperation within the Asian region. President Baek signed the Memorandum of Understanding for Technical Cooperation with Deputy Minister U Htin Aung on Feb. 7 at 13:00 (Korea time) in Yangon, Myanmar.

The purpose of the MOU is to continuously develop KOSHA's ongoing projects that support Myanmar.

KOSHA has carried out projects to support the occupational safety and health of Myanmar. Such projects include consulting services to provide the framework for the Occupational Safety and Health Act of Myanmar, and technical consultations for work environment monitoring at industrial sites.

With the newly signed MOU with KOSHA, the enactment of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of Myanmar will gain further momentum and Myanmar will continuously receive support regarding education and training, technical information, and exchanges among experts. President Baek Hun-ki and other members of KOSHA also visited Indonesia on Wednesday (Feb. 5) to extend the

Agreement for Technical Cooperation with Director General Muchtar Luthfie of the Ministry of Manpower and Transmigration and to continue its OSH support for Myanmar for the next three years until 2017.

After signing the agreements, President Baek and other members of KOSHA will hold the 2nd Preparation Meeting for the International Congress on Occupational Health (ICOH) on Sunday (Feb. 9) in Helsinki, Finland. The meeting will be held to review the preparation process for the ICOH Seoul 2015 with experts from various countries such as the US and Italy.

ICOH is the biggest international congress in the occupational safety field that brings together global scholars and experts in various fields such as occupational medicine, hygiene, nursing, and ergonomics every three years to share information through various programs including presentations. The 31st ICOH will be held in May, 2015 at COEX, Seoul.

As the chair of the upcoming ICOH, KOSHA held the 1st Preparation Meeting with representatives from the International Commission on Occupational Health in last March in Seoul and established the basic framework for operating the ICOH 2015.

During the scheduled visit to Helsinki this time, KOSHA will hold a meeting with about 200 participants including the ICOH board members and other members to review the preparation process and to discuss details such as keynote speakers and the structure of the programs.

President Baek said, "KOSHA will draw on its experience and technology in the occupational health field to strengthen cooperation with developing countries in Asia and to raise the status of Korea and contribute to the development of Korea's occupational safety and health by sharing academic and technical information with advanced countries at the international conference."

New Construction of Chronic Inhalation Toxicity Test Facility

Task force team launched and Technical advisory meeting held.

Feb. 14, 2014

Occupational Safety and Health Research Institute, OSHRI (headed by Director General Park, Jung-sun), held an advisory meeting and an opening ceremony of a task force team comprised of external experts and internal steering committee members on Friday, February 14, to promote a full-fledged new construction of a test facility of chronic inhalation toxicity in Chemicals Safety and Health Center in Daedeok Science Town.

The construction is expected to begin in March 2014 and finish at the end of the 2015.

The new facility will be a three-story building (with total ground area of 6,300m²). As the dedicated task force team on this project is launched, the project gains more momentum. In particular, an advisory panel comprised of experts from industry, academy, and institute was appointed as well as a technical advisory meeting was held to lay a foundation of the first experiment facility of chronic inhalation toxicity as a toxicity test facility in Korea adjusting to the global standard of OECD GLP.

Chronic toxicity tests are conducted on white rats or mice. By conducting acute or chronic toxicity tests of short- or long-term exposure to unidentified toxic substances, maleficence such as carcinogenicity, chronic toxicity, etc. will be investigated and basic information to set the management criteria of working conditions will be provided. A guideline for dealing with chemical substances thorough research presentation by international society will be established as well. 🌿



Aerial view of chronic inhalation toxicity test facility



Opening ceremony of task force team

KOSHA, “one of the best” in anti-corruption competitiveness assessment

Jan. 17, 2014

The Anti-Corruption Commission’s report on anti-corruption activities of 225 organizations recognizes KOSHA as an outstanding organization for the fifth consecutive year.



