TASK FORCE 12: INTERNET RESOURCES AND NETWORKS

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Occupational health practice, training, research and communication are critically dependent on an effective supply of scientific and practical information and the availability of relevant databases. Internet should be utilized as widely as possible because of its easy access where it is available. Access to information systems for experts in each country should be taken as an objective of the national occupational health programme. The ultimate objective is to develop the website of Occupational Health to cover all the main topics of occupational health and safety, to indicate sources of relevant information, to deposit the materials available in an electronic form, and to provide links to relevant other sources world-wide.

Enable access to national internet-based database that identifies practical solutions to OHS issues
Thomas Stoddart, National Occupational Health and Safety Commission, Australia (Thomas.stoddart@nohsc.gov.au)

Keywords: practical guidance

Target group: users requiring hazard specific or industry specific guidance material on OHS issues.

The objective of this project is to facilitate the dissemination and sharing of practical guidance material on OHS issues, to assist employers and employees in implementing safe systems of work.

A web based database has been developed that indexes material published by all Australian jurisdictions and links directly to the full documents. It includes guidance material, safety alerts, and codes of practice.

The Australian OHS Index is available at: http://natindex.nohsc.gov.au

Website for the Cooperation Italy-Brazil in Occupational Health and Industrial Hygiene
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Keywords: information, Internet, Occupational Safety and Health, International Cooperation

Target group: experts and professionals in Occupational Health and Safety of the two countries

The purpose of this project is to create a web site to activate, through the Cooperation between Italy and Brazil, actions to improve safety and health at the Workplaces of both countries.

At the Iguassu Meeting, February 2003, an Italian-Brazilian seminar was held during which the relevant interest of other possible scientific, technical and institutional partners was verified.

As a first step, while waiting for resources, an internet discussion group has been set up for the permanent exchange of information, updating, experiences and data.

A shared version of the scientific project has been defined and in the next few months the project will be integrated in a cooperation plan to submit to the competent authorities for funding.

Considering that the planning phase has been completed, we are initiating to identify the necessary funding. In case human and financial resources will not be identified within 12 months, the possibility of reconsidering the feasibility of the project will be evaluated.

Project start date: July 2002
Project end date: July 2005

Web Site per la Cooperazione Italia Brasile in Medicina del Lavoro e Igiene Industriale
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Sonia Maria José Bombardi (bombardismj@fundacentro.gov.br) e Maria Inês Franco Motti (motti@fundacentro.gov.br), FUNDACENTRO, Brasil

Parole chiave: Informazione, Internet, Medicina del Lavoro e Sicurezza, Cooperazione Internazionale

Utenza destinata: Esperti e professionisti di Medicina del Lavoro e Sicurezza dei due Paesi.

Scopo del progetto: Realizzazione di un sito web destinato ad attivare, favorire e sostenere, attraverso la Cooperazione tra Italia e Brasile, azioni positive per il miglioramento della sicurezza e della salute dei lavoratori nei luoghi di lavoro dei due Paesi.

Al Congresso di Iguassu, febbraio 2003, si è tenuto un seminario Italo-Brasiliano nel quale si è verificato l’interesse notevole e fattivo di altri possibili partner scientifici, tecnici, istituzionali.

Come prima base, in attesa di maggiori risorse, si è deciso di attivare un gruppo di discussione in Internet per lo scambio permanente di informazioni, aggiornamenti, esperienze, dati.

È stata definita una versione condivisa del progetto scientifico, che nei prossimi mesi sarà integrato in un piano di cooperazione da sottoporre alle autorità competenti per il finanziamento.

Considerando che la fase di progettazione è stata completata, ci si attiverà per la ricerca dei fondi necessari. Se entro 12 mesi non si saranno recuperate le necessarie risorse umane e finanziarie, si valuterà la possibilità di riconsiderare la fattibilità del progetto.

