

2007 Newsletter

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- **Main Issues**

- KOSHA, KOILAF conclude cooperation agreement - For the systematic prevention of occupational accidents involving foreigners

KOSHA and Korea International Labor Foundation (KOILAF; President: Park, In-sang) concluded a cooperation agreement on an occupational safety project on 14 February to prepare the measures for mutual assistance in safety and health education before the employment of foreign workers. Through the agreement, the two bodies will establish a personnel and physical network for the exchange of information for the implementation of occupational safety and health education for foreign workers and joint operation of capability reinforcing programs.

In addition, the bodies agreed to work actively for the systematic prevention of accidents involving foreign workers with the assistance of expert instructors and interpreters by conducting circuit education for local manufacturing and construction workplaces where foreign workers are clustered.

"With the number of new foreign workers expected to increase following the adoption of the Foreign Worker Employment Permit System, special care is required for the prevention of accidents at industrial sites for foreign workers. The agreement between the two bodies on occupational safety programs will enable the systematic prevention and management of accidents for foreign workers," KOSHA President Park, Kil-Sang explained.

According to KOSHA, a total of 9,861 foreign workers have figured in occupational accidents for the past 4 years as of 2005, with 290 of them dead.



(February 14, 2007)

- MOL to promote GHS actively - MOL, KOSHA give demonstration and establish information system

The Ministry of Labor (MOL) will promote Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) at workplaces.

In a recent announcement, the Ministry revealed plans of meeting with personnel concerned in chemical industries and experts in agencies concerned to support the early establishment of the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) with GHS adoption.

KOSHA.NET, KOSHA's information service network, is currently being flooded with requests for information on the new MSDS. To meet the demand of workplaces, MOL is going to launch PR activities quickly to avoid confusion in 2008 when the GHS will be applied in full-scale.

Presentations will first be held at the MOL Headquarters, Regional Labor Office and KOSHA for the month of March to report the details of the classification and labeling of chemicals as well as on how to fill out the form revised last December

The Ministry also plans to come up with detailed instructions on the classification of chemicals and preparation of MSDS by the first half and establish an information system for the classification of potentially hazardous chemicals through KOSHA.

The information system shall be provided in the form of a software program wherein the classification can be sorted by simply entering the name of the material.

MOL also promised to offer guidance to workplaces on how to apply the revised criteria for notices during their supervision and inspection.

(January 24, 2007)

- KOSHA Launches GLOBAL Safety and Health Newsletter - Distributed by KOSHA monthly through its website and email

Following its publication of the weekly Trend in International Safety and Health at work last year, the Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency launches the GLOBAL Safety and Health Newsletter in February. The newsletter ? which will be posted at KOSHA ´s website and sent via email ? is intended to provide more diverse and specific information on safety and health. With its maiden issue coming out in 2006, the weekly Trend in International Safety and Health at work seeks to enable safety and health personnel at domestic workplaces to respond to the rapidly changing international environment, international trend in reinforcing regulations on occupational safety and health, requirement of common standards, and emergence of new risks in a prompt and effective manner. On the other hand, to satisfy the changing readership demands, KOSHA comes out with the monthly GLOBAL Safety and Health Newsletter, adding new materials such as overseas information in the relevant areas of specific business departments as well as the latest technical data.

The maiden issue of the newsletter contains in-depth professional information on major safety and health policies, trend in technological development, and cooperation and exchange activities at the relevant international organizations and developed countries as well as brief news on outstanding activities in various nations, recently published information on safety and health, and introduction of useful websites. A 2-month schedule of international events is also included particularly the status of preparations for the 18th World Congress on Safety and Health at Work and international cooperation activities for the Congress. The sources of the articles featured in the newsletter are indicated including their websites to enable readers in various special areas to get more in-depth information as necessary while reading the articles.

On the other hand, to monitor the newsletter subscribers´ use of information on the trend in international occupational safety and health and their satisfaction, KOSHA ´s International Cooperation Department is providing information support service by answering requests for information on the relevant articles via fax and email. Such efforts are in keeping with KOSHA ´s plans to improve the newsletter continuously by reflecting the responses of the users of the information to help safety and health personnel in Korea in a more substantial manner.

