

# History of Occupational Hygiene in Hong Kong

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職業衛生之

前世,今生

# **When did Industrial Hygiene first appear in Hong Kong?**

- **An Industrial Health Section was established in LD in 1954.**

# When did Industrial Hygiene first appear in Hong Kong?

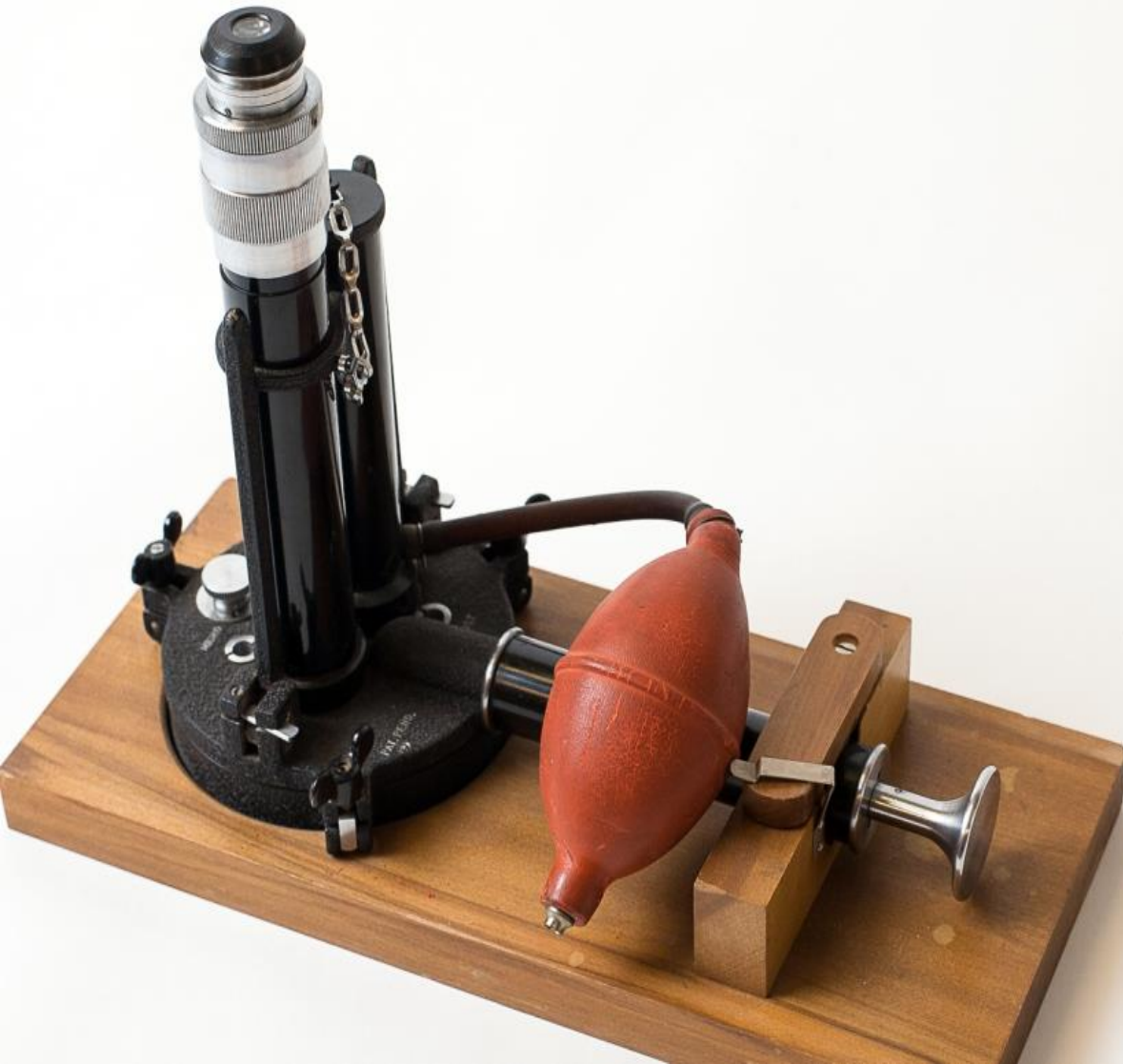
- **First Industrial Health Officer (IHO) 'on loan' from DMHS after the enactment of F&IUO in 1955**

