

2007 Newsletter

HOME > > In Focus > Newsletter > 2007 Newsletter



- **Topics**

- World Congress on Safety and Health at Work and APOSHO Annual Conference to be held simultaneously

World Congress on Safety and Health at Work and The annual conference of the Asia Pacific Occupational Safety and Health Organization(APOSHO), a cooperative organization of safety and health institutions in the Asia-Pacific region, will be held simultaneously in Seoul, Korea next year. The Ministry of Labor (MOL) and KOSHA said on 5 June that the 24th annual conference of APOSHO will be held for 4 days beginning 29 June in Seoul.

During the upcoming APOSHO annual conference, there will be the plenary session and the parallel sessions, during which the presentation of major industrial accidents happening in various countries and the introduction of the recent policy and technology to prevent industrial accidents will be made, the presentation of the activities performed by each institution, poster sessions, and the report of the activities done by the each committees.

As the APOSHO annual conference will be held simultaneously with XVIII World Congress on Safety and Health at Work, the motto of the World Congress (Safety and Health at Work: A Societal Responsibility) will be jointly used and diverse topics such as New Challenges and Opportunities in Occupational Safety and Health and Risk Assessment and Management will be presented. "With the simultaneous holding of the annual conference of APOSHO and World Congress on Safety and Health at Work, we expect Korea to be a true advanced country in industrial safety and health," Jeon, Un-Ki Director of Industrial Safety and Health Bureau, MOL said.

Ten years after hosting the 14th APOSHO annual Conference in 1998, Korea will again be hosting the meeting next year. Approximately 300 people from 22 countries are expected to attend the APOSHO annual meeting.

As the cooperative organization of industrial safety and health-related, non-profit and non-government organizations in the Asia-Pacific region established in 1989, APOSHO now has 33 member organizations from 22 countries worldwide. During the APOSHO Conference, people can exchange their experiences and knowledge on industrial safety and health with experts in other groups to enable them to share knowledge and information on industrial accident prevention; thus enabling APOSHO to contribute to industrial accident prevention.

- ‘Products with more than 0.1% asbestos content’ to be banned completely by 2008

MOL releasing advance administrative notice for the revision

-Standard to be 10 times stricter than the current one

Starting 2008, any material with more than 0.1% asbestos content will be banned completely.

The Ministry of Labor came up with a notice for the enactment of the 'revision of the proclamation on the manufacture, import, transfer, provision, or prohibition related to the use of products containing asbestos' on 2 April and collected opinions until 20 April.

According to the draft of the revision, the manufacture, import, transfer, provision, or use of products with more than 0.1% asbestos content shall be banned completely starting January 2008.

Note, however, that asbestos friction products and asbestos gaskets except those for automobiles will be affected by such provisions beginning 1 January, 2009; the asbestos gaskets for submarines and missiles and asbestos products for the insulation of missiles will not be affected by the new provisions until alternative materials are developed.

The advance administrative notice stipulates much stricter standards in preparation for the total ban. Specifically, asbestos cement with more than 1% asbestos content and used for the roof, ceiling, wall, or floor and asbestos friction products for automobiles was prohibited starting January of this year. The scheduled ban of the cement plate for compression will start in 2008.



The total ban on products with more than 0.1% asbestos content was decided last year. Similar to Japan's case, the standard is 10 times stricter than the current level. The total ban has also been rescheduled to start 1 year earlier than the initially settled timetable MOL repeatedly announced its plans of implementing the total ban on asbestos as early as possible and held meetings with industrial circles to collect opinions.

Although the advance administrative notice needs to be reviewed by stakeholders such as the Korea Employers Federation (KEF), its contents are not expected to change a lot. This is because the notice has already been passed during the meeting of the Occupational Safety and Health

Council attended by government departments concerned, academe, and labor and management organizations.

- Workers dealing with harmful substances to be subject to improved special health examination

Seeks to detect occupational diseases at the early stages through comprehensive health examination

MOL to implement improved special health examination system beginning January 2008

Workers dealing with harmful substances will be subject to improved special health examination at the time of health examination. Occupational physician will explain to workers the health problems caused by the harmful substances they handle and perform the special examination. MOL will come up with improvement measures for workers' medical examination system focusing on these benefits. Specifically, it is planning to revise and implement related regulations such as the implementation regulation of the Industrial Safety and Health Act within this year.

Such improvement measures are currently being prepared considering the opinions of management, labor, and occupational physician to improve the problems of poor medical examination and determine the occupational diseases at the early stage. As one of the short-term improvement measures, the qualification of the doctor who can practice special medical examination should be upgraded such that only occupational physician can perform the examination.

Currently, 4th year residents of industrial medicine, specialists in preventive medicine, general doctors with 4 years' experience in industrial health care, and clinical pathologists with 2 years' experience in industrial health care can also conduct special medical examination. Second, worker has been getting the similar examination regardless of the types of harmful substances they handle. Now, workers can get customized examination based on the types of substances they handle. For example, workers who deal with substances causing lung cancer can get a CT test; workers who deal with substances deemed harmful to the liver can undergo ultrasonography, whereas those who deal with neurotoxin substances can get a nervous system test.



Third, doctors are required to explain the harmfulness of the substances workers deal with when they conduct medical examination for workers. Fourth, the punishment levels are more segmented

such that doctors are punished according to the level of violation in relation to unfair or illegal examination results.

