TASK FORCE 2: INTENSIVE PARTNERSHIP IN AFRICA

Co-chairs: David Rees, NIOH, South Africa (david.rees@nioh.nhls.ac.za); Gerry Eijkemans, WHO (eijkemansg@who.int); Jukka Takala, ILO (takala@ilo.org)

The taskforce was created to organize the work and activities of the WHO collaborating Centers in accordance to the WHO/ ILO Joint Effort on Occupational Health and Safety in Africa (AJE). The objective of this task force is to improve conditions and environment of work in Africa, thus reducing the burden of occupational disease and injuries through intensified co-ordination of occupational health and safety activities.

Substantial progress has been made in extending partnerships, in information sharing and capacity building, which are two of the four cooperative areas of the Joint Effort. More than 100 institutions or individuals in more than 20 countries consider themselves partners in the African Joint Effort. Funding for this on-going project is in place. The activities of taskforce 2 have significantly contributed to the success of the AJE.

Training Course on Pesticide Risk Management – From Use and Exposure to Control Measures
National Centre on Occupational Health, South Africa
Jyrki Liesivuori, Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, Finland (jyrki.liesivuori@occuphealth.fi)
The project was completed in February 2002.

International Occupational Hygiene Association (IOHA) Conference
David Stanton (davidws@asosh.org) (zalk1@il.nl.gov) IOHa
Keywords: industrial hygiene, occupational health, conference
IOHA is holding its major triennial conference in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 19-25 September, 2005. Many WHO Collaborating Centres and ILO are contributing training courses and will be sending part participants. Details can be found at www.saioh.org/ioha2005/index.html

University of Michigan/Fogarty International Centre programme to support training and research in occupational and environmental health in Southern Africa
Mohamed Jeebhay, Occupational and Environmental Health Research Unit, University of Cape Town, South Africa (mjeebhay@cormack.uct.ac.za); Tom Robins, University of Michigan trobins@umich.edu
Keywords: training, research, occupational health, Southern Africa
Target group: Southern African Countries (doctors, nurses, environmental health officers, industrial hygienists, toxicologists, inspectorate, academics, trade union organisers)

- The specific objectives of this five year programme (2001-2006) to promote occupational and environmental health in the Southern African region are to recruit, select, and enrol, with full funding, three citizens of Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) nations in University of Michigan PhD or Masters degree programs in EOH.
- To recruit, select, and fund nine citizens of SADC nations to complete one to six month programs of study or collaboration at University of Michigan in laboratory or research methodologies in EOH.
- To deliver a series of 13 one-week short courses taught by University of Michigan faculty and local experts to EOH professionals in Southern Africa.
- To recruit and select up to 54 citizens of SADC nations other than South Africa to receive full scholarships for the completion of diplomas or degrees in EOH fields being offered at South African academic institutions.
- To assist in the development and delivery of two advanced level occupational hygiene courses offered as part of a Masters degree program in occupational hygiene at the National Centre for Occupational Health in Johannesburg.
- To assist in the development and delivery of two to three web-based diploma or degree programs in EOH to be offered in the SADC region by South African academic institutions.
• To directly support the in-country EOH research of up to 38 junior to mid level researchers from SADC nations. To sponsor three biennial conferences to review regional developments in EOH, assist in setting of regional research priorities, review the activities conducted under this grant, and develop consensus around planned future actions.

*Project start date: September 1996
*Project end date: April 2006

**ISPESL international network for providing assistance and training in OSH for African countries**

Carlo Grandi (carlograndi@libero.it) and Sergio Iavicoli (seriav@iol.it), ISPESL, Italy

*Keywords:* training, occupational health, African countries, expertise

**Target group:** Northern African Countries (people who, in each single African country, represent institutions and professions concerned with OSH (executives of national bodies, University professors and researchers, physicians, experts in occupational safety and health topics etc.).

