WHO Global Occupational Health Programme

What is it?

- A partnership of WHO and other bodies working together to achieve the WHO Global Strategy on Occupational Health

Partners:

- WHO HQ and Regions, ILO, CCs, NGOs (ICOH, IOHA, IEA)

Partnership meets every two years

- Chiangmai, Thailand 2001
- Iguassu Falls, Brazil 2003
Global Work Plan finalized in 2001

- 15 Priority Areas selected by CCs
- Task Force formed for each priority area
- Projects contributed by CCs to benefit developing and industrializing nations
- Collaborations on projects by WHO, ILO, CCs and NGOs

Purpose of Iguassu meeting

- Review projects and progress of Task Forces
- Decide on strategic actions to meet Task Force goals
WHO Collaborating Centres in Occupational Health
WHO Global Occupational Health Programme

- Status of Collaborating Centers
  - 60 CCs
    - Welcome to ISPESL, Italy
  - 13 in process of designation
    - Benin
    - Canada
    - Colombia
    - Costa Rica
    - Croatia
    - Egypt
    - Japan
    - Macedonia
    - Spain (2)
    - South Africa (2)
    - Ukraine
WHO Global Occupational Health New Products

- **New Websites**
  - [http://www.who.int/oeh/index.html](http://www.who.int/oeh/index.html)  WHO
  - [http://www.sheafrica.info](http://www.sheafrica.info)  Africa Joint Effort
  - [http://osha.eu.int](http://osha.eu.int)  EU/WHO

- **New GOHNET Issues**
  - Maritime health
  - Musculoskeletal disorders

- **New CD ROM**
  - WHO Occupational Health Documents
New Training Programs on CD-ROMs

- **The WHO Training Modules in Occupational Health**  Univ Illinois, US
  - 64 hours of training in 4 modules: agriculture, service, manufacturing and mining
  - Description and training at Iguassu Falls CC meeting

- **Hazard Prevention and Control in the Work Environment: Airborne Dust**
  - NIWL, Sweden, Finland, Univ Cape Town, NCOH, Johannesburg
  - Pilot courses in Cape Town and Johannesburg, March 2003
WHO Global Occupational Health New Products

New Compendium of WHO CC 2002-2005
Global Work Plan Projects

• 62 of 73 (85%) of CCs participating

• More than 250 projects in 15 priority areas

• Draft reviewed at Iguassu meeting
  ■ Modifications by CCs  March, 2003
  ■ Final Compendium published in April, 2003
WHO Global Occupational Health New Products

New in Protecting Workers Health Series

- Mental Health and Stress Task Force
- Psychological Harassment in the Workplace
  - ISPESL/ICP Consortium, Italy
  - IURST, Switzerland
  - Translation into Spanish by FISO, Columbia
- Work Organisation and Stress
  - Univ of Nottingham
WHO Global Occupational Health New Products

- **New in Protecting Workers Health Series**
  - **Cost Effectiveness Task Force**
    - Performing Economic Assessments at the Understanding and Company Level
      - TNO, The Netherlands
  - **Prevention of Musculoskeletal Disorders Task Force**
    - Prevention of Musculoskeletal Disorders
      - BAUA, Berlin and IfaDo, Dortmund
WHO Occupational Health Programme—Key Areas of Work

- WHO/ILO Joint Effort on OSH in Africa
- ILO/WHO Global Campaign to Eliminate Silicosis
- Global Burden of Disease-Occupational Risk Factors
- CC 2002-2005 Global Work Plan
WHO/ILO Joint Effort on Occupational Health and Safety in Africa

The Goal: OSH Partners everywhere

- Information sharing
- Capacity building
- Policy and legislation
- Particularly hazardous occupations
Accomplishments

- **AFRO and ILO regional leadership**
- **Over 100 partners in 20+ countries**
  - Ministries, agencies, universities, unions, employers, NGOs, individuals
- **CC Task Force 2: Africa Partnership**
  - Informal sector research: Cape Town
  - Training courses... CCs of Switzerland, Sweden, Cape Town, Benin, Johannesburg
  - First Masters in Industrial Hygiene Program
    - IOHA (ACGIH), NCOH, Univ Wittswaterand
WHO Occupational Health Programme—Key Areas of Work

- WHO/ILO Joint Effort on OSH in Africa
- **ILO/WHO Global Campaign to Eliminate Silicosis**
- Global Burden of Disease-Occupational Risk Factors
- CC 2002-2005 Global Work Plan
National Programs

- India, Vietnam, Thailand, China, US, Switzerland, Sweden, Japan
- New effort - South Africa

CC Task Force 4: Silicosis Elimination

- Silicosis Symposia Speakers: ICOH Conference
- Silica Hazard Review .. NIOSH, USA
- Health surveillance, research, training ...CCs
- A goal for this meeting...can we gather and share silica solutions
WHO Occupational Health Programme—Key Areas of Work

- WHO/ILO Joint Effort on OSH in Africa
- ILO/WHO Global Campaign to Eliminate Silicosis
- **Global Burden of Disease-Occupational Risk Factors**
- CC 2002-2005 Global Work Plan
WHO Global Burden of Disease Effort