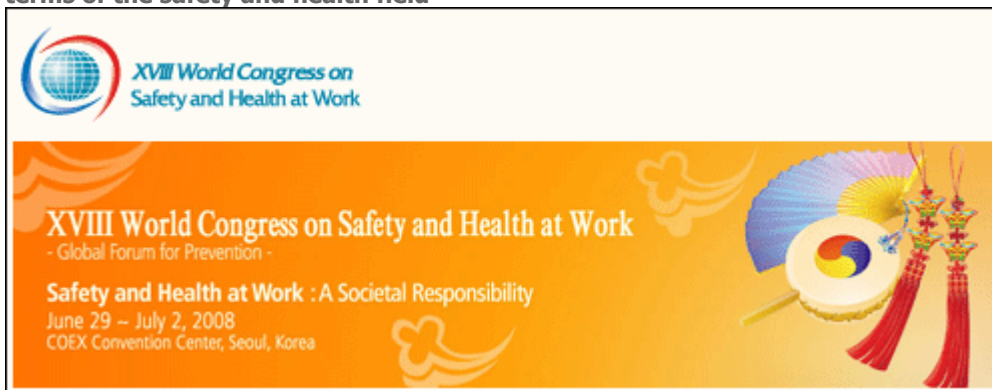
A person who does not have a medical license but performs the examination will be slapped with stricter punishment, with the examination agency concerned ordered to suspend its medical service. As one of the long-term improvement measures, a system wherein the third person pays the cost of medical examination instead of the business owner will be applied gradually.

The benefit coverage will be limited when a doctor misdiagnoses a disease; in this case, however, not only the examination agency but also the doctor will be punished. Currently, only the examination agency is sanctioned in case of a misdiagnosis. Various measures such as the quality management of the examination agency and reasonable selection of medical examination subjects will be considered for reliable medical examination.

- A year to go before XVIII World Congress on Safety and Health at Work

We have a year to go before hosting XVIII World Congress on Safety and Health at Work to be held in COEX Convention Center, Seoul for four days from 29 June to 2 July 2008. KOSHA has prepared the World Congress by launching the planning organization for the congress in January 2006 since it received the approval to host the World Congress from the ILO (International Labour Organization) and the ISSA (International Social Security Association) in September 2005. KOSHA also established the Secretariat for the World Congress on Safety and Health at Work in January 2007, systematically preparing the giant event.

The World Congress on Safety and Health at Work, which has been held every three year since it took place for the first time in Rome, Italy in 1955, is the world's biggest international event in terms of the safety and health field



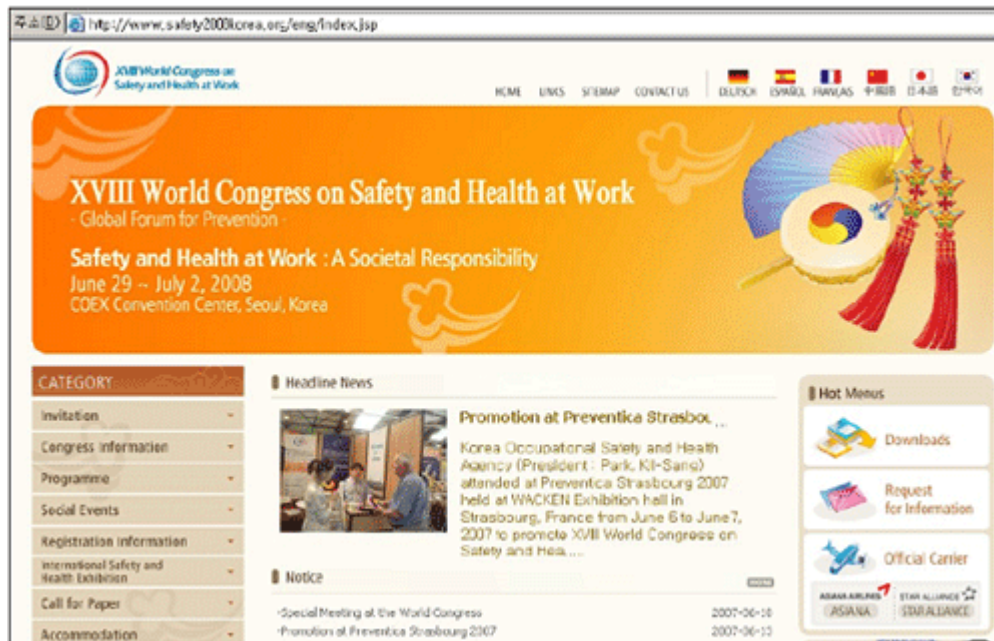
This World Congress in Korea in 2008 is the second one that has ever been held in Asia as India has also hosted it. The World Congress will be a great opportunity for safety and health related decision makers and specialists, those representing workers and business owners, and social security experts to share state-of-the art information and knowledge related to the prevention of the industrial accident each other and to mutually exchange experiences and knowledge regarding the prevention of the industrial accident and occupational diseases.

The history of the World Congress

Year	The 13th (1993)	The 14th(1996)	The 15th (1999)	The 16th(2002)	The 17th(2005)
Place	New Delhi, India	Madrid, Spain	Sao Paulo, Brazil	Wien, Austria	Orlando, USA
Organizer	Indian Safety Association	Labor & Social Safety Dept.	Brazil CIS Center (FUNDACENTRO)	AUVA	NSC
Period	4/4~4/8 (5 days)	4/22~4/26 (5 days)	4/12~4/16 (5 days)	5/26~5/31 (6 days)	9/18~9/22 (5 days)
Participation	50 countries	105 countries	73 countries	77 countries	111 countries
Details	(1,080)	(2,200)	(2,000)	(2,400)	(3,000)

There will be the presentation and discussion session over the 18th World Congress on Safety and Health at Work held next year under the motto of Safety and Health at Work: A Societal Responsibility, which will focus on the four main topics such as Strategies and Programmes of Safety and Health for the Future, Impact of Changes of Working Conditions on Workers' Protection, New Challenges and Opportunities in Occupational Safety and Health, Safety and Health Management Systems. Joint organizers including the ILO, the ISSA and KOSHA have prepared the World Congress by closely cooperating each other in order to provide a practical chance to discuss the recently emerging major issues in relation to safety and health and to come up with the measures to handle the safety and health related problems.

