



Hong Kong Institute of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene

香港職業及環境衛生學會

A member of IOHA and HKFMS

President's Report (2004/05)

9 September 2005

In conjunction with the Executive Council, I have prepared this report and am pleased to present it to you. This report summaries the major activities of the HKIOEH in the year starting September 2004.

In fulfilling our mission of promoting professional development of our members, HKIOEH continued to hold professional seminars on a variety of subjects in the past year. An one-day technical conference with the theme of "Occupational Hygiene Challenges of the Future" was held in conjunction with the Safety & Environmental Protection Office of the Hong Kong University of Science & Technology on 19 March 2005. 10 technical papers were presented, with two plenary papers on nanotechnology and biological monitoring presented respectively by speakers from Taiwan and the Mainland. The conference was well attended and received very positive comments from all. This conference has now been approved by the American Board of Industrial Hygiene (ABIH) for CM points. In view of its success, the Executive Council resolved to hold an one-day conference with international speakers every year. Another seminar on the topic of "Emergency Preparedness and Response (ERP) to Chemical Accidents" was presented by Mr Percy To of the Hong Kong University of Science & Technology on 24 June 2005, which was also well attended. In order to encourage our members to sit for examinations leading to professional recognition, the Institute has requested and arranged for the American Board of Industrial Hygiene to hold their CIH examination in Hong Kong in October. This will provide interested occupational hygienists in Hong Kong with a chance of sitting for the examination at a minimal cost.

Members of HKIOEH continued to serve the community of Hong Kong through various public duties during the year. Miss Tammy Lo took over the role from Mr SK Lam to sit on the Advisory Committee on Occupational Health of the Occupational Safety and Health Council (OSHC). I continue to represent HKIOEH to sit on the Property Management and Cleaning Service Safety and Health Committee of the OSHC. The Institute also made a submission to the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau in the public consultation process on the proposed scheme of "Mandatory Registration and Labelling of the Contents of Volatile Organic Compounds in Specified Products" last November.

In terms of professional liaison between the Hong Kong hygienists and our counterparts in the Mainland, the Executive Council made a visit to the Shenzhen Nanshan Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC) on 8 June 2005. Besides exchanging professional views with our Mainland colleagues, delegates of the Executive Council were also taken to see the operations of two factories in the Nanshan District where organic solvents were used and were found to have led to some cases of occupational diseases. The Council has also received two delegates from the Industrial Technology Research Institute of Taiwan who visited Hong Kong in August 2005 to explore how occupational hygiene is practised here.

On the international front, I as President of the Institute attended the annual conference of the Australian Institute of Occupational Hygienists as a special guest in Fremantle of Western Australia in December 2004, and presented a paper on the changing roles of the Hong Kong occupational hygienists. Our Mr TW Tsin, President-elect of the International Occupational Hygiene Association (IOHA), is scheduled to start his term of Presidency of IOHA at the South Africa Conference this month.

Regarding our membership, three new applications were received and processed in the past year. Full membership was granted to two of them, while one applicant received Associate Membership. Two existing Associate Members were upgraded to full Members. The Executive Council also resolved to confer Honorary Fellowship on Dr Raymond Leung of the Labour Department in view of his contribution to occupational health and his close affiliation with the Institute.

While new members continue to join us, we still have a number of inactive members who have lost touch with us because of emigration, changed employment or other reasons. They were not contactable by any means despite repeated attempts by the Institute. Their membership subscription was also overdue since 2003 or earlier. A list of those lost sheep was produced in the last AGM, and the list is now updated and attached.

Overall, I am glad that the Institute has developed satisfactorily both locally and internationally, and has fulfilled its mission in the past year.

Dr Edmund Hau
President