# **When did Industrial Hygiene first appear in Hong Kong?**

- **The Industrial Health Officer with occupational hygiene training was formally seconded from DMHS to LD in March 1956.**

# **When did Industrial Hygiene first appear in Hong Kong?**

- **Equipment including Konimeter and Thermal Precipitator were acquired by the Industrial Health Officer for workplace monitoring.**



**Konimeter  
for dust level  
assessment**

# What did Industrial Hygiene covered in 1950s?

**Three main areas:**

- **Radioactive substances**
- **Silicosis**
- **Lead poisoning**



# **Manpower of Industrial Hygiene Services in 1950s**

- **1 IHO**
- **1 Labour Inspector seconded from other LD unit**

**1959 - 1963**

**Industrial Health Section was charged with:**

- **Prevention of ODs**
- **Medical surveillance**
- **Health education**
- **Factory hygiene**
- **Field survey and research**

# 1959 - 1963



A labour inspector explaining industrial safety posters to representatives of the Kai-fong Associations.

*Wah Kiu Yat Po*

**1959 - 1963**

**Industrial hygiene works covered:**

- **Dust monitoring in dusty trades**
- **Solvent exposure in artificial pearl factories**

**Setting up pilot plant to determine most effective ventilation system for dipping trays**

**1959 - 1963**

**Industrial hygiene works covered:**

- **Monitoring Thorium nitrate in mantle factories**
- **Heat stress survey measuring dry bulb temp., RH, air velocity and radiant heat**

**1959 - 1963**

**Industrial hygiene works covered:**

- **Environmental SO<sub>2</sub> monitoring at Tsing Lung Tau**
- **Industrial pollution monitoring of Indus River from dyeing, metal and tanning industries**

**1959 - 1963**

**Industrial hygiene works covered:**

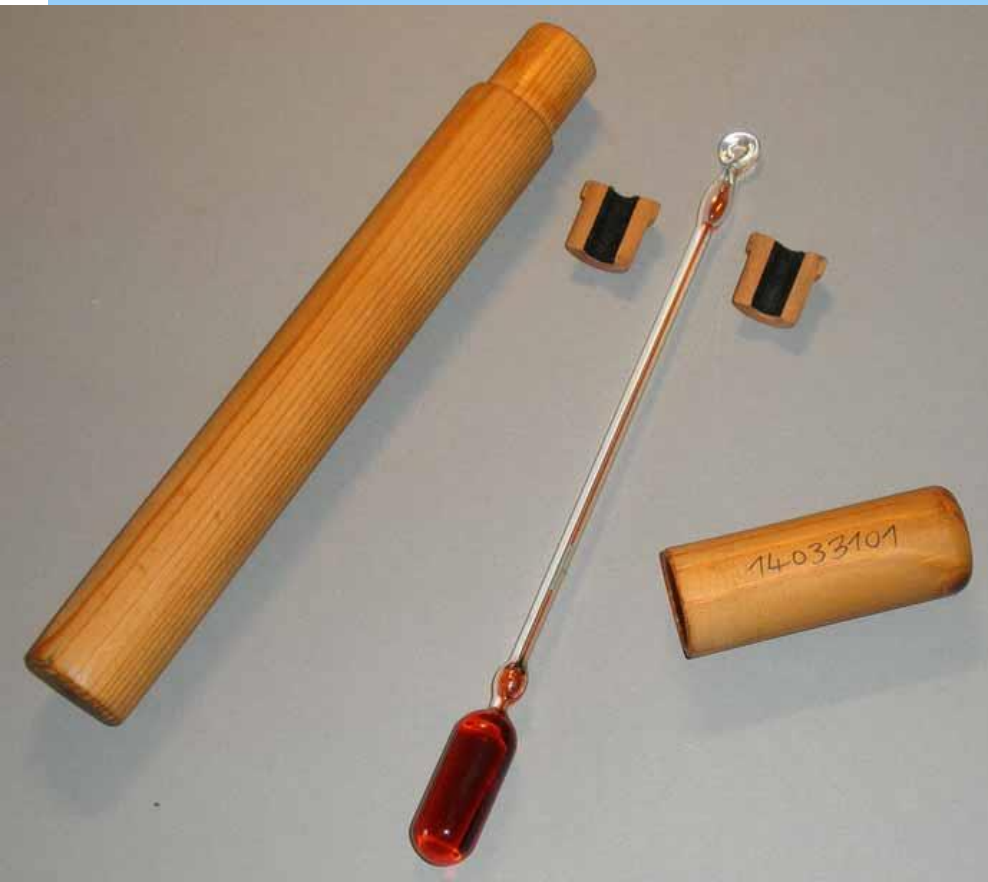
- **Vetting 134 proposals (in 1962) for new factory buildings in the areas of ventilation, lighting and medical, sanitary and welfare facilities**

