

Hong Kong Institute of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene 香港職業及環境衛生學會

A member of International Occupational Hygiene Association

P.O. Box 25645, Harbour Building Post Office, Central, Hong Kong.

HKIOEH Newsletter Number 24 Winter 1999



Congratulations to the new Council

A new Council was formed in the last Annual General Meeting on 28 September 1999:

President: Mr. KS CHIU
Vice-President: Mr. SK LAM
Hon. Treasurer: Mr. Joseph CW LEE
Hon. Secretary: Mr. Paul KP FUNG
Council Members: Mr. YK KAM
Mr. CM POON
Mr. Percy MT TO
Mr. TW TSIN
Mr. ST YIP

Members at AGM have endorsed amendment of the HKIOEH Constitution. The revised issue will be distributed to members very soon. After AGM, Dr. KF LEE, JP, the Deputy Commissioner for Labour, enlightened us with an excellent presentation on the "Impacts of the proposed F&IU (Medical Examination) Regulation on Occupational Hygiene Practice". Any member who missed the presentation but now wishes to find out the details, may contact the Secretariat (fax: 2565 1349) for a copy of handout.



MEMBERSHIP

In the recent Council Meetings, new members were nominated and admitted by the Council. Welcome you all!

Full Members

Mr. CHENG Chi-ming
Mr. LEE Yiu-yin, Raymond
Mr. LEUNG Cho-shing

Mr. CHUA Manuel

Members upgraded to Full Members

Mr. LAM Chi-sing

Associated Member

Mr. WONG Kin-chung, Ken

For new application and membership affairs, readers may write to the Secretariat (attn. Mr. Paul FUNG Kai-ping, at fax 2581 2049/ 2565 1349) for information. New applicants for full membership will normally be required to attend an interview before admission.

Annual Fees. The membership fees for different grades remain the same in Year 2000 as follows:

| | |
|-------------------|------------|
| Fellow | HK\$ 350 |
| Member | HK\$ 300 |
| Associate | HK\$ 200 |
| Affiliated Member | |
| Person | HK\$ 100 |
| Company | HK\$ 3,000 |

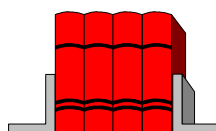
Members are reminded to send in their annual subscription, which is due January 2000. A penalty may be imposed for late payment after the AGM in September 2000. Payments may be made by a crossed check addressed to the "Hong Kong Institute of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene" or "香港職業及環境衛生學會".

EDITORIAL

News and comments from the readers are most welcome. The deadline for contribution to the next issue of the newsletter will be 15 February 2000. Please send your articles to the Editorial Board at P.O. Box 25645, Harbour Building Post Office, Central, Hong Kong or fax (+852) 2565 1349 or e-mail to hkioeh@netvigator.com.

The articles in the newsletter represent the views of the authors only. The editorial board is not responsible for the accuracy of the information or any legal liability. Any comments can however be channelled through the editor to the writer for exchange of views.

**HKIOEH Secretariat: Tel: 2852 4050, Fax: 2581 2049, e-mail hkioeh@netvigator.com Mr. Paul FUNG.
Editorial Board of News: Tel: 2852 4047, Fax: 2565 1349, Mr. T W Tsin.**



Reference for Members

Limited copies of the following titles are still available to members from the Editorial Board:

1. The Handbook of Electricity Safety (漏電保護器應用) at HK\$ 10.
2. Guide Book for Occupational Health & Safety in Industrial Joint Venture Enterprises in China by Prof. J.L. Zhou, H.K. Lee and Alison Margary (涉外工業職業安全衛生指南) at price HK\$ 100 including postage and packaging. The book is written in Chinese.

For order of the above reference or other books, members may contact the Editorial Board. (Fax: 2565 1349 or telephone 2852 4047).

HKIOEH Goes Electronic

In the coming new century, it will be the era of electronic. Accessibility can be improved through transforming ways of business being conducted – by going electronic. The Electronic Service Delivery will become dominant. We may contact other persons via the television, Internet, public kiosk, or telephone linked to the computer system - that is to go electronic. HKIOEH strongly supports it, as it would be more green and efficient.

