

Newsletter

Protecting Worker's Life and Health

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Korea International Safety & Health Show 2014

July 7, 2014

Korea International Safety & Health Show was held from July 7 to 10 at COEX

200 companies participated, more than 10,000 exhibits including state-of-the-art products from abroad
Part of the 47th Week of Safety and Health.



Minister of Employment and Labor (8th from the right), President of KOSHA (9th from the right) and all concerned are joining the ribbon cutting ceremony of KISS 2014 on Monday, July 7.

“Korea International Safety & Health Show” (KISS 2014) was held for 4 days from July 7 to 10 at COEX in Seoul as part of the 47th Week of Safety and Health. In KISS 2014, about 200 companies presented more than 10,000 products. Participants and visitors had opportunities to compare and evaluate state-of-the-art OSH equipment and products, take a look at safe household items, and have check-ups.

Various innovative items attracted people's attention for example safety shoes equipped with non-slip function on an oily and inclined floor; special gloves protecting hands from sharp materials such as a knife or a splinter of glass; and heavy load material handling equipment.

Visitors had check-ups including measuring the level of stress, blood pressure, and body fat. In line with this, they also learn how to handle an emergency and do cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) at firsthand.

Participants met a special paint changing its color in case of chemical leaks; learned how to wear safety masks properly; and operated a press machine automatically shut off when hands are close to the machine.

The 47 Week of Safety and Health kicked off with an 'opening ceremony' on Monday, July 7 including 'KISS 2014', 'Safety and Health Seminars' which drew on 29 topics covering OSH issues, and 'Best Practices Presentations' by 90 enterprises with outstanding performance in safety and health activities.

An occupational safety-themed play was provided for free and UCC (User Created Contents) works made by the public were screened through the 'Safety and Health UCC Show'.



ICOH 2015 Seoul Congress is going smoothly

Feb. 13, 2014

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



KOSHA 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 of KOSHA 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.

ICOH 2015 Seoul Congress is going smoothly


ICOH 2015 SEOUL

The President 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.” He 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. 

Korean occupational safety and health going global

Feb. 8, 2014


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



KOSHA has just started to strengthen global networks for occupational safety and health once again. President and other members of KOSHA visited Myanmar on Friday (Feb. 7) to strengthen OSH cooperation within the Asian region. President of KOSHA 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 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, KOSHA member 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. 

KOSHA hosted international symposium in Germany

August 26, 2014

KOSHA's President gave speech about
'A culture of prevention'




KOSHA held an international symposium under the theme of 'Establishing a prevention culture' on 25 August 2014 at an international conference hall, in Frankfurt, Germany.

President of KOSHA, gave a presentation on 'the definition and activities of a culture of prevention' at the symposium attended by about 100 global OSH experts.

At his speech, president of KOSHA mentioned "an effort to settle a culture of prevention is a shortcut to realize decent employment; strengthen business competitiveness; and contribute to national economic development." He also introduced major activities of KOSHA to enhance the culture of prevention.

At the symposium, director of Partnership Program Department of KOSHA announced the progress of developing 'Prevention Culture Indicator', an application which is under development as well as the performance of 'Find Accident', an application which is designed and developed for the sake of sharing major occupational accident information worldwide.

In addition, representatives from Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH, U.K.), Institut National de Recherche et de Sécurité (INRS, France), Australia, Hong Kong, India, and other countries introduced their major activities for a culture of prevention.

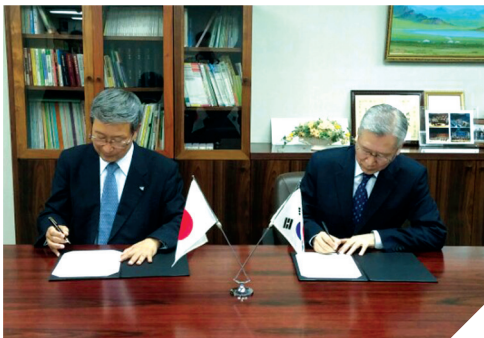
The symposium was hosted in conjunction with 'XX World Congress on Safety and Health at Work' held for 4 days in Frankfurt, Germany. KOSHA, as the chair organization of International Section of the ISSA for a Culture of Prevention, hosted a Bureau meeting of the Section as well. 



