



Occupational Hygiene Training Association (OHTA)

Past, Present and Future

**Dr. Alex Tse Chun Kuen
25 September 2021**

Introduction

- The Occupational Hygiene Association (OHTA) began as an international collaboration amongst dedicated occupational hygienists from different nations
- It was established as an international training scheme and qualifications framework which provides high-quality training materials in several languages and the infrastructure for training courses, as part of an internationally recognised programme of study.

Introduction

- OHTA develops training materials and make them readily available for use by students and training providers.
- The International Occupational Hygiene Association (IOHA) supports OHTA in its training activities.

Financial Support and Sponsorship

- OHTA is a registered UK charity (charity number 1168722) and has obtained charitable status as a 501(c)(3) in the United States.
- Operating costs are funded primarily by levy on approved training providers based on the number of their students taking OHTA examinations.
- Sponsors and supporters who share the aims of OHTA to provide funding for investments such as new course development and translations into multiple languages.

OHTA Members

Mostly national associations (IOHA Members) which have signed a memorandum of understanding with OHTA.

They commit to **support and promote** the development and implementation of the **OHTA international training and qualifications framework** and encourage, promote and support the use of OHTA modules and qualifications within their area(s) of operation.

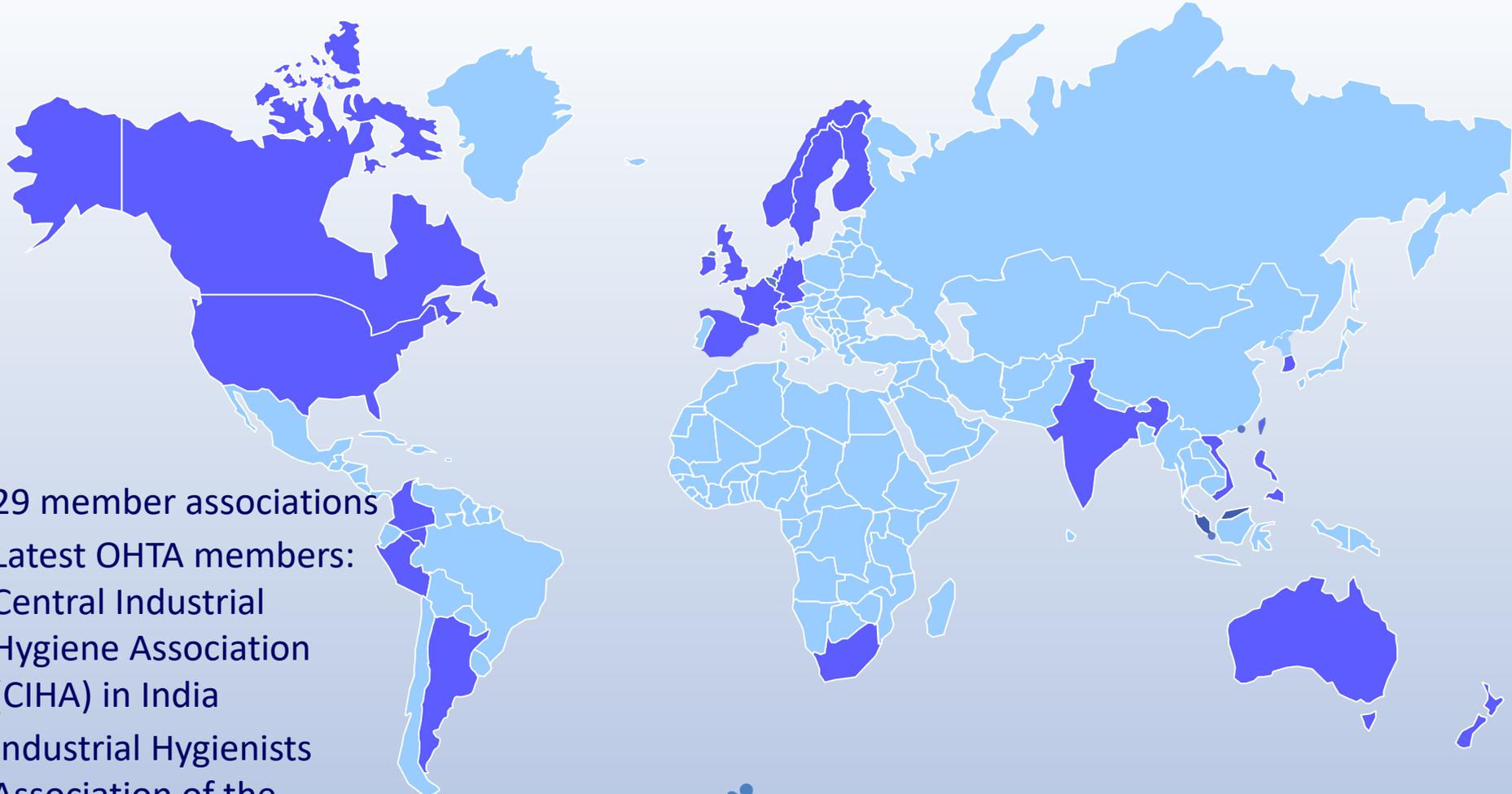
Member association representatives have **voting rights at the Annual General Meeting.**