KOSHA Headquarters

KOSHA (headed by President Baek Hun-ki) has been categorized as a “first-rate” organization or one of the best organizations as well as an organization that has been outstanding for more than 3 years in a row in the “2013 Anti-Corruption Competitiveness Assessment” led by the Anti-Corruption & Civil Rights Commission of Korea.


- Ever since it was included in the assessment for the first time in 2009, KOSHA has been designated as an outstanding organization for five years in a row.

Among a total of 225 organizations in the “2013 Anti-Corruption Competitiveness Assessment,” 35 organizations including KOSHA fell into the “first-rate” category. This made KOSHA one of the 36 organizations that have been recognized to be outstanding for three consecutive years or more.

- The 225 organizations include 41 administrative agencies of the government, 17 local governments, 17 education offices of cities and provinces, 10 national and public universities, and 140 public service-related organizations.

- The assessment was conducted on seven criteria: building anti-corruption infrastructure; increasing policy transparency and developing trust; eliminating or reducing corruption-inducing factors; improving the integrity awareness and culture among public servants; preventing corruption and facilitating reports; improving integrity; and the number of corrupt public officials.

KOSHA became one of the best organizations with an average of 93 points throughout the seven criteria. In particular, KOSHA earned high scores for reducing the president’s travel and entertainment expenses to utilize the savings to reduce occupational accidents at industrial sites, and also for the active participation of all the employees in anti-corruption activities such as ethical management activities.

President Baek Hun-ki of KOSHA said, “The assessment results reflect our integrity culture, which has taken firm root in the organization.” He added, “Regarding the areas that KOSHA scored relatively low, we will make more efforts to enhance our anti-corruption competitiveness by improving work processes and systems. By doing so, KOSHA will do its best to contribute to making Korea a safe place to work in line with the standards of advanced countries.” End. 

ICOH 2015 Seoul Congress is going smoothly

KOSHA held an working-level meeting with the ICOH board members.

Feb. 13, 2014

KOSHA (headed by President Baek Hun-ki) held the 2nd Preparation Meeting for three days from Friday to Sunday (Feb. 7 to Feb 9) in Helsinki, Finland, to prepare for the International Congress on Occupational Health to be held in Seoul in 2015.

At the working-level meeting, KOSHA shared the progress since the 1st Preparation Meeting held in last March in Seoul. There were also in-depth discussions on the preparations in details for the success of the upcoming congress.

The meeting was attended by 12 participants in total including Dr. Kazutaka Kogi, ICOH President, 5 other board members, and Mr. Gye-wan Bae, Secretary General of the ICOH 2015 secretariat. Various items on the agenda for the success of the ICOH 2015 include the following:



- Selection of the topics and speakers for key-note and semi- plenary sessions speeches
- Plans for the structure of the sessions and their management
- Extension of the early bird registration deadline to attract more participants

President Baek Hun-ki gave a speech during the 2014 Board Meeting in front of more than 100 members of the ICOH Board and the Scientific Committee from all around the world.

President Baek emphasized that the ICOH 2015 secretariat is "making efforts to come up with programs so that the ICOH 2015 Seoul Congress will bridge the gap in the occupational safety and health field and take the OSH standards in the Asian region that are lagging behind to the next level." Mr. Baek also vowed to do his utmost along with the International Commission on Occupational Health to make the upcoming congress a pivotal event for all the members of the global occupational safety and health community.


Dr. Kazutaka Kogi said in response, "I believe in the capacity of KOSHA, as it successfully held the 18th World Congress on Safety and Health at Work in 2008." He also added,

"I hope the upcoming congress will provide an opportunity for all the workers around the world to enjoy their right to work at healthy and safe workplaces."

Since first held in 1906 in Milan, Italy, ICOH has been held in Europe for 20 times and in North America for 4 times. Korea is the third Asian country to host ICOH following Japan and Singapore.