(February 5, 2007)

- Center for Chemicals Safety and Health accredited as internationally certified test agency - Can test on 13 international test standards and 8 test items

Center for Chemicals Safety and Health of KOSHA ´s Occupational Safety and Health Research Institute (OSHRI) said on 20 February that it has recently been accredited as an internationally certified test agency in the area of chemical tests by the Korea Laboratory Accreditation Scheme

(KOLAS) of the Korean Agency for Technology and Standards (ATS), an agency under the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Energy (MOCIE). With the accreditation, the Center can now test on the 6 test standards set by European Normal Standard (EN) and Korean Industrial Standard (KS); thus bringing the total to 13 international test standards including the 7 standards under the accreditation by the Japanese Industrial Standard (JIS), Deutsche Industrie-Normenda (DIN), and standard of American Society of Testing Materials (ASTM). The test items have also been expanded to include flash point, vapor pressure, boiling point, particle size, viscosity, and kinematic viscosity in addition to melting point and specific gravity.

This additional accreditation by KOLAS is expected to enable factories manufacturing chemicals to analyze not only the physical and chemical characteristics but also the fire and explosive characteristics of the materials and to allow the relevant chemical materials to be handled safely.

The test data can also be used for the preparation of the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) required by the Industrial Safety and Health Act.

(February 21, 2007)

- **KOSHA awards letters of appointment to 105 interpreters - Strengthens safety education for foreign workers**

KOSHA awarded letters of appointment to 105 interpreters who would be working at the safety education classes for foreign workers in simple ceremonies on 2 March at the Agency's Seoul Regional Office in Daebang-dong, Dongjak-gu, Seoul.

The interpreters can speak 15 languages including Chinese and Thai. Interpretation services shall be provided during the circuit education for foreigners in places where they are clustered and during visiting safety education using the Agency's bus.

According to KOSHA, a total of 9,861 foreign workers have figured in occupational accidents for the past 4 years, with 290 of them dead.

On 13 February, KOSHA concluded an agreement with the Korea International Labor Foundation (KOILAF) regarding the cooperation on the safety education for foreign workers.



(March 5, 2007)

- **OSH Statistics**

- MOL to Conduct Nationwide Industrial Accident Statistics Sample Survey - Data and suggestion from 2,300 workplaces in manufacturing and construction industries

he Ministry of Labor (MOL) is set to conduct an industrial accident statistics sample survey for workplaces nationwide.

MOL decided to carry out the 2nd sample survey for the improvement of the system of statistics on industrial accident from February to May, targeting a total of 2,300 workplaces including 1,797 manufacturers whose number of workers range from 300 to 900 as well as the headquarters of 503 construction companies ranked 500 or higher in the evaluation of construction abilities.

The survey is being conducted to replace the existing method of counting the volume of industrial accident using a sample survey. Compared with the survey conducted on some workplaces in Incheon last year, this survey has an expanded scope to reduce the problems associated with sample surveys and reflect the realities of the workplaces. The sampled workplaces are expected to record only the accidents requiring shutdown for more than a day and work-related diseases treated with first aid, with MOL collecting and tallying the data twice and comparing them with the number of the medical treatment by Health Insurance as well as by Industrial Accident Compensation Insurance approved during the same period in the Korea Labor Welfare Corporation . According to MOL, the comparison process is intended to verify the accuracy of the records on industrial accidents.

In addition, the sampled workplaces will be asked whether the plan to change the method of collecting statistics on industrial accidents into a sample survey is reasonable. The results shall then be used for the preparation of an improved method by the second half of this year.

MOL is scheduled to hold a presentation for the Labor Inspectors of Regional Labor Office and KOSHA Regional Office on 18 January and another one for the sampled workplaces on 22 January. Manuals on how to fill out the register of industrial accidents shall be distributed.
(January 17, 2007)

- **Update in KOREA**

- **MOL beefs up inspection on top 20 operations with frequent fatal accidents**

- **Regional Labor Offices identify vulnerable workplaces**

he Ministry of Labor (MOL) has beefed up inspection on the 20 major death-causing operations to minimize the incidence of fatal accidents in the construction industry.

In a recent announcement, MOL revealed plans of focusing on the inspection of 20 operations that frequently cause fatal accidents mostly in small construction sites with construction budget of less than KRW2 billion (about USD2.2 million).