Therefore, the Secretariat wishes to have the consent from with members who want their e-mail address made known to the others and allow the Council to contact them via the e-mail. They may also indicate whether they want to obtain information by the electronic version only if the document can be transmitted electronically.

Members are reminded to make their options via the address: hkioeh@netvigator.com before 15 February 2000.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

1. ANZAOHSE Conference in Hong Kong from 19 – 21 January 2000. This is a conference about the education and training of Occupational Safety and Health professionals organised by leading

experts from Australia, New Zealand and Hong Kong. Delegates from overseas as well as the local will attend and present on the current issues at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

2. Occupational Safety and Health Exposition (OSH Expo' 2000)

Date: 21-23 March 2000

Venue: Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre

This will be a large international conference on occupational safety and health in Hong Kong. Many local and overseas delegates are coming to the meeting. The Exposition consists of a 2-day international conference and a 3-day large scale trade exhibition Dear Members! Don't miss out this good opportunity to enhance your professional knowledge, advance your career and enrich your personal growth. You may contact <http://www.hk2.com/she/eng/f02.htm> for registration of the event at your earliest convenience.

3. The 4th International Scientific Conference of the International Occupational Hygiene Association (IOHA), 10 – 14 July 2000

Venue: Cairns International Hotel, Cairns, Australia.

The main Theme of the event is “Occupational Hygiene in Developing Countries Occupational”. Members can contact the HKIOEH Secretariat for information or check with the IOHA conference web-site:

<http://www.curtin.edu.au/org/aioh/cairns2000/intro.htm>.

4. The 26th International Congress on Occupational Health (ICOH)

Time: 27 August – 1 September 2000

Venue: Raffles Convention Centre, Singapore

The Congress is meeting in about once every 3 to 4-year. It is a good opportunity for professionals to come together to discuss the main theme on “Healthy workers, healthy workplace: A New Millennium” It is expected thousands of delegates will be attending.

For registration and submission of abstract and further details: please check

<http://www.icoh.org.sg/icoh2000.htm>.

Continuous Professional Development for Occupational Hygienists

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Registered Professional Hygienists (RPH)

The registration scheme will soon start to register members who want their names to be put in the list of RPH. It is the first step towards the continuous professional development programme, equivalent to the certification scheme administered by other International Associations. Members, who have attain the qualification of the Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH) granted by the American Board of Industrial Hygienist (ABIH), the Diploma in Occupational Hygienist (DOH) granted by the British Examining Board of Occupational Hygienist (BEBOH) or equivalent plus relevant working experience in the field, may be considered for admission to the register until 2001. From 2002 onwards, members have to take the local examination before admission to be RPH.

Members who do not have the above qualification may take the examination offered by the HKIOEH Examination Board in May 2000. Members are required to pass two papers: one core paper (20 May) and one advanced paper (27 May). Application fee for the examination is HK\$ 200 (non-refundable) and the examination fee is HK\$ 800 for each paper. The deadline for application for examination is 1 March 2000.

Detail information and application forms for registration and the examination may be obtained by fax or e-mail to the Secretariat.



EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES

1. Talk arranged by HKIOEH: Consultation on Managing IAQ – HKIOEH's comment
Speaker: Mr. SK LAM, Vice President of HKIOEH.
Date: February 2000 (exact date & venue: TBA)

2. Open Seminars at Hong Kong Science Museum by the Occupational Safety and Health Council (OSHC)

Date: 29 February 2000

Time: 6:15 - 7:30 pm

Topic: Occupational contact dermatitis and its prevention

Speakers: Dr. YK WAN and Mr. TW TSIN, LD.

3. Talk arranged by HKIOEH: Non-ionising radiation: EMF

Speaker: Mr. ST YIP, Safety Office, CUHK.

Date: April 2000 (exact date & venue: TBA)

OSH LEGISLATION UPDATE

Keep watching!