They are given the opportunity **to comment** on relevant **training provider applications.**

Many member associations are involved in **editorial review and development,** including **translations.**

OHTA Member Associations

June 2021



29 member associations

Latest OHTA members:

Central Industrial
Hygiene Association
(CIHA) in India

Industrial Hygienists
Association of the
Philippines (IHAP)



OHTA Board of Trustees

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(South Africa)



David Zalk (US)

Key OHTA Committees

- **Advisory Committee**
Co-Chairs: Michael Connor
& Dr Sharann Johnson
 - **Editorial Committee**
Chief Editor: Sven Hoffmann
- **Award & Qualifications Committee**
Chair: Lynn O'Donnell



Board Advisers



Roger Alesbury
(UK)



Nancy McClellan
(US)



David O'Malley
(UK)



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OHTA/BOHS

Online Training Delivery Task Group

- In response to COVID-19
- QA process assesses distance learning offerings of Approved Training Providers (ATPs) (training providers must be previously approved to be eligible to apply, 67 existing ATPs)
- OHTA assesses training capability, **British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS)** assesses exam delivery
- Must use suitable platform w/OHTA manual and materials
- All updates or changes must be shared with OHTA
- 19 ATPs approved for delivering online training in 2020
- OHTA and BOHS will carry out a joint review of distance learning and exam process

OHTA News Team

Co-Chairs

Debbie Dietrich (US)

Jason Hodgkiss (UK)



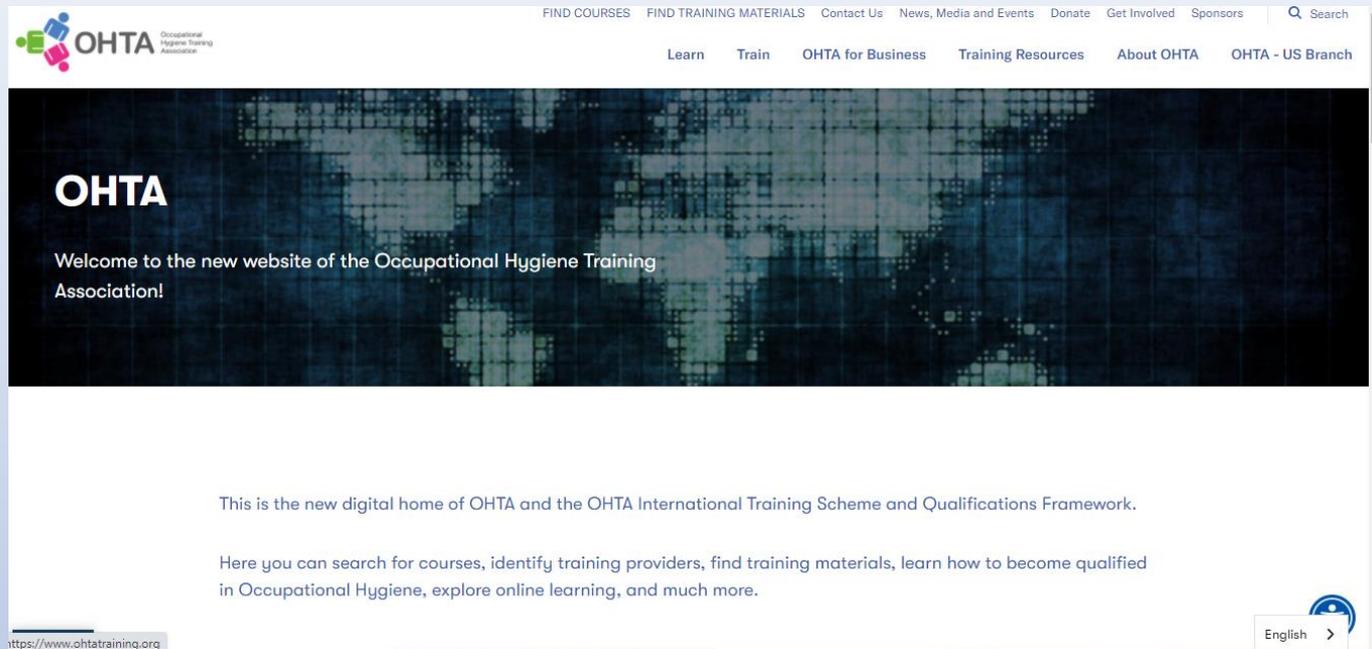
New **Global Link** newsletter (first issue January 2021):

