

2006 Newsletter

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- **OSH Statistics**

- 63% of accidents involving temporary structures caused by falls, injuries due to falling objects, and collapses

Approximately 63% of all accidents involving temporary structures and occurring at construction sites caused by falls, injuries due to falling objects, and collapses



Most of the accidents involving temporary structures were caused by the defects of the structures, defective protective equipment and production process, inadequate layout of structures, improper workplaces, and other unsafe structural conditions and unsafe acts of workers, said Ko Sung-suk, Professor of Architectural Engineering at Chonnam National University.

In his presentation on effective safety management of temporary works during the construction safety seminar held by the Temporary Construction Equipment Association of Korea on the occasion of the 39 th Occupational Safety and Health Campaign Week, Professor Ko explained how most accidents involving temporary structures were caused by practices of installing inadequate temporary structures to save on construction cost and technical problems such as defective temporary facilities, defective materials used for such structures, and improper production methods.

He also cited the insufficient safety knowledge, misunderstanding of the safety rules, lack of experience and drills, and other educational causes and absence of safety management team and work rules, insufficient work preparations, and other managerial causes, identified problems related to accidents involving temporary structures in Korea, and proposed ways of preventing temporary structure-related accidents.

(6 July 2006, Daily Safety News)

- **Main OSH Policy**

- Mobile Devices to be Used for Taking Administrative Measures in the Future - Ministry of Labor to Introduce Tablet PCs in Labor Offices

Mobile devices will now be used to enable supervisors to take administrative measures on the spot for various direction and inspection activities including construction site patrolling.

The Ministry of Labor recently announced that it would introduce 141 PKMS (process-based knowledge management system) tablet PCs to local authorities in August for the first time in direction and inspection activities in the future.

Prior to the distribution of tablet PCs, a tablet PC demonstration event was held on August 16 during the National Safety Managers ' Convention hosted by the Korea Labor Education Institute. At least 90 participants showed immense interest in the event. With a tablet PC, the supervisor may utilize the PKMS of the Ministry of Labor on the spot to provide on-the-spot training or execute administrative measures almost in real time.

Local authorities may immediately approve the checklist and the correction request once they are uploaded by the supervisor; thus shortening the processing time considerably. The use of tablet PCs is expected to shorten the time required for paperwork in the office and help administrative authorities work closer with workplaces. "Since we use the mobile communications network, we can work virtually anywhere using mobile phones," an official of the Ministry of Labor said.

The Ministry of Labor will start using tablet PCs in August and expand its usage by December when a new checklist will have been prepared.

(18 August 2006, Daily Safety News)

- Air Quality Management Regulations to Apply to All Offices - Ministry of Labor announcing the enactment of amended health regulations that will take effect next year

Air quality management regulations will apply to all offices in Korea by next year. Companies will also be required to take appropriate health protection measures for employees engaged in asbestos dismantling and removal.

The Ministry of Labor announced on September 20 the enactment of the amended Act on Occupational Health, which deals with office air management regulation application, dismantling and removal of structures containing asbestos, and expansion of the employer's safety and health responsibilities.

For the management of office air quality, offices with or without centrally managed air purification systems should observe the standards for the prevention of pollutant entry and prevention of air pollution during the renovation and repair of structures. At least 5 more pollutants including nitrogen dioxide, ozone, and asbestos will also be included in the elements for management. On the other hand, 4 of the current elements for management including carbon monoxide will now be managed as recommended, not required.

(21 September 2006, Daily Safety News)

- **Update in KOREA**

- KOSAF 2006 to be held this November - Safety, health, and firefighting festival to be held at the Changwon Convention Center

Korea Occupational Safety and Health & Fire Protection Show 2006 (KOSAF 2006) will be held at the Changwon Convention Center for 3 days beginning November 15 this year.



KOSAF 2006 is considered one of the seven most important expositions by South Gyeongsang Province and Changwon City. Visitors will get to see for themselves how some 10,000 enterprises housed in approximately 300 industrial complexes in Geoje, Ulsan, Pohang, Gumi, and Yeosu including Changwon practice safety and health. About 20 technical seminars are expected to be attended by the Korea Association of Professional Safety Engineers, Kisanhyup (Korea Occupational Health Association), Gyeongnam branch of the Korea Association of Occupational Health Nurses, Korea Fire Safety Association of Changwon, Gyeongnam Fire Headquarters, and Research Center for Disaster Prevention of Jinju International School as well as Korea's top industrial safety and health and fire agencies. Participants from member companies and buyers alone are expected to number more than 2,000.