- **WHO World Health Report - Oct 2002**
- **WHO Comparative Risk Assessment Model**
  - Compares contribution of various risk factors to the global burden of disease
  - Combines mortality and morbidity into a common measure of DALYs (Disability adjusted life years lost)
    - Exposure and risk data for every outcome put in same mathematical model
- Intends to answer question: what proportion of a disease (e.g. lung cancer) on the globe is due to individual risk factors
  - Smoking?
  - Workplace exposures?
  - Air pollution?
  - Etc?
WHO Global Burden of Disease Effort

- **Occupational Risk Factors account for:**
  - Cancer
    - 10% lung
    - 2% leukemia
  - Lung Disease
    - 13% COPD
    - 11% asthma
    - 100% Silicosis, Asbestosis, Coal Workers’ Pneumoconiosis

- **CCs** Chile, NIOSH (US), U Mass (US), Finland, Australia
WHO Global Burden of Disease Effort

- **WHO World Health Report - Oct 2002**
- **Occupational Risk Factors account for:**
  - Injuries - 10%
  - Back Pain - 37%
  - Hearing loss – 16%

- Infections from Needlesticks among Health Care Workers
  - 40% Hepatitis B, 40% Hepatitis C
  - 2% HIV
Attributable fraction of HCV, HBV and HIV infections in healthcare workers due to injuries with contaminated sharps, ages 20-65.

Cost Effectiveness Task Force

Cost effectiveness of interventions to reduce back pain

- Training
- Control Technology
- Full Program (Training plus control technology)

Reductions of back pain
- 20%, 50%, 74%

Conclusion: in developing nations, it is cost effective to go directly to full program
WHO Occupational Health Programme—Key Areas of Work

- WHO/ILO Joint Effort on OSH in Africa
- ILO/WHO Global Campaign to Eliminate Silicosis
- Global Burden of Disease-Occupational Risk Factors

**CC 2002-2005 Global Work Plan**

- This presentation describes products and projects completed in past two years by Task Forces in the 15 priority areas
WHO CC 2002 – 2005
Global Work Plan

■ 15 Task Forces

• Intensive Partnership in Africa
• Silicosis Elimination
• Small enterprises and informal sector
• Child Labour and Adolescent Workers
• Global Burden of Disease
• Cost Effectiveness of Interventions
• Training Programmes and Modules
• Internet resources
15 Task Forces (cont’d)

- Health promotion
- Health Care Workers
- Preventive Technology
- Country and National Profiles on OSH
- Mental Health and Stress at Work
- Prevention of Musculoskeletal Disorders
- Guidelines

Child Labour and Adolescent Worker

- International Program to Eliminate Child Labour (IPEC/ILO), WHO, CCs and NGOs participate

- Efforts to define hazards to working children up to age of 18 as required by Convention 182
  - IPEC Expert Meeting, Geneva, October 2002

- Efforts to incorporate OSH materials into schools
  - Finnish Institute meeting, November 2002

- Goals at this meeting...to advance these efforts substantially

- **Small Enterprises and Informal Sector**

- **Preventive Technology**
  - Focus is on control banding, a scientifically based user friendly system for small and medium enterprises to control workplace chemical exposures.
    - Developed by HSE, (UK) and globalized for ILO by IOHA
  - IOHA, ILO, WHO, HSE meeting to review status of control banding, Nov 2002
  - CCs Germany (for Indonesia), China and Bulgaria are translating and piloting
  - International Program for Chemical Safety (IPCS of WHO, ILO and UNEP) will sponsor additional piloting and research activities

**Health Care Workers**
- Meeting on occupational health for health care workers, Tunis, Sept 2002
  - ICOH, WHO, ILO, CCs of Tunisia, Egypt
- Guidelines being developed by many CCs
  - Goal this meeting – to develop procedures for collecting guidelines in preparation for drafting WHO international guidelines

**Health Promotion**
- First interactive Task Force website
- Developing Toolkit of materials for health promotion
  - Goal this meeting – procedures for collecting materials

- **Internet Resources and Networks**
  - A global portal to provide access for all and to exchange CC Information

- **Training Programmes and Modules**
  - Gathering Training Programs for Internet
    - Univ Illinois, CCOSH, NIOSH have begun
    - ICOH meeting, Baltimore, October 2002
  - Long Distance Learning
    - ICOH, CC Conference Baltimore, US October 2002
    - Iguassu meeting goal is to plan how to encourage efforts
  - Traditional Training Courses
    - many CCs

- **Country OSH Profiles**
  - Leadership by Finnish Institute
    - 27 European countries
    - 10 Asian countries
    - 4 African countries
  - **International meeting, Helsinki Nov 2002**
    - Finnish Institute, WHO, ILO, ICOH, CCs
    - Community profiles
  - Iguassu goal is to further define useful indicators for profiles
WHO European Occupational Health Programme

- EURO Working Groups Meeting in Iguassu
  - Basic Occupational Health
  - Integrated Health, Safety and Environmental Management
  - Rural Health and Agriculture
  - Changing World of Work
Conclusions

- The partnership within the WHO Global Occupational Health Programme is dynamic and growing stronger.

- Projects in priority areas are underway, with numerous products to date.

- Collaborations are increasing, strengthening products and providing opportunities for mutual benefit.
WHO Global Occupational Health Programme

Additional partners are welcome. Join us!

Thank you for your attention!