As an important factor believed to increase the number of accidents, the employment of unskilled workers and the aged at small construction sites is currently on the rise.

Regional Labor Offices shall set up inspection plans according to the current state of workplaces in their jurisdiction vulnerable to fatal accidents and shall conduct inspections from February to October.

Items included in the 20 major operations causing fatal accidents will be reviewed as well. MOL shall analyze cases of fatal accidents occurring in 2005 and 2006 and supplement the details by adjusting the ranking of the items, adding or deleting ones and shall notify the Regional Labor Offices of such changes in February.

Aside from the inspection, MOL is set to promote the "High-Five Movement," which seeks to encourage workplaces to focus on the management of 5 dangerous works by self-selecting from the 20 major operations with frequent fatal accidents.

(January 19, 2007)

- **Long-term measures for EU's REACH System reviewed**

- **MOL holds TF meeting to discuss revision of MSDS, etc.**

The long-term measures for the REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorization, and Restriction of Chemicals) system to be implemented by EU this June were reviewed.

On 18 January, MOL held the joint government TF meeting for the improvement of the information transmission system for chemicals. With the representatives of 6 government departments including the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Government Administration and Home Affairs, and National Emergency Management Agency as well as 7 institutes including KOSHA participating, the meeting tackled the direction of revision of the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) in case the REACH legislations are introduced in Korea.

Under the REACH system, the manufacturer or importer of a chemical is held responsible for the

verification of the hazard of the material. The assessment data for 53 items including oral toxicity and mutagenicity must also be included in the MSDS. At 53, the number of required items is more than double that of the required items in the current MSDS. The TF also discussed issues such as the overall revision of MSDS from the long-term viewpoint.

More discussions on the issue of whether MSDS should be expanded to general consumers seem to be necessary. If MSDS is to be provided for finished products instead of individual chemical products, a scenario of the exposure will have to be prepared until the chemical material is exposed. At this point, however, the details have yet to be threshed out.

The Ministry of Environment seems to be carrying on with its own activities, launching a "Nationwide Round Seminar on REACH" on 22 January; thus triggering worries of possible confusion over the discussion at the TF.

"You may think that there is still time before the full-scale application of REACH begins, but unified measures need to be prepared by the TF in advance," an official at MOL stressed.

(January 23, 2007)

- Disaster and Safety Management Basic Act Amended

- MOGAHA further reinforces function of national disaster management

he Disasters and Safety Management Basic Act has been amended.

The Ministry of Government Administration and Home Affairs (MOGAHA) announced on January 30 that it revised the "Disasters and Safety Management Basic Act," which contains instructions on prompt preventive measures and effective management of disasters, to reinforce the function of national disaster management and protect the national infrastructure more effectively and minimize damage due to the spread of epidemics in the process.

Major contents of the proposal include the designation of personnel and equipment as national infrastructure to be used for first aid according to priority and importance in the entire national system and improvement in the process of declaring an emergency in case of disaster, among others.

With the amendment of the Act, casualties and property losses are expected to be minimized during disasters by declaring a state of emergency in advance; prompt actions can also be taken in response to major disasters by operating a joint inspection team for effective disaster management.

In addition, capabilities related to effective disaster prevention shall be reinforced. The international image of Korea is also expected to be given a big boost by the appointment of the Minister of MOGAHA as the person responsible for the prevention and management of disasters related to national infrastructure, education, and PR. As follow-up measures, MOGAHA shall "decide the criteria for the designation of national infrastructure and objects for selection and prepare the standards for the accounting of the resources to be protected." The ministry plans to implement the amended Act by late July.

(February 1, 2007)

- Project proponents to undergo asbestos inspection when dismantling buildings

- MOL demands data on material analysis and work sheet

From now on, project proponents must undergo asbestos inspection when dismantling buildings by keeping all documents from the records of analysis of asbestos material to the work sheets.

The Ministry of Labor announced last 5 February the revised Regulation for Occupational Health Standard and added that new Regulations shall be applied to the dismantling operations or removal of asbestos following such announcement.

When dismantling or removing facilities or buildings, the employer must check for asbestos content by referring to the history of the construction materials or by performing components analysis.

If a material is found to contain asbestos, its kind, location, and scope must be recorded and stored pending the completion of the dismantling or removal of facilities or buildings.