KOSHA was selected as the host of the ICOH 2015 at the 29th Congress held in Cape Town, South Africa, in 2009. The 31st ICOH secretariat was officially handed over to KOSHA at the 30th ICOH in Cancún, Mexico, in 2012. KOSHA held the 1st Preparation Meeting with the ICOH board members in March 2013 and set the basic framework for the congress. KOSHA also organized the National Organizing Committee in May and the National Scientific Committee in October to provide a further foundation for the preparations.

The 31st ICOH will be held in Seoul for 6 days from May 31, 2015 to July 5, 2015. There will be academic programs including more than 150 workshops and symposiums and other interesting events such as exhibitions and poster sessions. 

KOSHA and Defense Installation Agency concluded MOU for construction disasters prevention

Securing and enhancing the safety at the construction sites of military facility by granting additional points to the certified companies with KOSHA18001.


Feb. 21, 2014

The endeavor to enhance the safety of construction sites related to military facility construction is accelerated. KOSHA (headed by President Baek Hun-ki) has concluded "MOU for Construction Disaster Prevention" related to the construction of national defense facilities on Thursday, February 20, at the Defense Installation Agency (located in Yongsan-gu, Seoul) with Director General Jung Ju-gyo of the Agency.

Defense Installation Agency is performing businesses such as safety inspection of buildings, electricity, and roads as well as military facility construction such as military defense and living facilities. The purpose of the MOU is to secure the safety & health of workers at construction sites ordered by Defense Installation Agency. In accordance with the MOU, the agency will appoint a person in charge of safety & health. Under the policy, additional points will be added for the certified companies granted KOSHA18001 when they bid for constructions ordered by Defense Installation Agency.

KOSHA will provide technical materials such as case of accident and preventive measures, run joint safety inspections, and offer instructors for construction safety education for the safety of construction sites of Defense Installation Agency.

President Baek Hun-ki of KOSHA said, "Through the MOU with Defense Installation Agency, it is expected to enhance the interest in safety of the client organizations as well as to accelerate the introduction of KOSHA18001 for the construction companies participating in projects." So far, KOSHA has conducted the MOUs of occupational disaster prevention with about 350 groups and institutes and is concentrating capabilities of national safety and health.

Among the 350 groups and institutes, 90 are public institutions, 68 are central and local government organizations, etc. 

Major agenda of cooperation between KOSHA and Defense Installation Agency

KOSHA	Defense Installation Agency
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint safety inspection for the construction sites of military facilities Safety & health education and technical assistant Providing information and documents on construction safety, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appointing person in charge of safety & health Giving preference and additional points to the certified companies with KOSHA18001 when bid for construction ordered by Defense Installation Agency



President Baek Hun-ki of KOSHA (left) and Director General Jung Ju-gyo of Defense Installation Agency (right) pose for a photo with the MOU



President Baek Hun-ki (third from the left), Director General Jung Ju-gyo (fourth from the left) and other members of the organizations pledge the prevention of occupational accidents

Overview of the accreditation ceremony

Date :

11:00 AM~, Thursday, February 20, 2014

Venue :

Main Conference Room, 3rd floor of Defense Installation Agency, 22 Itaewon-ro, Yongsan-gu, Seoul

Participants :

KOSHA President Baek Hun-ki, Director General of Defense Installation Agency Jung Ju-gyo and other persons concerned

Chemical Accident Prevention Center to be established at Yeosu Industrial Complex

Jan. 24, 2014

Scheduled to open on Jan. 28, the center will be run jointly by 5 government agencies, supporting accident prevention and recovery throughout Gwangju, Jeollanam-do, and Jeju Island.


A center for chemical accident prevention, run jointly by 5 government agencies, will open at the Yeosu National Industrial Complex.

The Chemical Accident Prevention Center will start its operations on January 28 to prevent leaks of toxic gas such as phosgene and ammonia and spills of chemical substances such as toluene and benzene, and to support rescue and recovery if accidents do occur. The center is located on the third and fourth floors of Jin-nam Arts Center, Bonggye-dong, Yeosu-si.