Over the next year's World Congress, especially, Seoul Declaration on Safety and Health at Work will be announced during the safety and health summit for the first time in history after labor ministers around the world, leaders of business corporate, business owners, high-rank representatives at the workers' institutions, and representative specialists in the industrial safety and health area participate in the discussion to exchange each other's opinions about industrial safety and health as human's fundamental rights and a method to develop the economy.



The regional meetings for the discussion of the pending issues related to the safety and health of the five continents including the Americas, Asia-pacific, Europe, Africa, and Arab states and Symposia for the exchange of mutual experiences and opinions regarding the prevention of the industrial and accident occupational diseases will also be held during the World Congress. KOSHA has made every effort to prepare totally new programs for the congress perfectly. The International Film and Multimedia Festival (IFMF), which will be held concurrently with the World Congress, will provide the Congress participants with the opportunity to enjoy the worldwide films and multimedia products regarding safety and health and to release their own products. You can sign up for the registration of the festival now. You can also find out the ways to solve the problems related to safety and health if you visit the International Safety and Health Exhibition showing the global cutting-edge safety and health related machinery and tools, equipment, and technology, which will also be held at the same time during the period of the congress.

KOSHA has held the International Organization Committee (IOC) twice, the National Organization Committee (NOC) three times, and the preparation and support committee 12 times, discussing and fixing the schedule and the operational way of the congress's programs including the Safety and Health Summit, the Plenary Session, the Technical Session, Regional Meetings, and Symposium and of the Opening Ceremony, the Closing Ceremony, the Welcome Reception, and the National Evening for the World Congress. Therefore, the overall timetable for the World Congress has potentially been fixed.

Joint organizers including ILO, ISSA, and KOSHA will issue and distribute the 2nd announcement for the World Congress written in five official languages (English, French, Spanish, German, and Korean), Chinese, and Japanese September this year. Furthermore, KOSHA will make it possible for participants to register, make a reservation for their accommodation, and send Call for Papers through the Internet starting from September this year by reforming the current official homepage

by the end of August.

KOSHA, which decided to host the World Congress in order to make safety and health the nation's most important issue in deciding any policy, to establish the position of the northeastern Asia as the hub of the industrial safety and health and to pave the way for building a good relationship between the labor and management by improving level of the global industrial safety and health, will try its best to host XVIII World Congress on Safety and Health at Work successfully with the strategic aim to prepare good programs, operate the congress to offer the best services, organize the event with the Korean traits mixed, and build the safety-oriented operation system.

- **OSH Administrative Activities**

- MOL ratifies ILO asbestos convention

ILO expects accelerated implementation of policies banning the use of asbestos early

With Ministry of Labor ratifying ILO's Asbestos Convention (No.162, 1986), the International Labour Organization (ILO) expects the implementation of policies such as the early banning of asbestos to be accelerated.



MOL announced on 4 April that it has completed the ratification procedures for the 'ILO Asbestos Convention' at the Office of ILO in Geneva, Switzerland.

Ratified by a total of 29 nations, ILO's Asbestos Convention stipulates the 'total or partial prohibition on asbestos use (Article 10), 'Demolition of asbestos-based buildings by qualified personnel(Article 17), ' and 'The competent authority shall make appropriate arrangements to promote the dissemination of information and the education of all concerned with regard to health hazards due to exposure to asbestos (Article 22).

'Such contents are consistent with the measures of Korea's Ministry of Labor, such as the ban on the use of asbestos cement for construction and asbestos friction materials for automobiles effective this January and expansion of infrastructure such as the designated agency for the analysis of asbestos. The fostering of preinspectors of asbestos is also in the works. The convention will have the same validity as domestic laws within 1 year of its signing. In other words, all activities of workers exposed to asbestos should have been given appropriate measures in addition

to the total ban on asbestos use after 2008.

The Ministry of Labor expects the ratification of the convention to serve as impetus in pursuing policies that prohibit the use of asbestos-based products and expand infrastructure.

"The ratification of ILO's Asbestos Convention at the time when social interest in asbestos has been on the rise was meaningful, reconfirming the will of the government to protect workers' health," said Sung-gi Lee, chief of the International Labor Policy Team at MOL.

- Government countermeasures prepared for EU's REACH system

Passed during the State Council Meeting on 17 April; focus will be on the expansion of infrastructure, etc.

In preparation for EU's REACH (Registration, Evaluation, and Authorization of Chemicals) system, the Korean government has come up with comprehensive countermeasures to support the establishment of infrastructure by industrial circles including the reinforcement of education and PR and improvement in related rules and regulations.

Prepared by 11 ministries of the Korean government including the Ministry of Labor, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Energy, and Ministry of Health and Welfare, such comprehensive countermeasures were passed during the State Council Meeting on 17 April, according to the Ministry of Environment.

The REACH system requires the production and registration of information on the danger of chemicals whose volume is more than 1 ton and chemical material content of the finished goods to be exported by Korean companies to EU countries.

The comprehensive measures focus on increasing the recognition of industrial circles on REACH and preparing the channels to save on the cost of responding to the policy.

Specifically, the government will strengthen education and PR activities including the provision of information and creation of industrial councils, expand related infrastructure, and improve systems. MOL in particular will provide education and consultation centering on information on the danger of the chemical materials required by companies as well as provide assistance in the production of such information by agencies suit Good Laboratory Practice Regulation (GLP) in Korea and revise the relevant regulations such as the Occupational Safety and Health Act to comply with the REACH system. It will also provide support to the assistance center being operated by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Energy.

Although the registration of danger information to be submitted to EU will be implemented gradually from 2008 to 2018, the period of advance registration is from June to November 2008. The government fears that exports to EU countries will become almost impossible if companies do not register during the period.

Meanwhile, the Korean government has conducted meetings for education and seminars in each of its departments since the REACH system took effect in December 2006 to discuss the preparation of

comprehensive countermeasures. The burden on the industrial circles for registration in the REACH system is pegged at approximately KRW 2.5 trillion.