(14 September 2006, Daily Safety News)

- Flexible Work Hours in Extremely Hot Season - Major Construction Companies Protect Employees health
wing to the recent extremely hot days and nights, various measures have been taken to protect construction workers from disasters and dehydration during summer.

Samsung Engineering and Construction (SECC) provides refined salt and ice for construction workers nationwide. It has also installed shower booths and lounges in all sites and allows flexible working hours depending on the outdoor temperature.

"We have instructed sites to adjust the working hours according to their needs and to have siesta or breaks between 1:00~3:00 pm," an official of SECC said.

Isu Engineering and Construction is also providing disaster prevention training for the extremely hot season in each site. Like SECC, it allows flexible working hours depending on the temperature.

Kumho Engineering and Construction and Kyungnam Enterprises Ltd., also gave special work instructions on safety management for the summer and adjusted the workload during the season by putting flexible work hours in place and conducting health checkups frequently.

In particular, these companies have installed shades in outdoor sites and provided water every 15~20 minutes to protect employees from fainting, convulsion, and heatstroke.

(11 August 2006, Daily Safety News)

- KOSHA, KFSa to host technical seminar on September 13 - Information exchange on explosion prevention in chemical plants at the international level expected

The Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency (headed by Park Gil-sang) plans to co-host the technical seminar on the prevention of major industrial accidents with KFSa (headed by Kim Hong) on September 13 at Hyundai Oilbank's premises in Daesan, Chungnam Province.

This seminar will be open to the 200 delegates of KFSa, professors, graduate students, and PSM representatives. It will also include experts' comments regarding the prevention of fire and explosion due to dust in chemical plants, among others.

Mr. Gwon Hyeok-min and Ryu Bo-hyeok, technical counsels of KOSAH, Mr. Bill Stevenson, who has been serving as dust explosion risk assessment consultant of the National Fire Protection Association for 35 years now, and Mr. Geof Razier, an explosive risk prevention expert in the US and UK and a pressure container committee member of the American Society of Mechanical

Engineers (ASME), shall be serving as resource persons. Therefore, a wealth of technical information and trends are expected to be exchanged between local and foreign experts during this seminar.

The major agenda of the seminar will include the following: ?Analysis of and preventive measures for the major industrial accidents in 2005; ?Introduction of European and US technical standards and codes for dust explosion prevention; ?Methods related to the safe design of an anti-explosion and segregation system; Risk assessment for dust explosion prevention, and; ?Electronic measures for dust explosion prevention.

(8 September 2006, KOSHA News)

- Incheon International Airport Corp. Obtains KOSHA 18001 Certification

Incheon International Airport Corp., has obtained the KOSHA 18001 certification as part of its safety and health management system. The firm is among the growing number of construction companies endeavoring to prevent accidents with voluntary anti-disaster activities.

The Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency (headed by Park Gil-sang) granted the KOSHA 18001 certification to Incheon International Airport Corp., in simple ceremonies held at the corporation's headquarters on September 22 and attended by about 100 representatives of corporations and partner companies including Technical Executive Mr. Lee Wu-bong and Company VP Mr. Park Geun-hae.

Incheon International Airport Corp., commenced Phase 2 of the 7-year construction project covering the airstrip and passenger terminal in 2002. The KRW-4.7 trillion project is expected to be completed in 2008. A total of 62 construction companies and 120 partners are currently working at 32 construction sites, with over 1 million workers dispatched; thus calling for special safety management.

The company recorded 22 casualties and 73 injuries during Phase 1 of the project. For Phase 2, however, the recently adopted safety and health management system has effectively helped prevent accidents.

In particular, the company encourages the supervision group and construction companies as well as their partners to proceed with active and systematic anti-disaster activities.

Incheon International Airport Corp., will continue to improve its KOSHA-18001 certified system by developing an advanced risk assessment and register program and sharing information with other

construction companies in real time. It will also continue implementing its award and penalty system based on the check-up and progress assessment of construction companies.

(25 September 2006, KOSHA News)

- **Update in KOSHA**

- 19 technical seminars to be held during the Occupational Safety and Health Campaign Week - latest safety and health information expected to be shared

On the occasion of the 39th Occupational Safety and Health Campaign Week, a total of 19 technical seminars will be held consecutively from July 3 to July 7 at the KOEX Conference Room.