KOSHA solidifies cooperation with JISHA

August 28, 2014

Signed an MOU in Tokyo




President of KOSHA and president of JISHA (left) are signing the MOU.

KOSHA signed an MOU with Japan Industrial Safety and Health Association (JISHA), a Japanese occupational accident prevention institution, on August 28 in Tokyo, Japan.

With this agreement, KOSHA and JISHA will strengthen mutual cooperation for the development of educational training curriculum and materials for training on OSH. Both bodies will concentrate efforts to exchange information such as technical materials and data, etc.

In line with this, they agreed on the activation of personal exchange and cooperation for R&D such as dispatching OSH experts for training and benchmarking.

KOSHA and JISHA have made mutual cooperation since 1998 and the MOU will be a steppingstone to solidify their conciliation.

KOSHA has provided domestic occupational accident prevention officers with training in collaboration with JISHA, opening a new training course for safety of forklift and aerial work platform work in Korea. The organizations have also exchanged facilities' materials and technical information on safety of press work. 



"China-Korea safety and health technical cooperation" KOSHA held seminar with SAWS

September 18, 2014

Discuss on collaboration
on OSH R&D for both nations



KOSHA officials and SAWS officials attending at the seminar are posing for a commemorative photograph [Director General Gwon, Hyeok-myeon of Occupational Safety and Health Research Institution (fifth from the left); Vice Minister, Yang Yuanyuan of SAWS (sixth from the left)]


KOSHA hosted 'OSH seminar' with State Administration of Work Safety (SAWS) at the Seoul Regional Office of KOSHA.

SAWS is a Chinese governmental organization which carries out safety and health related supervision and inspection. The Vice Minister and other 5 OSH officials of SAWS attended at the seminar.

SAWS gave presentations on "China's OSH technology R&D system" and "China's safety technology research and application cases."

KOSHA delivered presentations on "Korea's OSH R&D system" and "Korea's safety technology research and application cases."

At the seminar, both organizations had discussion and presentations on assistance system and current status of OSH R&D and major challenges ahead as well as discussed mutual cooperation by exchanging practical cases of OSH research.

The seminar was held as a part of the MOU which KOSHA had signed with SAWS in 2010. Under the MOU, KOSHA has exchanged professionals and technical information & materials; provided technical assistance for workplace; and instructed technologies on OSH statistics data analysis and publication. 



Opening of Working-level Meeting of Safety and Health Leader Group in the Shipbuilding Industry

April 11, 2014

For the purpose of eradicating fatal accidents in the shipbuilding industries which occur in succession recently




Overview of the meeting
13:30-16:00, Friday, April 11, 2014
Glory Condominium in Busan

Director of Occupational Safety Department from KOSHA, Officials from MOEL, Heads of Occupational Safety Department from top 10 shipbuilding companies (Hyundai Heavy Industries Co., Ltd.; Daewoo Shipbuilding & Marine Engineering (DSME); Samsung Heavy Industries; Hyundai Samho Heavy Industries Co., Ltd.; Hanjin Heavy Industries and Construction; Hyundai Mipo Dockyard Co., Ltd.; STX Offshore & Shipbuilding; Daesun Shipbuilding & Engineering; Sungdong; SPP Shipbuilding)

Working-level officials of “Shipbuilding Safety and Health Leader Group” met to find out measures to eradicate fatal accidents—have occurred in succession recently—in the shipbuilding industry.

KOSHA (President Baek Hun-ki) held “Working-level Meeting of Safety and Health Leader Group in the Shipbuilding Industry” with heads of safety and health department from the top 10 Korean shipbuilding companies and officials from the Ministry of Employment and Labor, etc. on Friday, April 11 at Glory Condominium in Busan.