- Ministry of Labor strengthens criteria for the exposure to 86 harmful chemical materials

KOSHA supporting workers in maintaining their safety and health by constantly reflecting the data on risk factors and harmful chemical materials

In response to the lack of criteria for some of the harmful chemical materials handled by workers in workplaces or relatively low standard compared to other foreign countries, the Ministry of Labor (MOL) has strengthened the criteria for exposure to the harmful chemical materials handled by workers in workplaces.

MOL amended the "criteria for the exposure to harmful chemical materials and physical factors" (public notice), and this will take effect from January of next year.

Based on this amended notice, the criteria for a total of 86 chemical materials have either been strengthened or newly categorized as harmful. For toluene in particular, the standard has been made more stringent from the current 100ppm to 50ppm; manganese(dust) from the current 5 mg/?to 1mg/?. Likewise, to support workers in maintaining their health, short term exposure limit (STEL) for 1, 3 butadiene (5ppm) and benzene (25 ppm) has been newly established.

A total of 698 chemical materials are currently designated as harmful. There have been some indications that no periodical amendments have been made since the first establishment of exposure standards of harmful chemical materials in 1986. In response to these requests, the Ministry of Labor came out with new criteria after observing the accumulated data on factors deemed harmful to health, amendments made in other countries, quantity of chemical material used in domestic workplaces, and actual occurrences of occupational accidents.

"We hope such amended criteria will help improve the working environment and consequently reduce the number of patients afflicted with occupational diseases caused by harmful chemical materials. We will continuously refer to new data on harmful risk factors and make further amendments in the exposure criteria. This will definitely help and support workers in maintaining their safety and health," said Jeon, Un-Ki , Director of Industrial Safety and Health Bureau.

- KLWC holds forum for labor attaches of foreign embassies

The Korea Labor Welfare Corporation (president: Won-bae Kim) held a forum last May 31 at the JW Marriott Hotel. A total of 15 labor attaches from 10 foreign embassies dispatching workers to Korea were invited.

Since 2004, KLWC has been holding the forum in cooperation with the labor attache of foreign embassies every year. For this year's forum, KLWC gave a lecture on the claim procedure for medical care and compensation based on the industrial accident insurance as well as how to fill out the application form requested by the foreign attache. The lecture was intended to enable the foreign

attache to handle cases when migrant workers ask for direct help from the embassies.

During the forum, President Won-bae Kim anticipated the number of occupational accidents involving migrant workers to increase alongside the increasing number of countries implementing the Employment Permit System (EPS). "Therefore, the lecture can help build trust between countries and livelihood settlement of industrial accident victims through immediate and appropriate compensation," he said.

Meanwhile, a total of 4,936 migrant workers were awarded approximately KRW 67 billion in compensation by the industrial accident insurance.

- MOL, Public Prosecutor's Office to perform joint inspection of 1,200 enterprises vulnerable to industrial accidents in June.

MOL announced that it would investigate 1,200 enterprises comprehensively in cooperation with the Public Prosecutor's Office in June particularly whether enterprises observe the Industrial Safety and Health Act. Construction sites where various risk factors occur during rainy seasons such as inundation or collapse are the targets for investigation, including enterprises recording frequent industrial accidents due to poor prevention, construction sites where various risk factors occur during the rainy season, and non-environmentally-friendly enterprises dealing with harmful sub-stances such as asbestos.

Through such joint investigation, the comprehensive safety and health management method in enterprises will be checked particularly the welding and collapse prevention measures for timbering will be focused on, which recently captured the attention of society.

After the investigation, enterprises committing major violations of the law will be subject to judicial proceedings; enterprises that are highly vulnerable to industrial accidents will be ordered to discontinue their business. On the other hand, MOL may allow enterprises that are vulnerable to industrial accidents due to financial and technological barriers to securing fundamental safety and health systems but wish to improve their working conditions through financial and technological support.

Since starting the investigation in cooperation with the Public Prosecutor's Office at the end of 2003, MOL has found out 95% of enterprises violating the Occupational Safety and Health Act and imposed strict administrative and judicial sanctions to enhance the awareness of enterprises regarding safety.

"This joint investigation will be conducted focusing on whether enterprises employing 50 workers or less observe safety and health-related regulations. Through such comprehensive investigation, MOL would like to contribute to the prevention of industrial accidents," Jeon, Un-Ki Director of Industrial Safety and Health Bureau, MOL said.



- **Statistics**

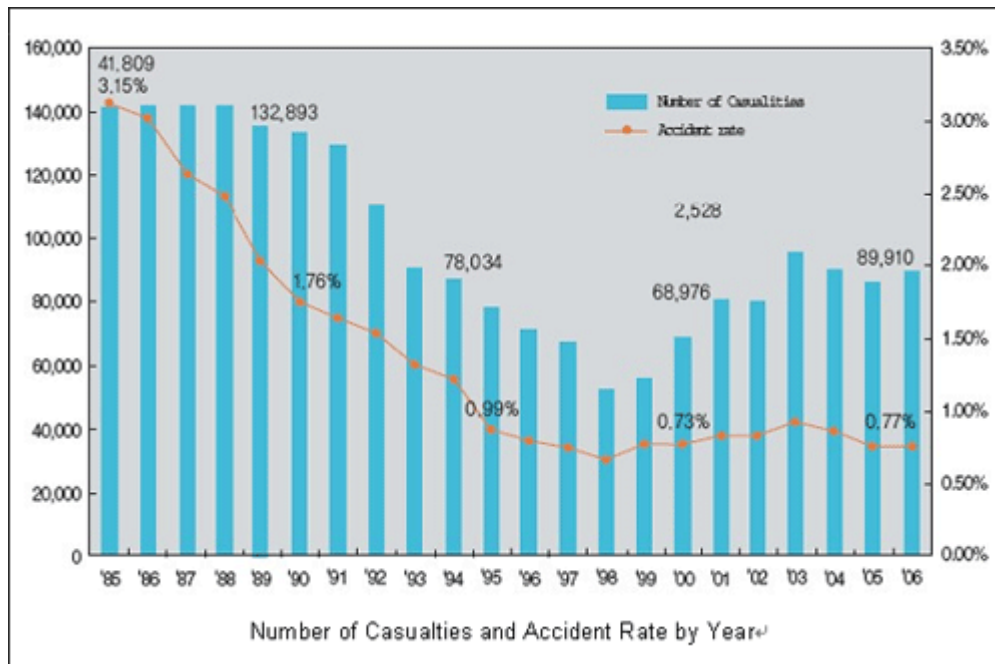
- Accident victims up by 4,500, accident rate at 0.77%