Once asbestos is removed completely, the procedures and methods of operation, scattering prevention, and methods of disposal and work sheet together with measures to protect workers must be prepared and announced to the workers.

Regulations on personal protective equipment and hygiene facilities have also been adopted recently. When assigning workers to dismantling operations and removal of asbestos, the employer must distribute dust respirator, air-supplied respirator, protective goggles, and protective clothing and boots. The used protective equipment must then be taken off in a changing room connected to the workplace and stored in an airtight container.

MOL expects such measures to protect workers from the continually increasing dangers associated with dismantling operations and asbestos removal and to improve compliance with the law by both employers and workers.

(February 6, 2007)

- Presentations held nationwide before the launch of REACH

- MOL, MOCIE, KOSHA deliver information and explain about the assistance

Presentations held for companies that export, manufacture, or use chemicals in preparation for EU's REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorization, and Restriction of Chemicals) system scheduled to take effect in June this year.

The Ministry of Labor (MOL) and KOSHA said on 12 March that they would be holding presentation meetings on REACH by touring 6 cities on 12~30 March in cooperation with the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Energy (MOCIE).

Under the REACH system, companies intending to export chemicals in volumes of 1 ton or more per year are required to register data including their names and export quantity with the EU Chemicals Agency through the local importer or agent.

As such, MOL and KOSHA will give hazard information required for registration including toxicity, classification and labeling, and MSDS. On the other hand, MOCIE will explain about the assistance

to be given to companies in accordance with the implementation of the REACH regulations during the presentation meeting.

The local presentations commenced on 12 March in Seoul at the conference room of FKI building, followed by those to be held at the auditorium of KOSHA, Incheon on 13 March, Daedeok Hall in Jeong Shim-hwa International Cultural Center of Chungnam University on 15 March, Eulsukdo Cultural Center in Busan on 28 March, Seo-gu Cultural Center in Daegu on 29 March, and Gwangju Chamber of Commerce on 30 March.

"We shall provide domestic companies with comprehensive support to enable them to adjust well to the new system and prevent them from being placed at a disadvantage once the strengthened international regulations for chemicals are in place," said Kim, Dong-nam, Director of the Industrial Safety and Health Bureau at MOL.

(March 13, 2007)

- MOL strengthens policies on safety and health PR - Plans PR drive all-year round using mass media

As one of its major projects this year, the Ministry of Labor (MOL) is strengthening various policies related to the PR on safety and health.

The Ministry announced on 13 March that it agreed with Seoul Daily to proceed with a joint campaign all-year round to "create accident-free workplaces." During the campaign period, the two parties shall cooperate actively by special features series, advertising programs to prevent occupational accidents, and scouting for best practice of occupational accident prevention.

This is the 3rd in a series of PR strategies using the mass media. Mr. Bae, Han-seong, a popular voice actor, was appointed last year as PR ambassador for occupational safety and health, appearing in the various events held by MOL and KOSHA as well as in PR materials. An electric light board also started to be operated early this year. Such measures are intended to deliver information on safety and health through various channels to foster a sound safety culture nationwide and prevent occupational accidents. In particular, they attempt to expand the base before the Occupational Safety and Health Week in July and the 18th World Congress on Safety and Health at Work slated to be held in 2008.

"I think it is important for the government as well as agencies engaged in the prevention of accidents and mass media to take the lead in campaigns to expand the safety culture throughout the nation," MOL Minister Lee, Sang-Soo said.

MOL is planning to develop specialized PR contents for different classes through consultations during meetings with KOSHA such as the meeting for innovative PR.

(March 14, 2007)

- NEMA drafts "Safety Culture Promotion Act"
 - NEMA to push for enactment following discussions with departments concerned

The National Emergency Management Agency (Administrator; Moon, Won-kyong) revealed on 12 March that it has drafted the "Act on the Promotion of Safety Culture" to foster a sound safety culture among the people. It is currently in the process of collecting inputs from the government departments concerned. Discussed by a working group since August last year, the Act is believed to be necessary given the frequent occurrence of accidents due to the people's "indifference to safety" and insufficient PR and education activities. In particular, the establishment of the Safety Culture Promotion and Management Committee and Safety Culture Promotion Foundation is included in the draft bill, which seeks to reinvigorate the safety culture and improve the lack of awareness of the people regarding safety. The organization will mainly be supported to establish a civil network. "It is very unfortunate that accidents occur frequently these days due to the lack of awareness of people. We shall do our best until the new Act on the Promotion of Safety Culture is presented to the National Assembly after the necessary inputs are collected. We expect the support for the improvement of awareness and mindset of the people regarding safety to increase in the future once the Act is passed," a source at NEMA's Safety Culture Support Team said. (March 16, 2007)