## **1963 - 1964**

- **2 Laboratory Assistants (LA) seconded from other departments to assist in industrial hygiene surveys**  
**More equipment acquired including Kata thermometer and Velometer**



1963 - 1964



## **1964 - 1965**

- **Set up Industrial Hygiene Lab in Kowloon Hospital**
- **First LA sent to attend 1 year IH course in London**

**1965 - 1966**

- **Radiation Ordinance enacted, removing radiation control duties from F&IUO**

## **1966 - 1967**

- **HKG set up Committee on Air Pollution**
- **IH Unit set up 4 SO<sub>2</sub> monitoring stations – QEH, Hung Hom Estate, Kowloon Hospital and Sham Shui Po**

**1970 - 1971**

- **Industrial Hygiene Laboratory in Kowloon Hospital designated a national laboratory by WHO, and took part in international air pollution control program**

**1971 - 1973**

- **Environmental SO<sub>2</sub> monitoring station gradually increased to 10**

# 1974

- **Air Pollution Control Officer appointed to head Air Pollution Control Unit (APCU)**
- **Environmental SO<sub>2</sub> monitoring duties transferred to APCU (later upgraded to APCD, then EPD)**

## **1976 - 1978**

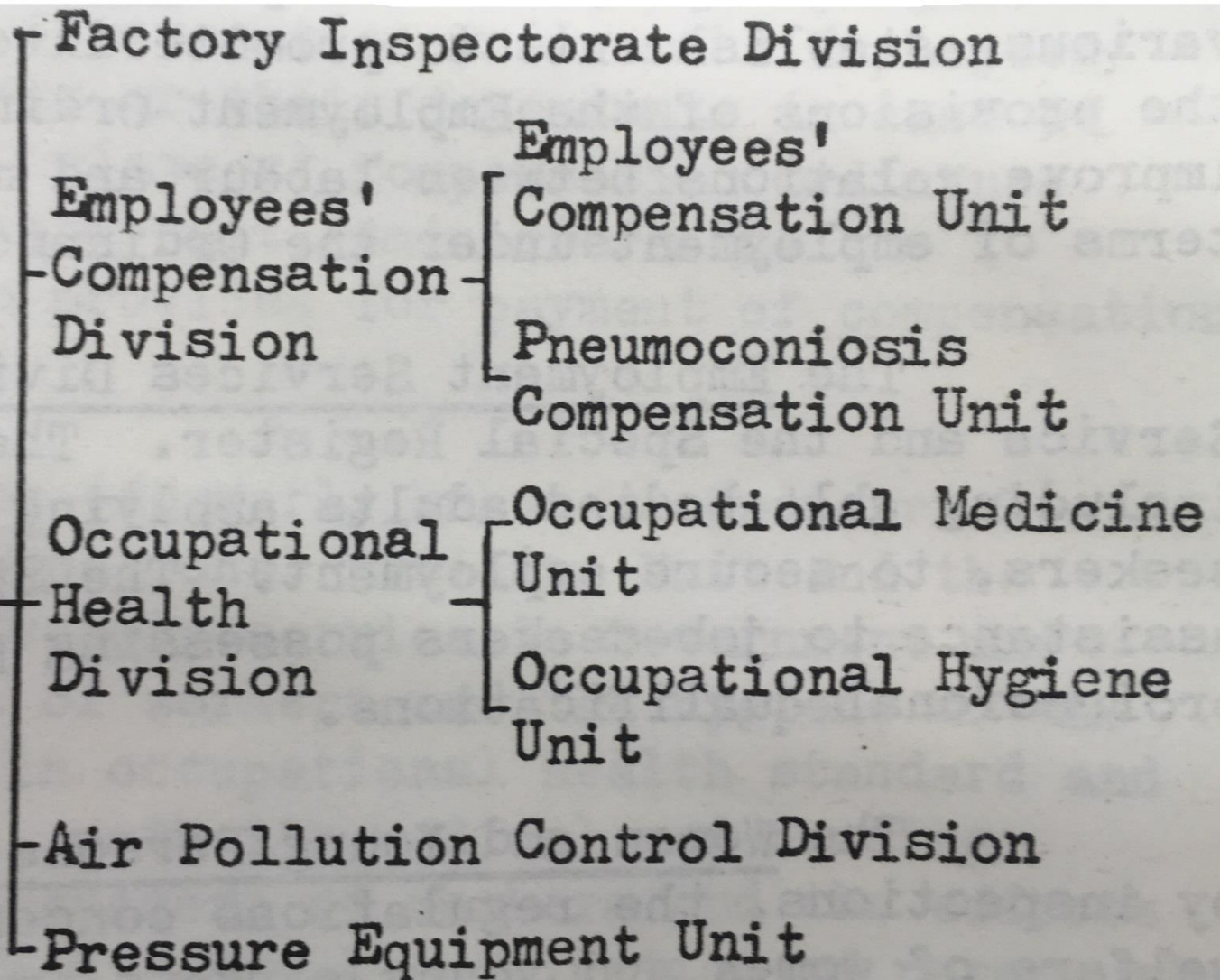
- **3 Industrial Hygienist posts approved in 1976 but not filled**
- **3 IH appointed on 1 September 1998**