- increase communication and networking among OHTA member associations
- enhance engagement with OHTA volunteers/stakeholders
- promote global recognition of the OHTA training modules with the goal of increasing participation in OHTA courses

Sign up at: <https://www.ohtatraining.org/about-ohta/news-and-events/ohta-e-bulletin>

New OHTA Website Launching June 2021

New design, new structure ... and new name
www.ohtatraining.org



The Global Challenge

- 35 million new cases of work related illness each year due to exposure to chemicals¹
- 2.4 million lives per year lost to occupational disease²

Total 44,000 NAR* occupational hygienists³ required

BUT

only 7,576 available – (6,506 in North America)³

*NAR is IOHA National Accreditation Recognition scheme. A system for ensuring comparability of professional levels of occupational hygiene qualifications

(Source: ¹ ILO, 2004, 2005, 2013; ² Takala, 2012; ³ Tresider, 2015)

Global Competency Impact:

>10,000 Exams in > 50 Countries (2010-2020)

Course	Number of Students*
W201 – Awareness	2998
W501 – Air Sampling	2033
W502 – Thermal Effects	598
W503 – Noise	1105
W504 – Asbestos	993
W505 – Controls	1222
W506 – Ergonomics	911
W507 – Health Effects	948

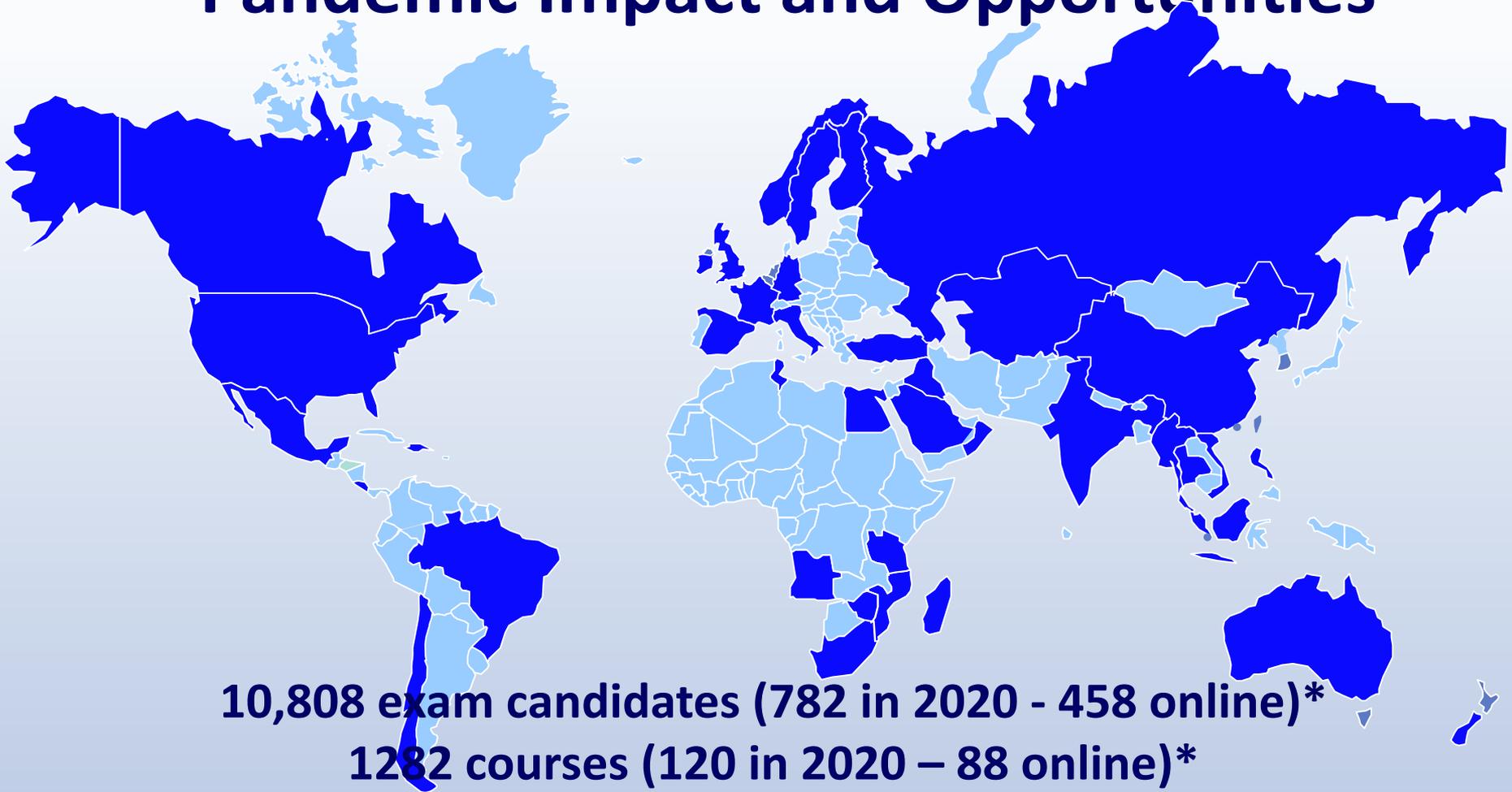
OH Community Impact:

- 19 ATPs ran a total of 120 courses in 2020
- 29 MOUs with OH Member Associations
- Undetermined Number of Courses without Exams

*BOHS data

2010 – 2020 Cumulative Data

Pandemic Impact and Opportunities



10,808 exam candidates (782 in 2020 - 458 online)*

1282 courses (120 in 2020 – 88 online)*

50+ countries (10 in 2020 – more online)*

Training Levels

- The international scheme recognises four levels of training, two of which may lead to qualifications.
- **Awareness** level for those who require an introduction to the topic of health hazards and risks in the workplace, such as managers, supervisors, union representatives and employees. There is no formal qualification.

Training Levels

- **Foundation** level for those who work in areas like health and safety, occupational medicine and nursing, and should understand the basic principles of occupational hygiene so that they can deal with simple problems and know when to call in a specialist. The qualification is a **Certificate of Successful Course Completion.**

Training Levels

- **Intermediate** level for those who study the technical knowledge and practical skills needed to undertake occupational hygiene in the workplace. The principal qualification is the **International Certificate in Occupational Hygiene (ICertOH)**.
- Both the Foundation and Intermediate levels use a formative approach to learning which makes assessment an integral part of the learning process.

Training Levels

- **Specialist** level providing specialist learning opportunities for specific audiences. There is no formal qualification; instead training providers are invited to produce their own assessment as needed.

Translations

W201 Basic Principles – English, Mandarin, French, Indonesian, Portuguese (Brazilian), Russian, German, Spanish (Latin American)

W501 Measurement of Hazardous Substances – English, Spanish (Latin American), Norwegian, Mandarin, French, Russian, Portuguese (Brazilian), Portuguese (Mozambique)

W502 Thermal Environment – English, Spanish (Latin American)