- Factories and Industrial Undertakings (Medical Exam) Regulation
- Factories and Industrial Undertakings (Safety Officers and Safety Supervisors, amendment) Regulation
- Occupational Safety and Health (Display screen Equipment) Regulation
- Occupational Safety and Health (Personal Protective Equipment) Regulation

Passed !

- Factories and Industrial Undertakings (Safety Management) Regulation on 24 November 1999

Enacted!

- Factories and Industrial Undertakings (Confined Spaces, amendment) Regulation – to become effective in January 2000.



OCCUPATIONAL HAZARDS

1. Photographic Processing Hazard – Black and White Processing

The basic steps in photographic processing include mixing of photochemical, developing baths, intensifying and reducing (treatment of negatives). There is a potential hazard in the trade because a number of chemicals are being handled, directly or indirectly no matter by a professional or layman.

The most commonly used developers are hydroquinone, monomethyl para-aminophenol sulphate and phenidone. In the formulation the common components of the bath include also sodium carbonate or borax as accelerator, sodium sulphate as a preservative, and potassium bromide as an antifogging agent. Most of them are strong alkaline.

In general, film developing is done in closed canisters and tray processing is used for printing. The hazards first come from the mixing of chemicals for developing solutions. Most solutions are highly alkaline, but some, e.g. glacial acetic acid that is used to prepare the stop bath is corrosive.

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Skin contact should be avoided in preparation because it may cause dermatitis and ulcers and can strongly irritate the mucous membrane. Developer powder is highly toxic by inhalation too. Local exhaust or personal protective mask should be used in preparing the solutions.

Proper labelling of the chemicals helps to prevent ingestion by accident and through poor personal hygiene. Poisoning by hydroquinone may cause ringing in the ear, nausea, dizziness, muscular twitching, headache, increase in breathing rate, and cyanosis due to methemoglobinemia.

Intensification or reduction is a common process after treatment of negatives. Common agents used include hydrochloric acid, potassium dichromate and mercuric chloride. They are toxic by nature and should be handled carefully.

Toning solution (for a print) usually involves replacement of silver by another metal, e.g. gold, selenium, uranium, platinum, and iron, or silver sulphide in sulphide toners. Hydrogen sulphide could be generated suddenly as a dangerous fume during processing, when e.g. in treatment with a strong acid.

Other chemicals that may be encountered in the processing include formaldehyde, hydrogen peroxide, potassium permanganate, potassium persulphate, and concentrated sulphuric acid occasionally. They should be observed carefully as well.

In the processing of colour photos, the use of chemicals and processing are more complicated. It will be discussed in the next issue.

2. Hints on Pesticides Application:

- Read the label carefully
- Store securely in a cool dry place
- Mix as appropriate – twice as much is not twice as good
- Think before spray – there may be better methods
- Cover body before start work
- Keep food, pets or fish tanks from the spray or chemical to be applied
- Clean up the items etc. thoroughly before store up again
- Dispose of containers or contaminated articles properly
- Select only the right material for the purpose.

HK Federation of Medical Societies Column

The Homepage of the Federation of Medical Societies of Hong Kong has come to operation on 1 December 1999. The objective of this Homepage is to provide a convenient and effective means for member societies to make use of the latest information technology in access of advanced information. The web site of the Homepage is <http://www.FMSHK.com.hk>. Members may try the site and give suggestion via the HKIOEH Secretariat for improvement if any.

Year 2000 is the 35th Anniversary of the Federation. There will be number activities including exhibition, sport day, annual dinner and scientific meeting. The scientific meeting is scheduled on 8 October 2000. Members are urged to support and submit topics if interested. The deadline for finalising the programme is 15 January 2000.

IOHA Column

A number of activities are going on around the world. Under the current work plan of IOHA, it includes the international certification, the development of international standards like the occupational health and safety standard with ILO, which are some of the most interesting topics.

Members may obtain the news from IOHA via the web site: <http://www.bohs.org/ioha/index.html>

A HAPPY NEW MILLENNIUM!

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Editor: Paul FUNG

December 1999 *****



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