2006 statistics on occupational accidents released by MOL

The number of victims of industrial accidents increased by 4,500 according to the statistics on industrial accidents released recently by the Ministry of Labor (MOL). MOL reported 89,911 victims of industrial accidents or an increase of 4,500 (5.3%) compared to the previous year. The accident rate stood at 0.77%, which was the same as that in 2005. The number of deaths decreased by 39 to 2,454 compared to 2005.

As a result, the fatalities per 10,000 persons decreased by 0.15P to 2.10. Among the workers suffering from occupational accidents, 79,676 persons experienced occupational accidents and 10,235 persons contracted occupational diseases. Those who died due to occupational accidents and occupational diseases numbered 1,333 and 1,121, respectively.

Whereas the number of deaths caused by occupational accidents decreased by 65, the number of deaths caused by occupational diseases increased by 26. By type of accident, the 5 conventional accidents -jamming, overturning, falling, collision, and falling and flying object - accounted for 78.9% of accidental accidents. In fact, victim to accidents of such types increased by 4,160. By size of workplace, 73.5% of the industrial accidents occurred at workplaces employing less than 50 workers. This represents an increase of 3.6%P compared to 2005. Finally, economic loss due to industrial accidents increased by 4.56% to KRW 15.82 trillion compared to 2005.



- **Update in KOSHA**

- Agreement on "Accident-free workplace" inked14| KOSHA and HSHI inking an agreement for the use of visual contents in virtual experience education on safety

KOSHA inked an agreement with MOL and Seoul Daily News last 14 March to cooperate closely on the "accident-free workplace" joint campaign at the Ministry of Labor. Labor Minister Lee, Sang-soo, KOSHA President Park Kil-sang and Seoul Daily News President Roh Jin-hwan attended the signing ceremony for the MOU, which stipulates the prevention of industrial accidents through the joint efforts of the three agencies specifically by securing workers' safety and health at the work-place, establishment of safety culture, and enhancement of awareness on safety. More specifically, they will introduce and promote the industrial safety and health policy and search for best practice cases of industrial accident prevention in "accident-free workplaces." According to Labor Minister Lee, Sang-soo, the government, industrial accident prevention institutes, and media should play a leading role in the campaign. "That's why we concluded this agreement. I hope this agreement takes Korea to the next level of industrial accident prevention and contributes to the substantial reduction of accidents," he said.

- KOSHA and HSHI inking an agreement for the use of visual contents in virtual experience education on safety
KOSHA joins hands with HYUNDAI SAMHO Heavy Industries Co., Ltd. (HSHI) for the experiential education on workers' safety

The Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency and HYUNDAI SAMHO Heavy Industries Co., Ltd.(HSHI) have recently concluded an agreement for the use of visual contents in virtual

experience education on safety and to work together closely to strengthen the safety and health education for workers. Based on the agreement, KOSHA will provide 35 pieces of 3D and virtual reality video images to the HSHI experiential education center for safety and health ? which was established in May in Yeong-am, Jeollanam-do Province - for free for use by HSHI in the education of workers on safety and health. Since 2003, KOSHA has been providing private companies with visual contents for use in their experiential education on safety and health.

A total of 35 pieces of video materials are being provided this time, 24 of which are virtual reality programs; the remaining 11 are 3D images. These materials have been produced by KOSHA for the past 5 years and it took about KRW 1.7 billion to make them. In particular, 15 of these materials deal with manufacturing, 10, with construction, 4, with health, and 6, with general safety. The virtual reality and 3D image program lets workers experience indirectly the dangerous elements in construction and other industrial sites when they wear 3D glasses for enhanced educational effects. Since 2003, KOSHA has provided private companies such as GS Engineering and Construction Co., and POSCO as well as 5 institutes including Eulji College with a total of 98 pieces of 3D and virtual reality image contents to facilitate experiential education on safety and health.

9 out of 10 people satisfied with contents of experiential education on safety

The evaluation of the results of safety and health education conducted by a professional research services company commissioned by KOSHA revealed the highest level of satisfaction with the virtual experience education on safety and experiential education on construction safety at 91.36%; thus suggesting that experiential education is the most effective method of education for workers.



KOSHA has established centers for experiential education on construction safety and virtual experience education in 7 areas across the nation including Incheon Yeongjong Island, the Construction site of Pangyo New town city, and provinces of Gyeongbuk, Jeolla, Honam, and Gyeongnam. Last year, a total of 46,276 workers completed the educational course. KOSHA's Training and PR Dept., expects the experiential education on safety and health in the private sector to be strengthened through the concluded mutual cooperation agreement. KOSHA vows to exert efforts toward customer-oriented education for the prevention of industrial accidents by developing various contents that can give practical benefits to workers."

- Beware of the danger of chemical materials

KOSHA announces the realities of the use of 6 harmful chemicals that cause occupational diseases

Occupational diseases due to the poisoning of harmful chemicals at industrial sites frequently occur. Recently, a worker at a leather factory in Gimhae died of toxic hepatitis due to DMF (dimethylformamide). As such, there has been an increasing interest in the establishment of countermeasures for the prevention of occupational diseases among workers. In fact, a report on the realities of the harmful chemicals being used in Korea has also been published. Among the 30 kinds of chemical materials that cause occupational diseases in Korea, 6 will be investigated annually.