- Special comprehensive measures for asbestos control to be taken in subway stations
- Seoul Metro cares for health of subway passengers, seeks to eliminate their anxiety

Comprehensive measures shall be implemented to control asbestos for the safety of citizens who use the subway and employees of Seoul Metro. Seoul Metro announced on 15 March that it would be implementing special measures to manage asbestos beginning March by appointing stations where the use of asbestos was confirmed as stations for special management and through the application of a foolproof manual for air conditioning, fireproofing, and construction work. The special measures for controlling asbestos are designed to complement the existing asbestos management system and ease the anxiety of people after the labor union of Seoul Metro and some NGOs alleged that the subway of Seoul Metro is not controlling asbestos satisfactorily. Major steps toward reinforcement include: total reinspection of inclusion of asbestos as raw material in all stations; preparation of a list of materials with asbestos in the stations; measurement of the asbestos concentration more than once a year, and; application of the standard operating procedure (SOP) during the air conditioning and fireproofing work and change of facilities. In addition, to increase the transparency and reliability of asbestos control, the labor and management of Seoul Metro, NGOs, academe, and journalists will participate in the management of subway facilities; the measures will then be announced immediately to people through various means including the website of KOSHA, Hi-Seoul News, and bulletin board at subway stations. With Seoul Metro beginning to implement much more reinforced composite measures, passengers' fear of the subway asbestos is expected to be eased.

(March 16, 2007)

- **Update in KOSHA**

- Center for Interactive Construction Safety Education Opened in Pangyo - MOL, KOSHA prepare 21 facilities simulating actual sites

The Center for Interactive Construction Safety Education opened in New Pangyo City.

MOL and KOSHA held a ceremony on 18 January to commemorate the completion of the Center.

Personnel concerned at the Seongnam Regional Labor Office, Seongnam City, Korea Land Corporation, and Korea National Housing Corporation as well as the representatives of the contracting parties including Poong Lim Industrial Co., Ltd participated the event.

Built on a 2,079? area right at the center of New Pangyo City, the interactive education center houses 21 facilities that reproduce the actual scenarios at construction sites such as falls, walking on high railings, and climbing ladders.

Each floor of the center offers different experiences; in the ground floor, one can experience being in temporarily constructed ramps and openings. The 2nd floor offers the experience of bad passage and safe stairs, and the 3rd floor, that of anti-fall net and practice of first aid.

Most construction workers work outdoors; thus, they are always exposed to the risk of accidents.

According to data from MOL, a total of 509 workers have been killed at construction sites as of October 2006.

With its vivid simulations of the realities at construction sites where serious accidents often occur, the Center is expected to be able to warn workers effectively regarding industrial accidents.

KOSHA is planning to conduct training all-year round by opening the center to general managers of construction sites, supervisors, safety managers, and ordinary workers in New Pangyo City.

(January 18, 2007)

- KOSHA publicly invites excellent films on occupational safety and health - Seeks to promote interest and participation in safety and health in the country

KOSHA announced on 22 January that it was publicly inviting excellent films on occupational safety and health to attract people's interest and encourage participation in safety and health as well as foster a sound safety culture in industrial sites.

Films that are original creations and deemed to help to prevent accidents at industrial sites and spreading safety and health awareness are welcome regardless of the genre ? news, drama, documentary, animation, video art, etc.

Applications are accepted from 22 January to 18 May. The competition is open to all Koreans.

At stake are KRW 3 million for the grand prize, KRW 2 million for the 1st runner-up, KRW 1 million for the 2nd~4th runners-up, and KRW 500,000 as consolation prize (4 winners).

Individuals and organizations wishing to participate in the event may download the application form and apply at KOSHA's website (www.kosha.or.kr).