ISPESL, together with French partners (INRS) is available on the basis of some specific request of North African countries, Headquarters and /or EMRO-AFRO to provide assistance in Africa with a special focus on child labour and rural health.

**Training of occupational health specialists in French-speaking Africa**

Mohammed Mokrane, Institute of Occupational Health Sciences, Switzerland (Mohammed.Mokrane@inst.hospvd.ch)

This is an on-going project. Funding for the project is partially in place.

**Elaboration of a module for initiation to health and safety at work**

Souissi Rachida (Rachidaisst@yahoo.fr) and Smaoui Emna, Institute of Health and Safety at Work, Tunisia

*Keywords:* initiation to health and safety at work, organisation of prevention in Tunisia, general risks, communication, rescue work.

**Target group:** newly-appointed safety personnel in organisations, instructors in professional training centres, nurses.

The objective of this project is to provide participants with basic training in Health and Safety at Work.

The initiation module comprises 6 sessions of a day each (6 hours per session) on the following topics:

2. General risks in the occupational environment : physical environment
3. Chemical environment
4. The risks of accidents
5. Communication on Health and Safety at Work
6. Elementary first aid in the work place

Training sessions have been conducted in 2000, 2001 and 2002. The project is currently being programmed for 2003, 2004 and 2005. An average of 13 participants is trained every year.

*Réalisation d’un module d’initiation à la Santé et la Sécurité au Travail (SST)*

Souissi Rachida (Rachidaisst@yahoo.fr) et Smaoui Emna, Institut de Santé et de Sécurité au Travail, Tunisie

*Mots clés:* initiation à la SST, organisation de la prévention en Tunisie, les risques généraux, la communication, le secourisme.

*Cible:* chargés de sécurité nouveaux nommés dans l’entreprise, enseignants des centres de formation professionnelle, infirmiers du travail.

L'objectif de ce projet est de fournir aux participants une formation de base en SST.
Le module de perfectionnement comprend 6 séances d’un jour chacune (6h par séance) sur les thèmes suivants :

1. Organisation de la prévention des risques professionnels en Tunisie
(2) Les risques généraux en milieu professionnel : ambiances physiques
(3) Ambiances chimiques
(4) Les risques d’accidents
(5) La communication en SST
(6) Le secourisme élémentaire en milieu de travail

Elaboration of a module of improvement in health and safety at work
Souissi Rachida (Rachidaisst@yahoo.fr) and Abdelfatteh Karolai, Institute of Health and Safety at Work, Tunisia

Keywords: improvement of health and safety at work, preliminary analysis, ergonomic approach, management systems.

Target group: engineers and safety technicians at work in the private sector, public organisations and occupational safety working groups.

The objective of this project is to develop the capacities of safety personnel to analyze professional risks using appropriate methods and to follow a rational approach to risk management in the organisation.

The improvement module comprises 5 sessions of 2 days each (12h per session) on the following themes:
(1) Techniques in communication on health and safety at work
(2) Preliminary analysis of risks
(3) An ergonomic approach
(4) Mandatory technical control of unit
(5) Safety management systems and practical projects on the field.

Training sessions were conducted in 2000, 2001 and 2002. The project is currently being programmed for 2003, 2004 and 2005. An average of 20 participants is trained every year.

Réalisation d’un module de perfectionnement en santé est sécurité au travail
Souissi Rachida (Rachidaisst@yahoo.fr) et Abdelfatteh Karolai, Institut de Santé et de Sécurité au Travail, Tunisie

Mots clés: perfectionnement en SST, analyse à priori, démarche ergonomique, système de management.

Cible: ingénieurs et techniciens de sécurité en exercice dans les entreprises, les structuresnationales et les groupementsdemedecine du travail.

L’objectif de ce projet est de développer chez le chargé de sécurité en exercice les compétences pour analyser les risques professionnels selon des méthodes appropriées et suivre une démarche rationnelle quant à la gestion des risques dans l’entreprise.