W503 Noise – English, Spanish (Latin American), French

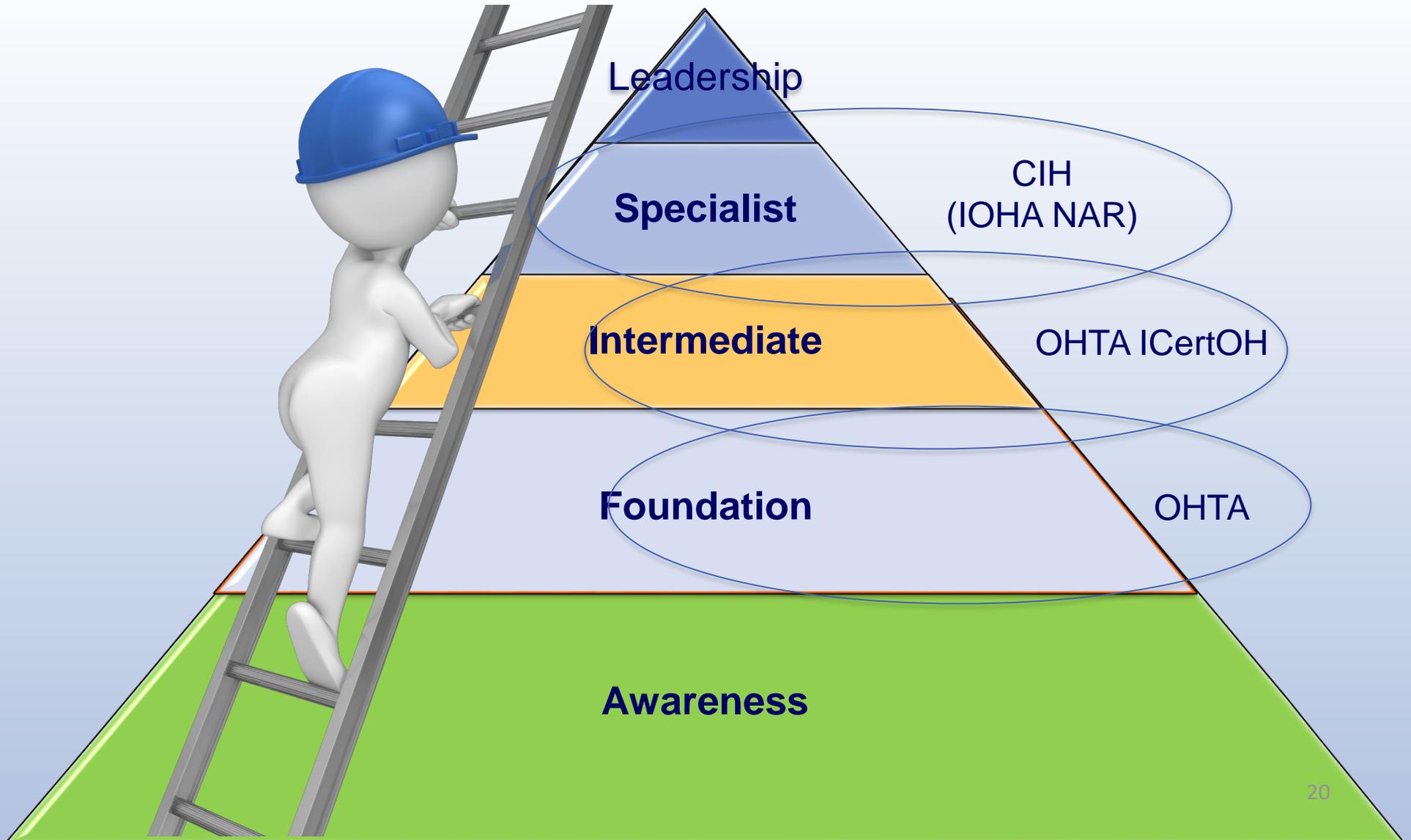
W504 Asbestos – English

W505 Control (of Hazardous Substances) – English, Spanish (Latin American), Mandarin, Russian

W506 Ergonomics – English, Russian

W507 Hazards of Chemicals – English, Spanish (Latin American)

A Common Training and Career Ladder in Occupational Hygiene



Courses (Modules)