KOSHA has recently published a report on the realities of the distribution, use, and handling of 6 harmful chemical materials in Korean domestic companies including DMF and TCE (trichloroethylene). Conducted from April to August 2006 at a total of 516 workplaces, the inspection targeted 6 chemical materials - TCE, normal hexane, TDI/MDI, DMF/DMAc, methyl bromide, and crystalline silica. The agency focused on the investigation of the actual condition of actual sites in relation to the purchase, use, supplied quantity, supply channel, purpose of use, and type of chemical materials and identification of exposed workers and exposed density. During the investigation, the Stevens Johnson Syndrome-causing TCE - which may also result in death due to erythema on the skin of exposed workers - was found to be used often as a cleanser by automobile components manufacturers. In addition, normal hexane - which causes paralysis from the waist down as a result of multiple neuropathy - is used as a cleanser and an extractant by manufacturers of semiconductors and other electronic components. On the other hand, the deadly, toxic hepatitis-causing DMF/DMAc was found to be used by chemical products manufacturers for coating and painting. Used for painting by chemical products makers, TDI/MDI can actually cause chronic cough and difficulty in breathing. Likewise, methyl bromide used for the fumigation of logs, etc., can cause disorder in walking, eyesight, and speech because it afflicts the central nervous system. Finally, the pneumoconiosis- and lung cancer-causing crystalline silica was discovered to be used widely in various industries and processes.

Projects for the prevention of occupational diseases due to chemical materials will be implemented based on the results of the investigation.

The "investigation on the actual condition of the distribution and use of chemical materials" started last year to determine the realities of the 30 kinds of chemical materials used in workplaces nationwide and found to cause occupational diseases. The investigation will be continued for 5 years for 6 kinds of different chemical materials each year and will be updated regularly thereafter. Based on the results of the investigation, KOSHA plans to develop safety regulations per industry type and process per harmful material for use when providing support to the workplaces concerned. The results of the investigation will be posted in KOSHA's website and compiled into a book for distribution to institutes concerned including agencies tasked with the measurement of the working conditions. "The investigation on the realities of the distribution and use of chemical materials is a must for the prevention of occupational diseases," said Seong-Kyu Kang, Director of Department of Occupational health, KOSHA. According to him, an intensive project for the prevention of occupational diseases will be implemented based on the results of the investigation by identifying the vulnerable processes.

- **KOSHA opened training course for the fostering of asbestos experts**




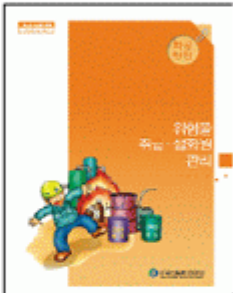


The Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency (KOSHA) opened a training course last May to cultivate asbestos experts. The agency is currently operating the course actively. With the prevention of asbestos becoming a social interest, the training course is designed to cultivate professional asbestos experts. KOSHA announced the opening of a training course aimed at fostering professional asbestos experts among all domestic officials in the field involving the measurement of the working environment. With the regulations for dismantling buildings with asbestos made more stringent, demands for the sample analysis of substances containing asbestos are expected to increase; hence the new training course offered by KOSHA to satisfy such needs. The training course for asbestos experts can be divided into two parts: detecting and analyzing solid asbestos specimen and detecting and analyzing asbestos specimen encountered during the construction work. Focusing on actual business cases and business operating environments, these courses will continue until the end of this year. In particular, the course on the analysis of solid asbestos specimen is expected to take 5 days, and participants are encouraged to attend three times. On the other hand, the course on detecting and analyzing the asbestos specimen encountered during construction work is a 2-day course, and participants are encouraged to attend 4 times. Highly effective in preserving both heat and electricity, asbestos is widely used as insulation material in many industrial sites and everyday life. Once it accumulates in the human body, however, asbestos is known to trigger various diseases including lung cancer and mesothelioma after a period of latency. Starting this year, the Korean government will be restricting the use of asbestos as construction materials and asbestos products for cars. By 2009, the manufacture, import, and use of all asbestos products will be prohibited.

- KOSHA to develop and distribute 1,500 instruction materials by 2010

Promoting a project for the development of standard instruction materials on occupational safety and health

To respond effectively to the changes in the educational environment caused by widely used Internet and variously and newly introduced educational courses, the Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency has decided to develop 1,500 standard instruction materials on occupational safety and health by 2010. The agency expects these materials to help worksites practically. The standard instruction booklets and materials that are currently being developed by KOSHA will cover six areas: general safety, machinery safety, electric safety, chemical process safety, construction safety, and occupational health. KOSHA will develop the instruction booklets and materials in both module and sheet styles. The module style divides the current occupational safety and health instruction material into 20~30 pages per chapter. This can easily be used by adjusting the material according to users' needs. On the other hand, the instruction material produced in sheet style is a subordinate, supporting material of the module style, with the main ideas summarized in 2 A4 sheets of paper.