This newly-established center will integrate three to four agencies' activities for chemical substances management in order to prevent chemical accidents and lead emergency evacuation drills for local residents. Even though the center oversees a wide range of area from Gwangju to Jeollanam-do to Jeju Island, it is located near the entrance of the Yeosu Industrial Complex, where large-scale chemical factories are operating, for operational efficiency.

Forty personnel will be dispatched to the center from relevant agencies in five different fields: the environment, labor, industry, safety, and firefighting.

The center will operate a situation room and five teams: Workplace Safety Investigation Team, Gas Accident Investigation Team, Emergency Response Coordination Team, Patient Transport & Rescue Team, and Resident Evacuation & Recovery Support Team.

Seok-jae Gang of Industrial Complex Support Team at the Yeosu City Government said, "An advanced disaster response system has been established. The center is expected to minimize damage to local communities by sharing information on various risks and scientifically estimating damage from accidents. For that reason, workplaces and residents in the region are welcoming the new establishment." End. 



KOSHA awarded Hyundai Amco Co. Ltd. the safety and health management system certificate

for its contributions to preventing occupational accidents at construction sites.

Jan. 16, 2014

KOSHA (headed by President Baek Hun-ki) presented Hyundai Amco Co. Ltd. on Thursday, January 16, with the safety and health management system certificate (KOSHA 18001) and plaque for establishing a thorough safety and health management system.

The certificate of "safety and health management system for the construction industry" is granted by KOSHA to companies that have established an advanced safety and health management system through various efforts such as the integration of safety and health policies into management directions, employees' full participation in safety and health activities, and continuous efforts in improving safety.

Hyundai Amco has established a self-regulatory safety management system. In addition, the company has set up a safety and health system for action by developing a computing system for safety management and assessing the safety performance of the headquarters and about 40 construction sites and contractors, all in consultation with KOSHA since applying for the certificate.

So far, 113 companies including Hyundai Amco has received the "KOSHA 18001 certificate for the construction industry" ever since KOSHA started the certification program in 2001. Among the 113 companies, 14 are client organizations, 25 construction companies, and 74 more specialized construction companies. Currently, 11 companies are seeking the certificate.

The occupational accident rates of those companies with the certificate have been proven to be lower than those of other companies. According to KOSHA's analysis in 2012, the converted accident rate of the accredited companies was 0.19, which is 1.4 times lower than that of unaccredited companies at 0.28.

The converted accident rate is an accident rate used in the construction industry that weights deaths five times more than injuries.

President Baek Hun-ki said, "The companies with the safety and health management system have reduced occupational accidents thanks to their well-established self-regulatory safety management systems and enjoy additional benefits such as improved reputation and better relations between workers and the management. He added, "KOSHA will do its utmost to help more companies to adopt the safety and health management system."

Overview of the accreditation ceremony



President Baek Hun-ki (fifth from the left), Hyundai Amco CEO Sohn Hyo-Won (sixth from the left) and other members of the organizations celebrate the accreditation



President Baek Hun-ki (left) and Hyundai Amco CEO Sohn Hyo-Won (right) pose for a photo with the certificate

Date :

11:00 AM~, Thursday, January 16

Venue :

Hyundai Amco headquarters
(located in Yangjae-dong, Seocho-gu, Seoul)

Participants :

KOSHA President Baek Hun-ki, Hyundai Amco CEO Sohn Hyo-Won, and other members of the occupational safety and health community

Cooperation with Civil Accident Prevention Agency for Industrial Accident Prevention

Holding Accident Prevention Agency Starting Ceremony for Decrease in Industrial Accident in Bucheon and Gimpo Area.

Feb. 22, 2014

Intensively Providing Technical Assistance Service for Workplaces with 50 Workers or Less.

Accident prevention agencies put their forces together to enhance the industrial accident prevention actions.