The seminars are sponsored by the Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency (KOSHA), Korea Industrial Safety Association, Korea Industrial Health Association, Safety News, and other safety and health-related organizations. In particular, the seminar titled "Establishment and operation of a voluntary safety and health management system at the workplace" was held on July 3 by KOSHA's Technical Expert Department, followed by seminars on the "Establishment of a chemical materials management system," "Noise evaluation and improvement at workplaces," and "Background on introducing the risk evaluation system and examples of application at workplaces."

The following seminars are scheduled for July 4: "Status of occupational cancer occurrences and establishment of preventive measures" by KOSHA's Occupational Safety and Health Research Institute; "Promotion of the safety of construction workers" by the Temporary Construction Equipment Association of Korea, and; "Safety of workers of foreign enterprises operating in India" by the Korea Construction Safety Engineering Association.

On July 5, KOSHA's Occupational Safety and Health Research Institute will hold a seminar on the "Promotion of foreign workers' right to good health." The seminar on "Effective safety management in the construction of temporary facilities" will be sponsored by the Temporary Construction Equipment Association of Korea, and the seminar on the "Activation of the project for the promotion of workers' health," by the Korea Occupational Health Association.

(4 July 2006, KOSHA News)

- Medical consulting provided for foreign workers through the Internet - Responses from foreign workers who are reluctant to reveal their identities expected

Starting July 6, foreign workers can now easily avail themselves of medical consultations on occupational diseases without having to visit hospitals through an online system, via fax, and through telephones.



The Ministry of Labor and Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency (KOSHA) opened a medical consultation website for foreign workers. As such, foreign workers who have questions as to whether the chemicals used at their workplaces are toxic, whether the work they perform is harmful and/or dangerous, what type of protective gear they should wear to protect their health, or how to wear such gear or those who experience abnormal physical symptoms while handling chemical materials may post questions on the bulletin board. The person in charge will then present answers in both Korean and English.

With the opening of this service, applications are expected to pour in from areas where many workplaces hiring foreign workers are clustered.

"Even the illegally staying foreign workers are expected to be able to receive consulting services without any worry, since the service also aims to protect the vulnerable classes," said Kim Kun-ung, head of the occupational safety section of the Gyeongin local labor administration. He also revealed the agency's plan of providing political support including training for foreign workers.

According to KOSHA, foreign workers who are unable to avail themselves of medical consulting services for unavoidable reasons may now do so through a foreign support organization; thus ensuring the convenience of using such services. Foreign workers may visit the homepage of KOSHA (www.kosha.or.kr) and click foreign workers on the right side. Aside from the online system, foreign workers may also receive consulting services through fax (031-518-6486) or by calling the regional head office and area offices. For inquiries sent via fax, however, English should be used.

(6 July 2006, KOSHA News)

- Warning issued against suffocation during summer - KOSHA advises taking caution on poisoning and/or suffocation by toxic gases

To promote awareness among business owners and workers, the Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency (KOSHA; president: Gil-sang PARK) issued a warning last July 21 against possible suffocation during summer.

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(6 July 2006, KOSHA News)

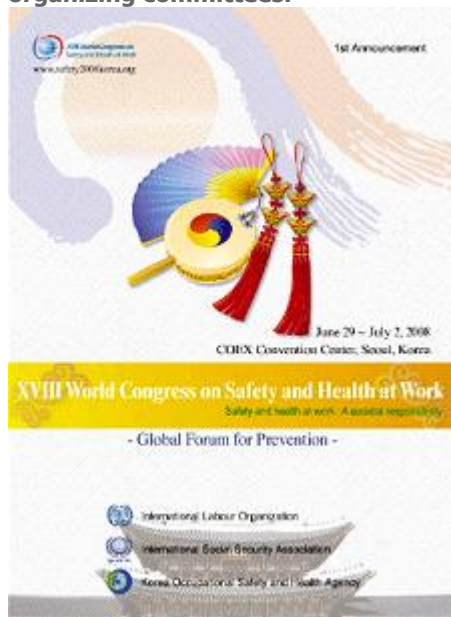
- International poster-making contest to be held for the XVIII World Congress on Safety and Health at Work - Contest aimed at inducing the interest of people worldwide in the Safety Olympics

The Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency decided last July 28 to hold an international poster-making contest for the worldwide promotion of the XVIII World Congress on Safety and

Health at Work to be held in Korea in 2008. Participants from Korea and abroad are welcome to join the contest.

Posters should be in A2 portrait format. They should contain the essential items including the title of the Congress, congress logo, themes, venue, and congress period.

Entries shall be received from August 1 to September 30. Winners shall be selected based on the examination of the screening committee consisting of members of the international and domestic organizing committees.