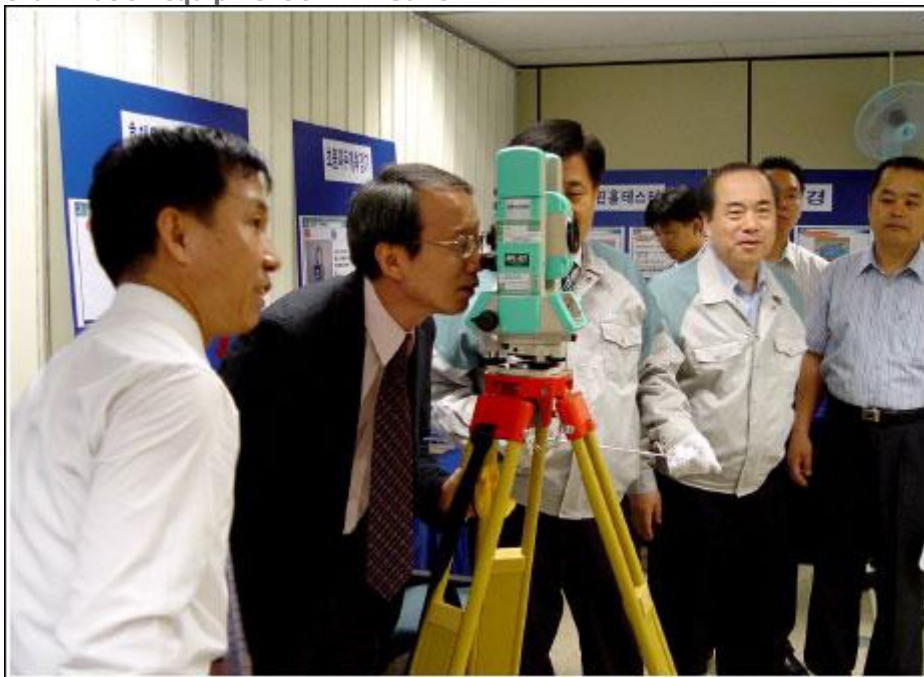
"We will first develop and distribute a total of 300 types of teaching materials, 100 module materials, and 200 teaching materials in sheet styles this year. We plan to distribute these materials to participants of occupational safety and health training courses," an official of KOSHA revealed.

	
<p><General Safety ></p>	<p><Machinery Safety ></p>
	
<p><Electric Safety ></p>	<p><Chemical Safety ></p>
	
<p><Construction Safety ></p>	<p><Occupational Health ></p>

- KOSHA's Seoul Regional Office builds inspection equipment I training center

The Seoul Regional Office of the Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency opened an inspection equipment training center that enables scientific inspections in its office. Director Yong-Soo Hong said last 4 June that KOSHA decided to set up a training center for inspection equipment in its education center on the 14th floor. According to him, KOSHA can enhance customer satisfaction with scientific examination by coming up with a skilled tool use and measurement method through the practice with examination tools by inspectors. Inspectors will mainly learn techniques in using equipment and measurement methods in an actual examination setting. In particular, they will operate 24 kinds of inspection equipment on the prepared test instruments and specimens, measure the results, and record and evaluate the results in practice papers. The Seoul

Regional Office headquarters has opened a training center for inspection equipment, so that inspectors in KOSHA can learn how to use inspection equipment through practical training. As KOSHA provides inspectors nationwide with the opportunity to share and discuss measurement results and evaluation methods as well as the ways to efficiently use and measure inspection equipment, it expects to enhance customer satisfaction and its image in terms of inspection by conducting more scientific examination and making more accurate inspection decisions. As a result, the agency expects to enhance its image in the inspection. An additional practice room considering the inspectors' responses shall also be set up, according to KOSHA's Regional Office in Seoul. Meanwhile, KOSHA provide its inspectors with a joint demonstration on how to use the examination equipment on 4~7 June.

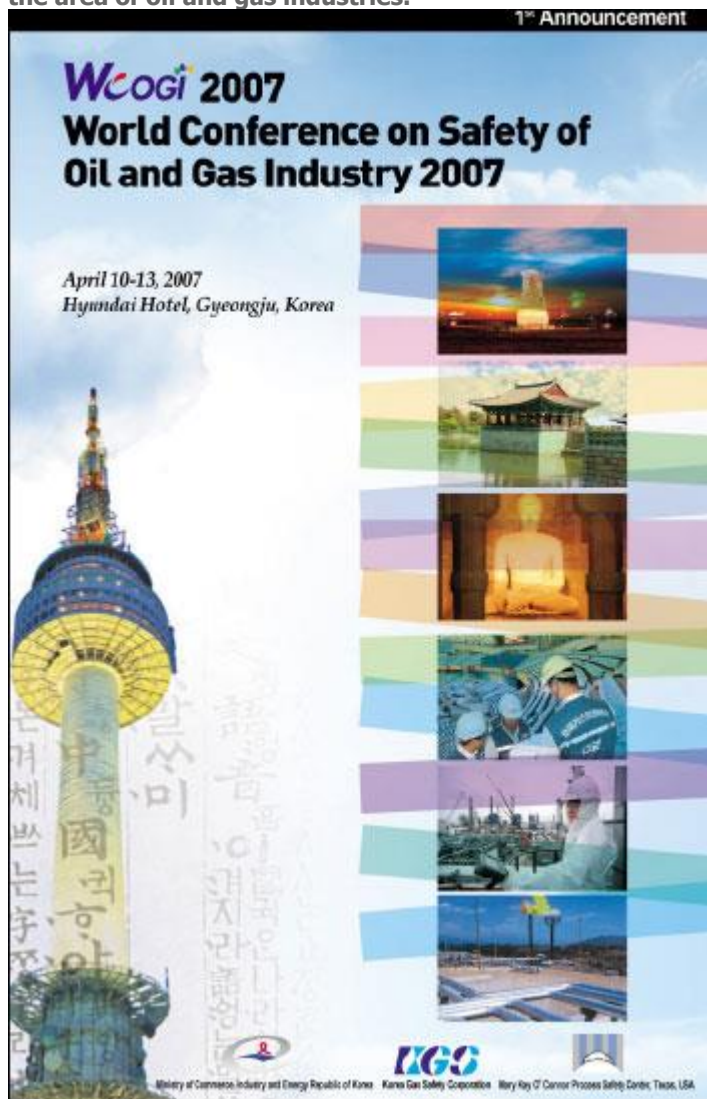


- **Event**

- World Conference on the Safety of Oil and Gas Industry 2007 opened in Gyeongju

The first World Conference on the Safety of Oil and Gas Industry (WCOGI 2007) opened on 4 April in the historic capital of Gyeongju. As an academic meeting on energy safety, the 4-day conference is hosted by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Energy (MOCIE) and co-sponsored by Korea Gas Safety Corporation and Texas A&M University of the US. Domestic and overseas academic organizations such as the Korean Institute of Chemical Engineers (KICHE), Korean Scientists in Energy Engineering (KOSEE), and Center for Chemical Process Safety (CCPS) of the US and related industrial circles including TSM Tech, GS Caltex, and Samsung Total supported the largest academic meeting in terms of the area of energy safety held in Gyeongju Hyundai Hotel. Among those who participated in the meeting held under the theme "Supporting the Sustainable Development of Safety Management Beyond Regulations" were Jae-hoon Lee, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of