KOSHA (headed by President Baek Hun-ki) held 'a ceremony for the achievement of the goal to reduce industrial accidents' with 20 civil accident prevention agencies from Bucheon and Gimpo at the Education Hall of Workers Health Center located in Bucheon, Gyeonggi Province on February 21.


According to the provisional statistics of KOSHA, the number of industrial accident victims in Bucheon and Gimpo amounted to around 2,300 last year. This number shows a slight decline from the previous year while the number of people who died of industrial accidents increased by 9 compared with the previous one.

Accordingly, KOSHA, with the civil accident prevention agencies, holds a ceremony for the achievement of the goal to reduce industrial accidents and takes the lead in securing safety and protecting health of the workers in the regional workplace.

20 civil accident prevention agencies will visit manufacturing-, construction-, and service-related workplaces and provide them with technical assistance such as identifying risk factors, suggesting preventive measures, and offering accident prevention references, etc.

In particular, the KOSHA and civil agencies will focus their intensive attention on 12,000 small- and medium-sized workplaces, each of which has workers less than 50 with vulnerable working conditions and fewer capacities for safety control.

In addition to holding the ceremony with the civil accident prevention agencies, persons concerned including the president of KOSHA had a meeting with the representatives of the civil accident prevention agencies and other related staff members to talk about core businesses on technical assistance for accident prevention.

President Baek Hun-ki of KOSHA said "Through the cooperation with the local civil accident prevention agencies, I hope that we will be able to provide the best services for the field." He added "I am also looking forward to us making contribution to the decrease in the industrial accidents by making great efforts to reduce accidents causing death." in his speech at the ceremony. 

Overview of the ceremony



President Baek Hun-ki of KOSHA (fourth from the left on the front row) and representatives of civil accident prevention agencies confirm their determination to reduce industrial accidents



President Baek Hun-ki of KOSHA (on the right) and staff members of civil accident prevention agencies confirm their determination to reduce industrial accidents

Date :
14:30 PM~, Friday, February 21, 2014

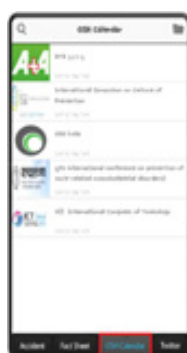
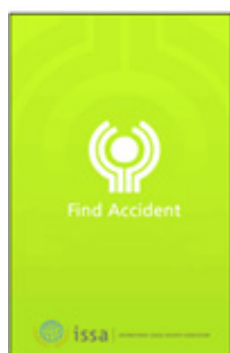
Venue :
Education Hall at Bucheon Workers Health Center
(Administration Building #301, Bucheon Techno Park Complex 1, Samjak-ro 22, Ojeong-gu, Bucheon-si)

Participants :
60 persons concerned including KOSHA President Baek Hun-ki, representatives of civil accident prevention agencies, supervisors from Ministry of Employment and Labor, etc.

Mobile Application to share major global occupational accidents cases

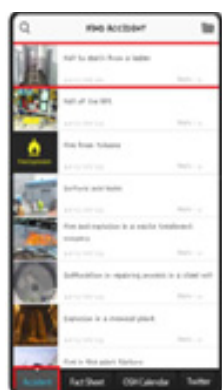
The app is named "Find Accident" to let people around the world have an instant access to global occupational accidents via smart phones jointly developed by KOSHA and ISSA (International Social Security Association)

Key Contents & Key Functions



• KEY CONTENTS

• OSH CALENDAR / SNS



• KEY FUNCTIONS

How to download

You can download the app as entering the keywords at App Store/Play Store ;

FIND ACCIDENT, ACCIDENT, FACT SHEET, KOSHA, ISSA, CULTURE OF PREVENTION, OCCUPATIONAL ACCIDENT, SAFETY, HEALTH OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE

Major Other Function

You can upload occupational accidents of your country directly to the app for preventing the same accident and to share the accident case, after registering your organization.

If you have interest in the App,
Please send your ID and PW to overseas@kosha.or.kr