Most of the accidents involving temporary structures were caused by the defects of the structures, defective protective equipment and production process, inadequate layout of structures, improper workplaces, and other unsafe structural conditions and unsafe acts of workers, said Ko Sung-suk, Professor of Architectural Engineering at Chonnam National University.

A total of USD3,000 prize money and the KOSHA Presidential award shall be given to 1 grand prize winner; 2 runners-up shall receive a USD-1,000 prize money and the KOSHA Presidential award. For more contest details, interested parties may go to the homepages of the Ministry of Labor (www.molab.go.kr), KOSHA (www.kosha.net/), and XVIII World Congress on Safety and Health at Work (www.safety2008korea.org).

Entries should be submitted to KOSHA 's International Cooperation Team (tel.:+82-32-5100-747). (31 July 2006, KOSHA News)

- Chinese party to meet with KOSHA to discuss industrial safety and health cooperation program - Party from SAWS of Santung Province, China to visit

A 4-member delegation including Sun Li Sin, head of the State Administration of Work Safety (SAWS) of Santung Province, China, will meet with the Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency (KOSHA) to discuss possible areas of mutual cooperation on industrial safety and health between Korea and China.

The Chinese delegation will meet with Education and Health Director Kang Ung-dae and discuss cooperative programs including technology and information exchanges between the two institutions to promote the development of the industrial safety and health sectors of both countries. Later, they will inspect the facilities of the Occupational Safety and Health Research Institute and other KOSHA equipment immediately after the briefing to be provided by KOSHA staff on the agency's safety and health activities.

China's SAWS is under the National People's Congress. Established in 2002, SAWS formulates and implements overall safety policies in China and oversees safety supervisory services. Some of its 30 local branches are operating in provinces including Santung, cities, and districts.
(31 July 2006, KOSHA News)

- Korea Shares Safety and Health Knowledge with Asian Countries - KOSHA to offer safety and health course for public servants from 13 countries

KOSHA (Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency; president: Park Gil-sang) invites 13 public servants from 13 Asian developing countries from August 7~18 to a training course designed to improve their technical competency and enhance their safety awareness.



In particular, public servants from Cambodia, Laos, Bangladesh, and other developing countries in Asia will be invited to Korea for the safety and health training.

The program focuses on construction safety, disaster prevention in small and medium-sized companies, and safety and health training prior to dispatching trainees, areas of great interest to newly developing countries. It also includes visits to model companies in Korea and cultural events.

"We are planning to participate more actively in international activities and develop collaboration programs to promote KOSHA's safety and health levels," President Park Gil-sang said.

(8 August 2006, KOSHA News)

- KOSHA, NSC to Hold Joint Conference - Both organizations to discuss matters related to the XVIII World Congress on Safety and Health at Work

The Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency (KOSHA) will have a joint conference with the US's National Safety Commission (NSC) to ensure the success of the XVIII World Congress on Safety and Health at Work.

According to the announcement made by KOSHA on September 25, two representatives of NSC including Vice Chairman Leo Carey will visit Korea for the joint conference with KOSHA particularly to discuss cooperation measures and deliver a special address under the theme "US Global Safety and Health Strategies.



During the joint conference, KOSHA will request NSC to post a promotion banner for the Congress at the NSC website and for NSC representatives and organizations concerned to participate actively in the congress. Both organizations shall also discuss close cooperation measures for the Congress. Last September 2005, NSC hosted the XVII Congress held in Orlando, USA and attended by 2,600 participants from 112 countries. It will also host the "2006 Congress and Expo" to be held in San Diego on November 3.

(26 September 2006, KOSHA News)

- KOSHA Awarded the Grand Prize in Innovation Excellence - Resolves customer dissatisfaction with "Cleanup Customer Support System"

The Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency (KOSHA) was awarded the grand prize by the Ministry of Labor during the innovation excellence competition among subordinate organizations.

The Ministry of Labor announced on September 27 that KOSHA won the grand prize for its "Cleanup Customer Support System" at the SKT Research Institute in Incheon, Gyeonggi Province, besting 9

other subordinate organizations participating in the competition.

KOSHA's "Cleanup Customer Support System" has resolved customer dissatisfaction with "Clean Projects," a program providing worksite improvement fund. It consists of a support priority prediction system, a support fund amount decision system, and a facilities information system.