Web Site sobre a Cooperação Itália-Brasil em Segurança e Saúde no Trabalho

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Keywords: Informação, Internet, Segurança e Saúde no Trabalho, Cooperação Internacional.

Grupo de alvo: especialistas e profissionais da área de Segurança e Saúde no Trabalho dos dois países

Finalidade do projeto: Criação de website destinado a ativar, auxiliar e manter na cooperação entre Itália e Brasil, ações para a melhoria da Segurança e Saúde dos Trabalhadores nos locais de trabalho dos dois países.

No Congresso de Foz do Iguacu, fevereiro de 2003, foi realizado um Seminário Italo-Brasileiro no qual foi notável e factível interesse de outros possíveis parceiros científicos, técnicos e institucionais. Como primeiro momento, no aguardo de maiores recursos, foi decidido pela criação de um grupo de discussão via Internet para o intercâmbio permanente de informações, atualizações, experiências e dados. Foi definida uma versão consensuada do projeto que nos próximos meses será integrada a um plano de cooperação, a ser submetido às autoridades responsáveis pelo financiamento. Considerando que a fase de planejamento está completa, estamos voltando nossa atenção à busca dos recursos necessários. Se em 12 meses não conseguirmos os recursos humanos e financeiros necessários, iremos avaliar a possibilidade de reconsiderar a viabilidade do projeto.

Development of OCH website for employers and employees of European SMEs

WHO EURO, HQ (bba@who.dk). Others are invited to join.

To see the current state of this task development, consult http://www.epaw.co.uk/HESME/ (click on HESME web guide at the end of home page).

Project end date: 2003projects continuing without end (4): INTERNET RESOURCES AND NETWKS (tf12)

Developing internet resources for end-users, including practical solutions and training materials

S. Len Hong, Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety, (CCOHS), Canada (hongl@ccohs.ca)

Keywords: Internet, best practices framework, best practice documentation, solutions, voluntary sharing
**Target groups:** OSH specialists, employers, workers, associations, agencies, governments, researchers, policy analysts

A database framework is being developed and provided for self-reporting of best practices. This Internet-based framework will provide for a consistent, organized, and indexed description of best practices in occupational health and safety. It will be available as one of the platforms that could be a repository of global self-reported OSH successes and best practices. The framework contains a broad range of elements consistent with OSH management system criteria to permit the documentation of comprehensive analyses and reports of the many facets of OSH systems that were involved in the creation of a best practice.

**Project start date:** October 2002

**Project end date:** Continuing

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**Preparation of a framework plan for the development of the WHO Occupational Health website**

P.K. Abeytunga, Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety, (CCOHS), Canada (abey@ccohs.ca)

**Keywords:** WHO, Collaborating Centres, Web Portal, OSH, Network

**Target group:** primarily WHO Collaborating Centres, OH&S experts, decision-makers, governments, managers, employers and anyone worldwide involved in OH&S.

The objective of this project is to design a network web portal framework complementing the WHO website on the Collaborating Centres Programme with the objective of expanding the utilization of the Internet by the network of WHO Collaborating Centres to facilitate its global programme of work and to fulfill the OH&S information needs of the global population. The network web portal will have the following features:

- The content of the portal structure to be multi-lingual (English, French, Spanish at the start), with the facility for the content of OH&S information on the portal to be presented in any language.
- A search engine with sophisticated search and retrieval capabilities.
- Discussions groups (Forums) for exchanging messages, documents and other communications to facilitate the work of working groups and task forces of the network. Facilities will include the archival of communications maintained on the Web, to be searchable and accessible by the relevant members through passwords.
- A powerful web server with large storage space, high-speed network connections and near 24-hour/day, 7-day/week availability.

A prototype of the design of the structure, functionality, presentation details, and navigation capabilities, together with the search and retrieval facilities, has been created for review.