(January 23, 2007)

- Seminar on Development of Integrated SHE&Q Management Model Held - KOSHA shares overseas information with participants through subject presentation and discussion

To share overseas information pending the final decision regarding the model for the integrated management of safety, health, environment, and quality (SHE&Q) in September this year, KOSHA held a technological seminar on the development of the integrated SHE&Q management model at its headquarters last February 5. Mr. Robbert Plarina, a member of the OECD Working Group on Chemical Accidents, was invited to the seminar as well as more than 20 experts working in the government, academe, workplaces, and KOSHA.

During the seminar, Mr. Plarina, who is also an expert in the prevention of chemical accidents, made presentations on 4 topics including the status of an integrated SHE&Q management in the Netherlands. Discussions then ensued among the participants regarding the overseas technological trends in the integrated SHE&Q management.

Commencing in 2004, the SHE&Q model development project was adopted in the plenary session of the OECD Working Group on Chemical Accidents (WGCA) in 2003. The project is expected to be finalized after the meeting in Seoul this September.

(February 6, 2007)

- Result of design inspection to be sent via SMS (Short Message Service) - KOSHA improves process of inspection service for customers "Value of Safety: Safe Workplace, Healthy Society, and Me" Selected as Theme for the 2007 Occupational Safety Week

Now, you can get the result of the design inspection through your mobile phone via SMS. KOSHA announced on 12 February that it would improve the process of inspection by coming up with measures including the delivery of custom-made, on-site technical data by a fax server through wireless Internet beginning March. The schedule of inspection will also be sent automatically through the Internet before the date of the regular inspection, and the result of the design inspection, released via SMS and email.

A 2-day workshop is currently being held from 12 to 13 February at the training center of the Korea Securities Training Institute (KSTI) in Asan City, Chungnam Province. Staff members in Regional Offices and Area Offices are participating in the workshop, which seeks to achieve the goal in accident prevention through the effective inspection of dangerous machines.

During the session on 12 February, Director General for Technology Lee, Woo-bong gave a special lecture and asked participants to satisfy customers through professionalism, integrity, and kindness while performing inspection work. Presentations and discussions on the measures to improve efficiency and ensure safety for different types of machinery and international trends in inspection technologies then ensued.

(February 13, 2007)

- "Value of Safety: Safe Workplace, Healthy Society, and Me" Selected as Theme for the 2007 Occupational Safety Week

"Value of Safety: Safe Workplace, Healthy Society, and Me" has been selected as the theme for the 2007 Occupational Safety and Health Week.

According to the Ministry of Labor and KOSHA, a total of 484 applications were received in the contest for the theme of the 40th Occupational Safety and Health Week. The 6 winning entries include Park, Hee-cheol's "Value of Safety: Safe Workplace, Healthy Society, and Me," which was named most excellent work, and Kim, Hyeon-jeong's "Sympathy with Safety, Coexistence of Labor and Management" and Kim Jeong-yong's "Occupational Safety and Health: the Power of Win-Win Labor and Management", which were selected as runners-up.

Consolation prizes were awarded to Kang, Seong-min's "A New Beginning of Safety, Rediscovery of its Value," Cho, Dong-yeol's "Investment and Action for a Safe Future, and Shin, Baek-woo's "Creation of New Value : Occupational Safety and Health."

The winning entries will be used as themes for the events of the 40th Occupational Safety and Health Week to be held at COEX beginning July 2.

(February 22, 2007)

- 1st Local Occupational Health Center opens amid high expectations - MOL, KOSHA hold opening ceremony on March 7; Center envisioned as health center for small and medium-sized workplaces

The first Local Occupational Health Center finally opened amid expectations that it would serve as a dedicated health center for small and medium-sized workplaces.

The Ministry of Labor and KOSHA held an opening ceremony for the first Local Occupational Health Center on 7 March at the KOFOMO Techno Center at the Banwol-Sihwa Industrial Complex, Siheung City, Gyeonggi-do Province.

Constructed as part of the strategy of investing in health as one of the government's agenda for its National Vision 2030, the Local Occupational Health Center will support the health promotion activities of workers such as health counseling, simple check-up, precise measurement of physical strength, and exercise prescription as well as offer education on safety and health and consulting. The Center is open from 7 am to 9 pm; individuals and workplaces can submit offline applications for collective management or personal attendance.