“Safety and Health Leader Group in the Shipbuilding Industry” consists of CEOs in major shipbuilding businesses in Korea, the Minister of Employment and Labor, the President of KOSHA, etc. Since its launch in 2010, the group has put occupational safety and health into the management principal of CEOs as one of the top priorities through regular meetings. The group has also played a leading role in enforcing self-regulatory occupational safety and health activities of labour and management.

The working-level meeting was held to find measures to eradicate fatal injuries in the shipbuilding industries, which is rising lately. In addition, the meeting was an opportunity to share the cases and countermeasures of fatal accidents and reaffirm the determination to fulfill safety and health activities. 



Identification of Hazards of unknown toxic chemicals materials becomes possible

April 30, 2014

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



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

KOSHA held a groundbreaking ceremony for 'Chronic inhalation toxicity test facility' on April 30, which will be a three-floor building with 6,295 m² of total floor space, located in the Daedeok Science Town, Yuseong-gu, Daejeon-si.

This is the first time to build 'Chronic inhalation toxicity test facility' in Korea, while an 'Acute inhalation toxicity test facility' was introduced in the Daedeok Science Town in 1997.

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

The test facility will be involved in studying occupational diseases caused by long-term exposure in the production process of electronics, automobiles, and tires and assessing possibility of developing cancer and hazards of nano-materials and all sorts of unknown toxic materials using in the IT industry.

In addition, it is expected to contribute to protecting workers' health by providing information including hazard classification for chemical materials and set-up for exposure standards in working environment based on test results. The construction of test facility is scheduled to be completed in November, 2015 on a budget of total 37 billion won. It will be equipped with 48 inhalation chambers, in which predictions and assessments of hazards to human body will be carried out by exposing laboratory rats to chemical materials.

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


Identifying Hazards of unknown toxic chemicals becomes possible

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

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

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

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

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



Easy to obtain international safety and health management system

June 27, 2014

KOSHA signed MOUs with 5 registrar agencies
Save time and cost by obtaining domestic and international certification at one time.



Safety and health management system will help domestic enterprises to export their products in an easier manner. KOSHA signed MOUs with 5 Korean registrar agencies of international certification for mutual accreditation. In accordance with the MOU, there is no need for an enterprise to acquire extra international accreditation for export once it got a safety and health management system which is certified by KOSHA and the institutions. In Korea, KOSHA is providing "KOSHA 18001", a safety and health management system. Thirteen (13) multinational certification institutions including UK, Germany, and France are operating "OSHAS 18001", an international accreditation for safety and health management.

- KOSHA 18001: Korea Occupational Safety & Health Agency 18001
- OHSAS 18001: Occupational Health & Safety Assessment Series 18001

With a safety and health management system, enterprises can manage measures for preventing occupational accidents systemically. Certification institutions such as KOSHA grant certification to applying enterprises if they meet the evaluation standard. The five institutions are Korea Management Association Registration Inc. (KMAR); CREBIZ QM; SPEC Co., Ltd; CRS Registrars Inc.; and Small & medium Business Corporation Registrar (SBC Registrar), who execute international accreditation work for domestic enterprises.

Easy to obtain international safety and health management system

Case

Company A, a wind turbine manufacturer in Pohang-si, spent \$3,500 USD and 6 months to obtain KOSHA 18001. In October 2010, however, the A company spent additional \$8,000 USD and 3 months to get OSHAS 18001, an international safety and health management system for export to Americas.

The MOU allows enterprises to acquire domestic and international certification at one time almost halving the time and cost. For instance, an enterprise with less than 50 employees had to pay a total of 4 million KRW as it paid 2 million KRW for domestic and international certifications respectively. Now it only costs 2 million KRW to obtain both domestic and international certifications thanks to the MOU.

In Korea, 1,500 enterprises acquired the certification of safety and health management system up to the present accounting 25.6% of whole enterprises showing the reduction of occupational accident rate and workers' compensation insurance premium as well as the enhancement of trade union relations.

President of KOSHA mentioned, "Safety and health management system is prerequisite for the reduction of loss by avoidable accidents and for the creation of advanced workplace. He also added, "I expect enterprises to adopt the system actively and vigorously." 