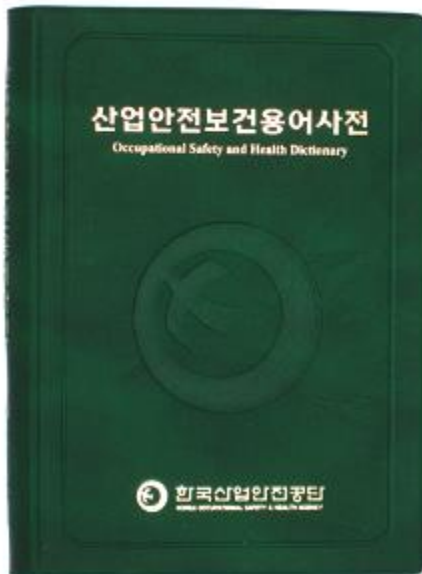
Thanks to this system, KOSHA not only resolved customer dissatisfaction but also slashed the budget by KRW8.1 billion, shortened the facilities improvement period by 20.3%, decreased the manpower requirement by 28 persons, and increased the project success rate by 22.3%.

(28 September 2006, KOSHA News)

- **New OSH Materials**

- Ministry of Labor, KOSHA publish new version of safety and health glossary

The Ministry of Labor and KOSHA recently published a new version of the safety and health glossary that defines the safety and health terms used both locally and abroad in a highly understandable manner. The two agencies also revealed plans of distributing copies of the glossary to safety and health organizations, schools, and libraries in Korea and abroad.



This new 920-page version contains illustrations and definitions of a total of 3,600 professional terms in 8 fields including safety engineering, mechanical engineering, construction, and health and occupational medicine.

In particular, this glossary provides clear explanations on newly identified chemicals such as the 2-bromopropane discovered by Korea and their effects, occupational ailments they cause, clean projects, and various names of safety and health projects that are currently ongoing in Korea. In

other words, this publication is more than a glossary; it is an integrated information provider.

Showing thoughtful consideration for users, the publishers redefined old terms and included information on new organizations as well as introduced websites in the directory of local and international organizations.

According to an official of the Ministry of Labor, they rearranged the old dictionary words and terms related to new substances and diseases in a manner that better suits the current situation. "We hope this glossary will contribute to the technical and academic systemization of the safety and health field," he said.

For information on where to get the new safety and health glossary, visit KOSHA's website at www.kosha.net.

(11 August 2006, KOSHA News)

- Video on Prevention of Disasters due to Hazardous Chemicals Distributed - KOSHA announces release of in Understanding of MSDS series

KOSHA announced on 21 August the release of an educational video on disaster prevention.

Titled "An Understanding of MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheet)," the video was produced as a series featuring cases wherein disasters occurred during the treatment of hazardous chemicals and safety tips.

The effects of these hazardous chemicals and importance of utilizing MSDS were presented in a manner that can be easily understood by workers handling hazardous chemicals.



The video released by KOSHA is part of its reinforced preventive educational activities such as enhancing awareness of hazardous chemicals, installing partial air exhausts, and encouraging the

use of protective equipment at worksites.

In particular, KOSHA recently discovered that chemical poisoning frequently occurs during the washing process and even in case of short exposure.

This educational video shall first be distributed to KOSHA club members and later to other worksites through its website for a low price.

For inquiries regarding this material, contact KOSHA's Educational Material Development Team at tel. No. +82-32-510-0685.

(22 August 2006, KOSHA News)

- Ministry of Labor, KOSHA Release Animated safety Tales - Developed educational material to prevent accidents

The Ministry of Labor and the Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency (KOSHA) announced on September 21 that they have released "Safety Tales" in animation form.

As a 5-minute animation featuring common accident cases and serving as an educational material for businesses and schools, "Safety Tales" consists of 4 episodes: "Mom and sports shoes," "Life and death," "Our happy family," and "Press and artificial finger."



[행복한 우리가족 내용 중에서]

These fiction and non-fiction tales emphasize the importance of safety by showing the experience of people who lost their families in accidents and the effect of the death of the head of the family on the rest of the family members.

"We produced 4 Safety Tales last year, and we plan to continue doing so every year," a representative of KOSHA said. He added that "Safety Tales" is provided as contents of the webzine "Wish," which has been cited as an excellent material for the youth; thus making them particularly

ideal for young people.

The Ministry of Labor expects "Safety Tales" to reach out to viewers with their realistic episodes and renew safety awareness among students as well as the public.

The original file of this material may be obtained by contacting KOSHA's Educational Material Development Team at telephone number +82-32-510-0645.

(22 September 2006, KOSHA News)