W501 Measurement of Hazardous Substances

W502 Thermal Environment

W503 Noise Measurement and its Effects

W504 Asbestos and other fibres

W505 Control of Hazardous Substances

W506 Ergonomics Essentials

W507 Health Effects of Hazardous Substances

W201 Basic Principles in Occupational Hygiene

Silica Hazard Awareness

A1001 Mining Industry

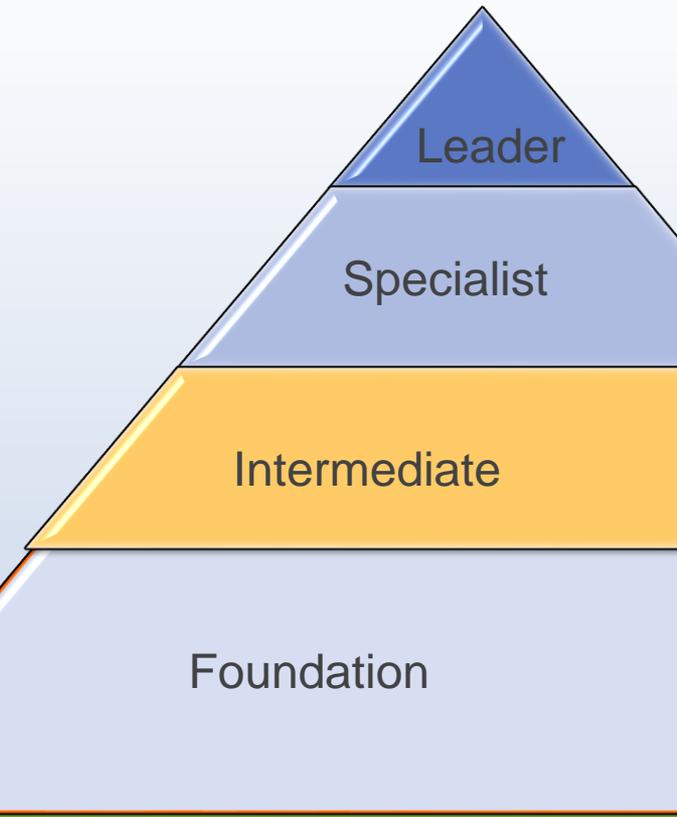
A1002 Oil & Gas Industry (in devpt)

A1003 Pharmaceutical Industry (in devpt)



AIHA e-learning
Basic Principles of Occupational Hygiene

H&S Awareness Module



Awareness

Certification Schemes

- **The American Board of Industrial Hygiene (ABIH)** accepts the OHTA W500 series modules for Certified Industrial Hygienists (CIHs) claiming Certification Maintenance (CM) credit in the Education category.

Certification Schemes

- **The British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS)** accepts the International Certificate in Occupational Hygiene (ICertOH) as one of the qualifying pathways for the Diploma of Professional Competence in Occupational Hygiene (DipOH). Holders of the DipOH may subsequently apply to become a Chartered Member of the Faculty of Occupational Hygiene (CMFOH).
- In order to be awarded the BOHS DipOH, in addition to being able to demonstrate five years' professional experience within the field of occupational hygiene, applicant must successfully complete three components: a Professional Experience Portfolio (PEP), Research Essay and a professional discussion.

Certification Schemes

- For **Southern African Institute for Occupational Hygiene (SAIOH)**, the W201 Basic Principles of Occupational Hygiene module is the entry level assessment for SAIOH's Occupational Hygiene Assistant (OHA) registration.

Current Financial Structure

OHTA's main source of income:

- Course contribution £40 (~ \$52) per student
- Paid by training provider and collected with exam fee

Other funding:

- AIHA, SKC and AIOH sponsorship
- Individual donations via website
- Contributions can be made to the UK or US organizations

Operating day-to-day

Please consider donating whatever you can to support OHTA.

We are very grateful to the many individuals and organisations who help to make our work possible.

Donors will be routed to the PayPal website to pay and will then be returned to the ohtatraining website.

UK Donations	US Donations	All Other Countries
OHTA is a registered UK charity (charity number 1168722).	OHTA contributions are tax-deductible (501(c)(3) EIN 83-2036073).	OHTA has tremendous global impact. Help us continue our good work.
Donate to OHTA UK:	Donate to OHTA - US Branch:	Donate to OHTA:
 	 	 

OHTA Collaborations

AIHA – “Basic Principles of Industrial Hygiene” based on W201 rolled out 2019

<https://www.aiha.org/education/elearning/online-courses/basic-principles-of-occupational-hygiene>

OHTA content experts (Zack Mansdorf lead)/The Phylmar Group – online “Health and Safety Awareness” course 2020

<https://phylmar.learningcart.com/products/Occupational-Safety-and-Health--Awareness-Overview.aspx>

OHTA – NIOSH Collaboration

OHTA and U.S. NIOSH have agreed to collaborate on four projects. NIOSH has a global outreach program which allows them to collaborate with.

The Projects are:

- W503 (Noise)
- A1002 (Oil and Gas)
- Silica Hazard Awareness (completed)
- W501 (Measurement of Haz. Substances) Final Review



Thank you

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