Le module de perfectionnement comprend 5 séances de 2 jours chacune (12h par séance) sur les thèmes suivants:
(1) Techniques de communication en SST
(2) Analyse à priori des risques
(3) Démarche ergonomique
(4) Contrôle technique réglementaire des installations
(5) Système de gestion de la sécurité, et projets pratiques sur le terrain


Training in an ergonomics approach by safety experts in African countries
Pat Scott (p.a.scott@ru.ac.za), IEA IDC Committee, with IEA PSE Committee

Keywords: Training, occupational safety and health, ergonomics, African countries, expertise

Target group: occupational safety and health professionals in industrial organizations and educational institutions
The objective of this project is to develop training capacities of leading occupational safety and health professionals in applying ergonomics to the prevention of work-related injuries and diseases in African countries. Pilot training seminars are organized in selected African countries in cooperation with safety experts and ergonomists in each country. The training module comprises the following themes: (a) roles of an ergonomics approach in occupational safety and health; (b) identifying ergonomics-related risks; (c) cost-effective methods of solving ergonomics problems; (d) useful ergonomics checkpoints; and (e) incorporating ergonomics in safety management systems and practical training sessions.

Training seminars have been conducted in 2000, 2001 and 2002. The project aims to test the training module in 2003-2006. Group work methods will be used in training of trainers for the selected professionals.

Training of occupational health and safety experts in Africa
David Rees, National Centre for Occupational Health, South Africa (david.rees@nioh.nhls.ac.za)
Jonny Myers, University of Cape Town, South Africa (jmyers@iafrica.com)
Tom Robins, University of Michigan, USA (trobins@umich.edu)

Training is ongoing at the National Institute for Occupational Health, the University of Cape Town and through the Fogarty Programs, sponsored by the University of Michigan

African Joint Effort Newsletter on the web (www.sheafrica.info)
WHO HQ and AFRO (focal points: Gerry Eijkemans, WHO HQ (eijkemansg@who.int), K. Novikov, ILO, HQ (novikov@ilo.org), AFRO, EMRO and ILO Regional Office Africa
This is the official website for the World Health Organization (WHO) and International Labour Organization (ILO) Joint Effort on Occupational Health and Safety in Africa. The areas of collaboration include Human Resource development focused on capacity building, national policies, programmes and legislation, information, research and awareness raising, promotion of occupational health and safety in particularly hazardous occupations, vulnerable groups (including informal sector workers and children) and in newly transferred technologies.

This functioning website promotes the Joint Effort and develops the electronic information network for occupational health and safety in Africa.

African Newsletter on Occupational Health and Safety
Suvi Lehtinen, Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, Finland (suvi.lehtinen@occuphealth.fi), the ILO and WHO
Funding is in place for this on-going project. The website for the newsletter is:
www.ttl.fi/Internet/English/Information/Electronic+Journals/African+Newsletter/

Clearing house
Nelson Sesoko, National Institute for Occupational Health, South Africa (sesokn@health.gov.za)
Funding is in place for this on-going project on southern African countries. A physical space has been established and electronic and hard copy materials are being collected on (1) policy, legislation and regulations; (2) OSH professionals in the region; (3) training and professional qualifications in OSH in the region; (4) OSH research projects and (5) practical solutions to common problems.

Webpages
Shobna Chauhan, National Institute for Occupational Health, South Africa (sesokn@health.gov.za)
Funding is in place for this on-going project. A model country page has been designed and data on South Africa has been entered. This project is being done with David Stanton and Sheafrica.

E-journal in French
Michel P. Guillemin and Mohammed Mokrane (Mohammed.Mokrane@inst.hospvd.ch),
Institute of Occupational Health Sciences, Switzerland
Keywords: journal, information, experiments, transfer of knowledge

Target group: African professionals of occupational health, competent authorities (Ministries of Health, Labour, Environment et others concerned), employers and workers representatives, social security, University, Institutes and others technical and professional organisms and schools.