**Project start date:** October 2002

**Project end date:** Ongoing

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**Contributing to the inventory of training materials**

Vern P. Anderson (vanderson@cdc.gov) and Nancy Muturi (nmuturi@cdc.gov), National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, USA; University of Illinois in Chicago; University of Cape Town, South Africa; University of Texas, USA

**Keywords:** training, inventory, safety, health, Internet

**Target group:** occupational health staff in departments of health, departments of labour, and Trade Unions in all countries, safety and health practitioners.

The aim of the project is to provide sources and criteria for excellence in e-training web sites that would be accessible from the Global Occupational Health Web Site Compile an annotated database of e-training web sites that provide occupational and health training and/or materials for the Global Occupational Health Web Site. The project will establish criteria for selecting and classifying occupational e-training materials and develop a standardized evaluation form for recipients of web-based training.

E-training web sites have the potential to offer current, credible, international access to current health and safety information and training through out the world. Presently, there are more 100 web sites offering various forms of occupational safety and training through the Internet (see the site: http://dmoz.org/Health/Occupational_Health_and_Safety/Training).

The quality and credibility have yet to be defined. The goal of this project is to develop a database of web training opportunities providing safety and health information. NIOSH in collaboration with the COHS and
ILO (CIS) have taken a first step in providing a standardized form for accessing electronic information on occupational safety and health training at http://www.ciscentres.org/en/training/usa/
A draft inventory of e-training web sites has been compiled. Criteria are being developed for sorting and rating the e-training web databases. Occupational safety and health information related to training resources available in the U.S. is available.
There is close collaboration between WHO and ILO: University of Illinois in Chicago; University of Cape Town, South Africa; University of Texas, USA; Canadian Center for Occupational Health and Safety, Hamilton
Project start date: February 2003
Project end date: Ongoing

Contributing to the development and use of ergonomics-related training materials on the web
John Wilson (john.wilson@nottingham.ac.uk), Chair IEA PSE Committee
Keywords: training materials, website, ergonomics, occupational safety and health, resource development, internet links
Target group: occupational safety and health personnel engaged in training of managers, workers and personnel in industry, instructors and trainers in applying ergonomics to occupational safety and health programs, resource development staff for training on the web
The purpose of the project is to facilitate the sharing of training materials on the web for applying ergonomics within occupational health and safety clearinghouse activities.
The links to existing web-based training materials related to ergonomics are promoted so as to facilitate the finding of appropriate materials that can be downloaded at no cost by occupational safety and health trainers and practitioners. The networks of IEA Technical Committees and federated societies as well as the IEA directory of training institutions will be used.
The project is in progress through voluntary contributions of ergonomics professionals and institutions with the aim of developing a database of web-based ergonomics training materials that are available for basic ergonomics training in selected topics.
The IEA IDC Committee is collaborating on the project.

Facilitating the exchange of information and communication among the WHO Collaborating Centres through website development
Jean-Marie Mur, INSERM, France (jean-marie.mur@nancy.inserm.fr); S Len Hong, Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety, Canada (lhong@ccohs.ca); Teresa Whitford, National Centre for Occupational Health, South Africa (WhitFT@health.gov.za)
Funding in place
Project start date: January 2000
Completion date: 2005.

Inventory of available training materials on the web
Daniel Hryhorczuk and Leslie Nickels, Great Lakes Centres, University of Illinois in Chicago, USA (dhryhorc@uic.edu)
Keywords: occupational, safety, health, training, Internet
Target group: Teachers, students, and practitioners of occupational safety and health around the world.
The aim of this project is to create a web-based library of occupational safety and health training materials that are in the public domain and which can be downloaded at no cost by occupational safety and health teachers, students, and practitioners around the world.
Many governmental agencies, academic institutions, and non-governmental organizations have developed occupational safety and health training materials and made them available for downloads at no cost on the World Wide Web. Finding appropriate materials can be difficult and time consuming. This project will pilot the development of an internet-based library of these materials. It will begin by focusing on a few specific topic areas and attempt to assemble, review, and catalogue all available training materials for these topics.
A collection of web-based training materials has been initiated. A prototype of this virtual library will be presented at the next meeting of the network.

