**TASK FORCE 2: INTENSIVE PARTNERSHIP IN AFRICA**

Co-chairs: David Rees, NCOH, South Africa (reesd@health.gov.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.

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**University of Michigan/Fogarty International Centre programme to support training and research in occupational and environmental health in Southern Africa**

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**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 enroll, 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.

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**Biregional Programme on Work and Health; Southern Africa – Sweden**

Kaj Elgstrand, National Institute for Working Life, Sweden (kaj.elgstrand@arbetslivsinstitutet.se)

Funding for this project is still to be obtained. A budget is being negotiated with a potential donor. The first four-year phase of this project will begin in 2003.

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**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 labor 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 (Rachidaissst@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.

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

Souissi Rachida (Rachidaissst@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 nouvellement 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


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**Elaboration of a module of improvement in health and safety at work**

Souissi Rachida (Rachidaissst@yahoo.fr) and Abdelfatteh Karoiai, 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.
Training of occupational health and safety experts in Africa

David Rees, National Centre for Occupational Health, South Africa (reesd@health.gov.za)
Jonny Myers, University of Cape Town, South Africa (jmyers@iafrica.com)
Tom Robins, University of Michigan, USA (trobins@umich.edu)

Preparation of community profiles on OH&S in Africa

WHO HQ, AFRO
David Rees, NCOH, South Africa (reesd@health.gov.za)
Kari Kurppa, Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, Finland (kari.kurppa@occuphealth.fi)

Funding for this project is still to be obtained. If funded the project will profile OSH in three communities at district level in southern African countries. The project should be completed by 2005.

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) and the ILO
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 Centre 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 Centre 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.

For cross references see also:

TF 3 : Training the trainers involved in the elimination of the worst forms of child labour; Children’s work in agriculture in Benin
TF 4 : The WHO/ILO Joint Effort in Occupational Health in Africa and practical steps towards the elimination of silicosis;
TF 4 : Contribution to the national programme on elimination of silicosis in South Africa and silicosis in Southern Africa
TF 6 : Biregional Programme on Work and Health; Southern Africa – Sweden
TF 8 : Application of Preventative Technologies to focus especially in small enterprises
TF 10 : Translation of Toolkit; Assistance in adaptation of various materials to local conditions; Further development of PACE; Piloting PACE in South Africa; Dust control course (PACE-initiated) in South Africa;
TF 11 : Formation with Specialization and Research in Health at the Work and Environment in Africa; Assistance to occupational hygiene graduate programmes in developing countries and countries in transition; Development of evidence-based occupational health (medicine) training course and material; International two-year training course: Occupational Safety and Health & Development for participants from northern Africa, Middle East and Iran; Training of occupational health and safety personnel
TF 12 : Inventory of available training materials on the web; Contributing to the inventory of training materials; Creating a Southern Africa OH&S Clearing House in Pretoria
TF 13 : Tracking of the WHO and EU efforts in profiles and indicators; Establishing a website for the developments in indicators and profiles; Extension of the profiles to the regional (provincial) in the countries