Commerce, Industry, and Energy(MOCIE), Heon-man Rhee, president of Korea Gas Safety Corporation, and Professor Sam Mannam of Texas A&M. With over 400 world-renowned scholars and engineers in the process industry of oil and gas from 20 countries worldwide participating, more than 200 theses dealing with 15 topics were presented during the meeting including industrial facilities, risk management, safety of LNG/LPG, sensing and diagnosing accidents, controlling technology to enhance the reliability of equipment, and safety in the substitute energy process. In particular, 5 world-renowned safety experts-Carolyn W. Meritt, chairman of U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board and an international authority in the field of safety in the process industry, Hans J. Pasman, professor at Delft University in the Netherlands, Terushige Ogawa, professor at Yokohama National University in Japan, Dong-seop Kim, head researcher at Shell Global, and In-seop Yoon, professor of process system and safety laboratory of Seoul National University - joined the topic presentation and introduced state-of-the-art technologies in the area of oil and gas industries.



- New Materials

- KOSHA publishes risk assessment report, presents measures to prevent accidents based on scientific data

Report containing the causes of accidents and countermeasures for the prevention of accidents based on scientific data obtained from cases of major industrial accidents occurring in chemical factories

KOSHA 's Occupational Safety and Health Research Institute (OSHRI; Director-General : Doo-yong Park) announced on 9 April that it has published a fire and explosion risk assessment report that summarizes the results of the investigation and technical support for major industrial accidents related to chemical materials. The published evaluation report

on danger has a total of 88 pages and deals with the explosion of a reactor, explosion of a trichloroethane storage tank, fire in regenerator incineration facilities, etc. In particular, the causes of accidents as well as the process of analyses using high-tech equipment such as heat safety tester, flash point tester, and explosive limit measurement instrument are described in detail for use as a guide to preventing similar accidents.



- Korea Gas Safety Corporation publishes 2006 Yearbook for Gas Accident

Report containing the causes of accidents and countermeasures for the prevention of accidents based on scientific data obtained from cases of major industrial accidents occurring in chemical factories

Compiled general edition as well as a separate book per kind of gas

Korea Gas Safety Corporation (president: Heon-man Rhee) has published a general yearbook for accidents caused by gas during the period 2002~2006. In particular, the

yearbook focuses on gas-related accidents occurring in 2006. The 638-page yearbook describes the legal system for the prevention of gas accidents (Chapter 1), methods for the analysis of statistics related to gas accidents and criteria for classification (Chapter 2), general analysis of accidents and incidents caused by gas (Chapter 3),



analysis of the status of gas accidents in Korea for the past 5 years (Chapter 4), case analysis of gas accidents (Chapter 5), realities of overseas gas accidents for the past 5 years (Chapter 6), and detailed analysis of gas accidents for the past 5 years and major cases of accidents (Chapter 7). In addition, the appendices carry annual statistics on gas accidents (for the past 10 years), list of gas-related accidents in 2006, and statistics on accidents (cases of fire recorded by the Ministry of Government Administration and Home Affairs, industrial accidents recorded by KOSHA, and traffic accidents recorded by the National Police Agency). In particular, Chapter 3 (general analysis of accidents and incidents caused by gas) and Chapter 5 (case analysis of gas accidents) were additionally included to help readers with safety management related to handling gas practically. On the other hand, Chapter 7 (detailed analysis of gas accidents for the past 5 years and major cases of accidents) lists the cases for the past 5 years (2002~2006). Specifically, the main body of the yearbook analyzes the accidents related to LP gas, city gas, high-pressure gas, gas boiler, portable butane combustor, and lack of sealing, the accidents happening during the replacement of the container, and deliberate incidents for the analysis of the realities of gas accidents in detail (per cause, type, and casualty). Details of the major cases of accidents were also recorded, e.g., date and time of the accidents, extent of damage, causes, problems, and counter-measures as well as pictures and drawings of the sites of accidents to enable readers, particularly owners and employees of gas companies and gas users, to have a vivid impression for such accidents and to understand the yearbook well.

- 65 risk assessment models in the manufacturing industry developed

KOSHA suggesting guidelines for industries and categorizing each industry into small standard units

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Safety education
CD for migrant

workers to be distributed in June

KOSHA developing animation movie dubbed in 10 languages

In response to the increasing number of migrant workers in Korea, KOSHA is set to distribute educational CDs on industrial accident prevention, an issue that has captured the attention of society. KOSHA announced on 12 June that it would distribute the animation movie CD of major industrial accident cases and prevention measures to enhance awareness of migrant workers on industrial safety and health. The CDs are dubbed and subtitled in 10 languages including Chinese, Pakistani,

and Vietnamese to give a better understanding to foreign workers. The movie focuses mainly on accident cases that frequently occur in the manufacturing and construction sites such as fall, jamming, electric shock, and collapse. KOSHA is planning to distribute the CDs to 150 organizations including 47 NGOs supporting migrant workers, MOL, foreign embassies in Korea, Korea Employment Information Service, regional offices of KOSHA, and training center. The movie will be also available on the agency's website "WISH" (<http://wish.kosha.net/foreign/foreign.html>) so that any company can watch and use it easily. According to the data released by the Ministry of Justice, the number of migrant workers in Korea has increased by 50,000 from 340,000 in 2005 to 390,000 in June. 2006. At least 7,900 migrant workers fell victim to industrial accidents, with 227 of them dying for the last 3 years.