The University of Cape Town, South Africa and the University of Texas, USA are collaborating on the project.

*Project start date:* February 2003
*Project end date:* December 2005

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**Sharing case studies of successful health hazards control on the internet**

Magdalene Chan, Occupational Health Department, Ministry of Manpower, Singapore (magdalene-chan@mom.gov.sg)

*Keywords:* occupational health hazards, control solutions, case studies

*Target group:* OH&S professionals, employers and employees

The objective of this project is to make available, through the internet, and specifically through the WHO Global Web Portal, case studies of successful health hazards control.

The project will establish a repository of successful cases of health hazards control and make available these case studies on the internet through Singapore’s recently established link to the Global Web Portal aimed at complementing the Programme of the WHO Collaborating Centres Network.

The case studies will include examples from winners of national awards, such as the Noise Control Award, and the new Occupational Health Best Practices Award which has been launched in October 2003.

The indexed database will have a search function enabling cases to be retrieved by industry, hazard or keywords. It will have the following data items:

- Problems identified in the work process
- Solutions and Control measures proposed to reduce the hazard
- Implementation cost
- Cost benefits

The prototype of the database structure has been created. The case studies will be updated when the web-based database has been developed.

*Product(s):* Web-based information on successful health hazards control. The project is expected to be completed by July 2004.

*Project start date:* October 2003
*Project end date:* July 2004

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**Distance E-Learning Trial on Occupational Health Among Asian Countries**

Toshiaki Higashi, University of Occupational and Environmental Health, Japan (thigashi@med.uoeh-u.ac.jp)

Funds are partially in place. The project will be completed by June 2005 (including the establishment of a distance learning system).

*Project start date:* May 2003
*Project end date:* January 2006

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**Development of a web information collection system for active surveillance of work-related diseases and occupational exposure, and of a web publication system for information dissemination to occupational safety and health practitioners**

Ippei Mori, National Institute of Industrial Health, Japan (mouri@nih.go.jp)

*Keywords:* Internet, web based data collection and publication, active surveillance, work-related diseases, occupational exposure

*Target group:* occupational safety and health staff in companies, occupational physicians, and industrial hygienists.

The objective of this project is to establish a web based data collection system for active surveillance for work-related diseases and occupational exposure, and a web based information publication system for supporting occupational safety and health practitioners working at enterprises. The website is provided for occupational physicians to inform about work-related diseases they experienced and for companies or providers of work environment measurement to provide occupational exposure levels they assessed.
Development of the web-based data collection system, the core technology of this project will finish in several months and trial data collection of work-related diseases will be expected to start before March 2004. Development of the web page for data collection for work-related diseases has almost been finished. Minor changes and bug-fixings are on-going.

Support system for diagnosis of pneumoconiosis using digitization system of image information by relatively reasonable computer system (incl. asbestos-related diseases)
Toshiaki Higashi, University of Occupational and Environmental Health, Japan (thigashi@med.uoeh-u.ac.jp)
Funding is in place.
Project start date: May 2003
Project end date: June 2005

Identification of significant occupational health and safety issues, development of the consensus view on the issues and dissemination via the web.
Julie Hill. National Occupational Health & Safety Commission (Julie.hill@nohsc.gov.au)
Keywords: evidence; reviews; research
Target group: OHS policy makers; regulators; researchers; decision makers.
The aim of the project is to establish international collaboration to facilitate the completion of systematic reviews on occupational health and safety (OHS) issues and interventions. It is hoped that this will provide a better evidence base for policy and practice and promote greater international dialogue and exchange of OHS data and experiences with the results being available freely on the web.
Initially the project will be a feasibility study to investigate options for the establishment of an international evidence based policy and practice (EBPP) collaborative network. The first phase will be complete by mid-2004.