**1981**

- **Industrial Health Division renamed Occupational Health Division**
- **The title of Occupational Hygienist first appeared in this year**

Assistant  
Commissioner  
(B)



# **Manpower from 1978 to 1991**

## **Industrial/Occupational Hygienists:**

- **1978 – 3**
- **1981 – 6**
- **1982 – 9**
- **1983 – 7**
- **1989 – 9**
- **1991 – 8**

# **The Contemporary Occupational Hygienists**

**Where are they now?**

- **Government**
- **Educational Institutions**
- **Health Care Institutions**
- **Financial and Insurance**
- **Public Utilities**
- **Consultancy and Laboratory**

# **The Contemporary Occupational Hygienists**

**What are they doing?**

- **Law enforcement**
- **Teaching & Research OH&S**
- **Risk assessment and management of specific operations**
- **OH&S Planning and Advisory**
- **HazMat analysis**

# The Road Ahead



# **The Changing Faces of Occupational Hygiene**

**In addition to conventional fields of expertise, the occupational hygiene discipline should expand into:**

- Environmental and public health**
- Emerging health and safety issues**

# The Changing Faces of Occupational Hygiene

- **Research health and safety**
- **Policy and procedure development and monitoring**
- **Emergency responses**
- **Counseling skills and Publicity**



# Discussion forum on Assistant Occupational Hygienist recruitment:

- Just received a letter about the interview on next month.....but I have forgotten what it is all about
- 我都係喎, 完全唔記得有件咁既事.....  
記得之前in過Occupational Safety officer II 全軍覆沒... 今次都唔知in唔in好...
- I got the letter too, any1 know what should I do to prepare?

# Discussion forum on Assistant Occupational Hygienist recruitment:

- AOH 比 OSO-II 好幾十陪, AOH 同 OH 係同一個位, 你OK就可以直上, OH係professional grade, max 係point 44 等於OSO-II 上 OSO-I 上 DSO 上 SSO, 死都未到. 理論上OSO可升到AC, OH只可上到SOH, 但有幾多個上到?考唔到OSO, 可能係塞翁失馬, 不過就唔知你係咪阿福

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