The objective of this programme is to create a space open to all those for whom the promotion and practice of occupational safety and health is an essential dimension of sustained development. The website is a platform of dissemination of information, transfer of technical and scientific knowledge as well as new occupational health practices, in the respect of international health standards and of the general environment. The E-journal in French is on the web at http://www.iurst.ch/cooperation. The last bulletin (No.10) was released in November 2003.

Funding is in place for this on-going project. Some French speaking African countries, particularly Benin, Burkina Faso and Morocco, with which the Institute of Lausanne has initiated conventions of co-operation, are collaborating on the project.

Work and Health in Southern Africa (WAHSA)
Swedish Programme Director: Mr. Nils Petersson Swedish National Institute for Working Life SE-113 91 Stockholm, Sweden Nils.Petersson@arbetslivsinstitutet.se. A Regional Programme Director is being recruited (June 2005)

Keywords: Long-term collaboration program, SADC countries, prevention of occupational accidents and diseases

Target groups: Government departments of SADC member countries, the SADC Directorates involved in occupational health and OSH agencies in the region. Employers and employees, and their organisations, and OSH practitioners in the region.

Purpose of the Programme: The general long-term objective of the programme is to promote workers’ safety and health, and create sustainable systems for OSH and public health promotion. The objective for the first four years is to establish a solid and well operating basis for long-term actions in OSH and health promotion. The programme has components of research and training, but are mainly oriented towards elimination or reduction of occupational safety and health risks through direct actions at workplaces and institutional and professional capacity building.

Abstract:
The first four year phase of the programme contains the following ten projects:

1. Establishment of Resource Complexes, initially in cooperation between institutions in South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia
2. Profiling occupational safety and health; to provide systematic data on the extent of occupational exposures
3. Basis for planning future interventions; compilation of eight national inventories that will be the base for future project planning
4. Training of occupational health and safety professionals; to develop a regional plan for the training of occupational safety and health professionals, and to establish a regional coordinating mechanism for the development of new courses and programmes
6. Advocacy and awareness raising; development and implementation of methods to promote OSH information in key organisations in the region
7. Action on silica, silicosis and tuberculosis; to reduce silica dust exposure in key industries, and to improve prevention of tuberculosis in silica exposed workers
8. Action of health impact of pesticide; development of written information and implementation of actions at a number of major agricultural sites
9. Action on health and safety in small scale informal sector enterprises; estimation of occupational safety and health risks, improvement of factory inspection methods and development of regional OSH policy for small scale enterprises
10. Planning of Phase II of the Programme.

Some of the projects are intended to go on also after the first four-year phase of the programme, for instance the action oriented programmes no. 7, 8 and 9. Project no. 6, Advocacy and awareness raising, will run during all 12 years of the Programme.
The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) is providing a support of about 3 million US dollars for the first four year phase. WAHSA is governed by a Steering Committee, involving representatives of SADC, the National South African Institute for Occupational Health, the National Swedish Institute of Public Health, and the Swedish National Institute for Working Life.

The Programme started in October 2004. The first Programme year is dedicated to establishing organisational infrastructure and starting up of activities related to projects and collaborating institutions.

*Names of Centres collaborating on the Programme.* Southern African Development Community (SADC); South African National Institute for Occupational Health; Tropical Pesticide Research Unit in Arusha, Tanzania; School of Public Health, University of Cape Town, South Africa; School of Public Health, University of Witwatersrand, South Africa; Occupational Health Safety and Research Bureau, Kitwe, Zambia; School of Public Health, University of Natal, South Africa; Tanzanian Occupational Health Services; Swedish National Institute of Public Health; Swedish National Institute for Working Life.

*Products:* For each of the ten projects of the first four year phase of the Programme a number of objectives, indicators for objectives’ attainment and activities are defined, covering a variety of products.

*Programme start date:* October 2004

*Programme end date:* September 2016