MOL plans to build at least 6 additional Local Occupational Health Centers in major industrial complexes by investing KRW 25 billion (approximately USD 28 million) after evaluating the impact of the 1st Center and foster them as central organizations for local occupational health in the long run.

"The Local Occupational Health Center is expected to contribute to the improvement of health of workers of small local workplaces and who were paid less attention compared with those working for large companies," said Kim Dong-nam, Director of the Industrial Safety and Health Bureau at MOL.



(March 7, 2007)

- **New OSH Materials**

- MOL, KOSHA publishes Encyclopedia of Construction Safety KOSHA to distribute 20,000 copies of 4 kinds of animation CDs for safety education - Copies to be sent for free to those who apply at the WiSH site in February



The Ministry of Labor and KOSHA have announced on 4 January the publication of an encyclopedia of construction safety titled **Risk Assessment Model in Various Construction Work Types**, a collection of technical materials on safe work at construction sites. According to them, copies of the books shall be distributed to construction sites.

△ Is there fall risk while working on a "Remicon" (ready-mixed concrete) truck?

△ When setting up the pump car boom, are protective measure and sufficient distance from nearby high-voltage line ensured?

△ Are there safety measures for openings and ends of the slab at concrete placing?

△ Do the workers engaged in concrete placing wear safety helmets, protective gloves, and safety boots?

The "Encyclopedia of Construction Safety" has been published to encourage checking the

abovementioned risk factors and provide solutions.

The book also indicates the risk grade and essential items for inspection in 171 kinds of specific work types by analyzing the patterns of more than 18,000 accidents in construction sites. In particular, explanations on the potential risk at construction sites and items for inspection are presented together with simple illustrations to enable easy understanding by novices and unskilled workers. A safety checklist is also included to enable self-evaluation by measuring the risk factors and risk grade at the actual site.

"We plan to exempt large construction sites from various safety guidance inspections provided they implement self-regulatory safety management using this publication. Another risk assessment model for the manufacturing industry is also scheduled to be published by the end of this year," said Kim, Dong-nam, director of the Industrial Safety and Health Bureau at MOL.

For inquiries regarding the book Risk Assessment Model in the Construction Industry, visit KOSHA's website at www.kosha.or.kr or call the Construction Safety Department at tel. 032-510-0628.

(January 4, 2007)

- Korean Fire Protection Association releases NFPA Building Construction and Safety Code

KOSHA will distribute 20,000 copies of 4 kinds of Flash animation CDs as education material for safety and health. In particular, CDs will be sent for free beginning early February to those applying at the website of (<http://wish.kosha.net>) WiSH, the webzine for occupational safety and health. Highly popular in workplaces, more than 20 animations have been developed by KOSHA each year since 2003 for safety education purposes and provided through WiSH, the website intended for the provision of safety and health information. The 3-minute education materials come in CD form and detail the process of occurrence of an accident as well as the causes and countermeasures in case of a major accident in the workplace.

A female detective named "Q" is featured as the main character in the animations to soften the "hard issue" of occupational safety and health. Q discovers the causes and countermeasures of accidents in a logical manner and stimulates the interest not only of personnel concerned at workplaces but ordinary people and even the youth as well. Owing to the immense popularity of the animation contents, the website was designated as one of the recommended websites for the youth by the Korea Internet Safety Commission (KISCOM) last June.

The animation collection CDs to be distributed this time include 70 Flash animations featuring cases of major accidents ("Disaster Center 24 Hours") as provided through WiSH since 2003 and 4 children's stories on safety produced in 2006. The animations were produced separately for the manufacturing industry and construction industry for convenience of use for safety education purposes considering the characteristics of each industry.

As another product of the WiSH site, the children's story on safety stresses the importance of safety by appealing to the emotions. To date, 4 stories have been developed every year. Conveying the strong message that accidents can happen to anyone if safety measures are neglected, the animations are intended to share with the viewers various episodes in day-to-day living particularly how the families of victims of occupational accidents suffer and overcome such difficulties. As effective education materials, the animations are earning raves among occupational safety and health experts.

**The 74 video materials contained in the CDs may also be downloaded at the WiSH website.
(February 1, 2007)**

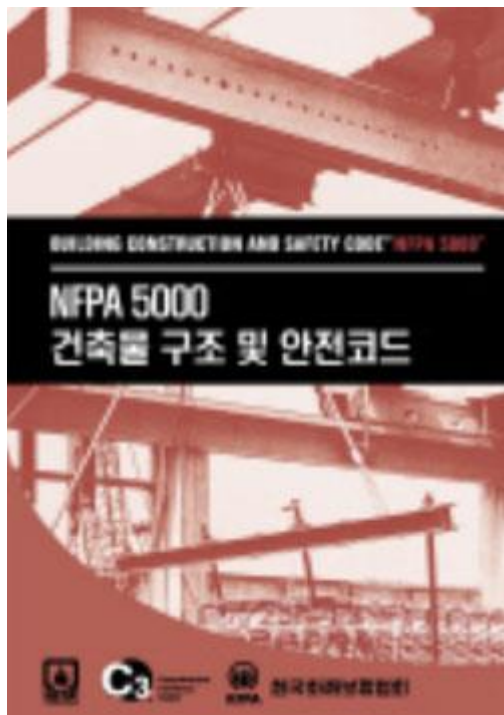
- **KOSHA translates 3 books on superior cases of accident prevention compiled by EASHW - Disseminates know-how on EU's excellent safety companies to Korea**

The Korean Fire Protection Association (KFPA) announced on 5 February that it published a Korean version of the NFPA Building Construction and Safety Code listing the basic theoretical technologies for construction engineering and practical data.

Made considering the high-rise modern buildings and increasing importance of the interior environment, the codes are the final authoritative edition of NFPA, which has been developing codes and criteria related to the architectural environment for more than 100 years.

The major contents of the book include performance-based design options, classification of occupancies and commodities, construction types, fire-resistive materials and construction, interior finish, means of egress, accessibility, construction material and interior environment. A section on flood resistant construction is also presented in the annex.

"The book will be very useful for executing agencies, academe, experts in disaster prevention, and those concerned with fire prevention and design and construction of buildings. It is also expected to contribute remarkably to the development of domestic technologies on fire safety engineering and disaster prevention," a source at KFPA said.



(February 6, 2007)

- Gyeonggido Fire Headquarters announces completion of video for foreigners' safety education - Versions in various foreign languages to be released

As part of efforts to disseminate information on the excellent accident prevention activities of companies excelling in safety management, KOSHA announced that it translated and published 3 reference books on cases of accident prevention collected from 2003 to 2005 by the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EASHW) through the Good Practice Awards competition among EU nations.

The 3 cases published this time are the Practical prevention of risks from dangerous substances at work, Building in safety-prevention of risks in construction - in practice, and Prevention of risks from occupational noise in practice. Note that actual application was pursued in 46 workplaces in 18 nations including Sweden, Germany, France, and Austria, with such activities proving to be useful.

The material may be found at KOSHA's website (www.kosha.net). Simply click Occupational Safety & Health DB?Information on international safety and health.

"We hope the case books will be very helpful in the safety and health-related activities at domestic workplaces. We shall continue with various efforts to provide useful information and materials on international safety and health," said Lee, Joon-won, chief of the International Cooperation Team in KOSHA.



(February 13, 2007)

- KOSHA releases maiden issue of monthly Information on the Publication of Instruction Materials - Free instructor's manual on safety education available for downloading on the Internet

The Gyeonggido Fire Headquarters (Head: Choi, Jin-Jong) said on 27 February that it has recently completed an educational video for foreigners to give them instructions on how to report, prevent and cope with various accidents in case of emergency.

Produced from the viewpoint of foreigners to make it very understandable, the video includes vivid demonstrations of reporting and evacuation during fire as well as how to attend to victims. The film is currently available in English, Japanese, and Chinese versions, although versions in other foreign languages will be added soon.

According to the Gyeonggido Fire Headquarters, foreigners working at industrial sites are exposed to the dangers of various accidents and fire. "Although some foreign workers received safety education when they entered Korea, we had difficulties communicating with them due to the language barrier," the agency said. With the video tape, however, the agency expects such language problem to be solved.

"The educational video will be preferentially distributed to all fire stations in the province, foreign embassies, companies hiring foreigners, and Korea Tourism Organization beginning March," a source at the Gyeonggido Fire Headquarters said.



(February 28, 2007)