

**AIHA-NCS Developing World Outreach Initiative
Meeting Minutes
Date: April 6th, 2026
Time: 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm PDT, teleconference call**

Attendees: Richard Hirsh, Harry Beaulieu, Garrett Brown, Karen Gunderson, Tuan Nguyen, David Zalk, Ted Zellers

1. Rich Welcomed the team for the 2nd meeting of 2026, especially new member Harry Beaulieu.
2. Additional corrections were needed in the February meeting minutes so could not be approved. Rich will make those edits and redistribute.
3. **Project Updates:** All 2025 DWOI/MHSSN projects have been completed. All completed 2025 project reports have been posted to the DWOI website at: https://aiha-ncs.org/Developing_World_Outreach_Initiative. The current project status for the 2025-2026 projects is listed in Appendix 1. We are sponsoring 3 technical projects and 17 training workshops. At least 5 projects are scheduled to be completed by end of April. Ted suggested we contact our training project NGO/Univ. partners to emphasize including project impact in their reports, since several project reports are coming due. **Post script:** Garrett forwarded partners email list. Rich sent out report guidelines to all partners. Harry Beaulieu contacted CEREAL as their technical liaison to offer support for their project.
4. **Financial Status and Fundraising:** Garrett reported that we have \$6208 in our sub-account as seed funds for next year's projects. Rich sent out a new fundraiser appeal email in January to over 100 OHS colleagues, family and friends however no donations have been received to date.
5. **Lab Analysis Outreach:** Rich contacted Steven Verpaele via BECOH and Ryan Sutcliffe, the operations manager at SGS/Galson/Forensic analytical labs to secure a commitment for pro bono sample analysis, and to Jennefer Traynor and Dusty Ott at SKC to secure annual commitments for IH equipment. BECOH will provide sample analysis at a discounted rate. SGS/Forensic will provide pro bono analysis. Steven indicated: "We are definitely willing to cooperate, but as we carry out a lot of measurements and analyses for volunteer projects, the board has had to change the conditions. We now work with agreements, such as the WHWB UK project in Ghana and the Johns Hopkins University projects in Peru and Nepal. For each individual project, we ask for some analysis funding. This small amount, relative to the number of samples, helps us to maintain the program and assist as many projects as possible. For example, the Nepal brick kilns project had a budget of \$20.00 per sample. Given the requests we receive, pro bono sample analysis is no longer possible in the current economic situation, I'm afraid. We are happy to discuss this further."
6. **Microgrants Block Grant:** Rich contacted Steven Verpaele to explore the possibility of DWOI receiving AIHA Microgrant block grants. According to Steven there are no funds available for the 2026 current projects but Steven needs to meet with EEMAG (the Emerging Economies Microgrants group) to determine if DWOI can submit for a block grant for 2027 funded projects. **Action:** Rich to ascertain whether the Microgrants program received matching funds from Amazon this year and will inquire as to who serves on EEMAG. Post Script: Rich received the following response from AIHA President Bradley Ki9ng regarding block grants:

"I was forwarded your email about the request from DWOI about the possibility of block grants to your organization related to our Emerging Economies Microgrant program. As you know, the program was approved by the board in 2018 to increase understanding and build capacity for occupational hygiene in

developing nations around the world. It was intended to broaden the program and not limit funding to groups such as DWOI or other block grant providers. Microgrants are currently managed by the Microgrant Advisory Group (formerly by a subcommittee under the International Affairs Committee). They are funded annually within a budgeted allocation and have been at least partially subsidized through an Amazon contribution.

In 2020, 2021, and 2022, a total of \$21,300 was awarded to DWOI under the Microgrant Program, in compliance with established criteria as detailed in the Advisory Group's [charter document](#). In 2021, the Board discussed the program's parameters and reaffirmed our intent not to change any existing rules and to require block grant providers (such as DWOI and MHSNN) to follow the protocols in place. In 2024 and 2025, AIHA's Board did approve \$7500 in direct allocations to DWOI for varying reasons; however, there was never any guarantee that this would be a recurring budget earmark.

The Board continues to support our Microgrant Program with its existing and established criteria, which affords equal opportunity for various 501c3 organizations from emerging economies to apply for funding. For this reason, we will not be pursuing the possibility of providing block grants to DWOI (or other similar organizations) and ask that any requests for funding of projects in this or future years follow the established procedures through the EEMAG. Many thanks for your attention to this! Please let me know if you have any questions. Best, Bradley

Rich replied to Bradley with a request for a conversation about AIHA's position.

7. **SKC Equipment Donations:** Dusty Ott at SKC responded: "SKC is committed to supporting your industrial hygiene equipment and sampling media needs to the fullest extent possible. We value the opportunity to assist and will make every reasonable effort to respond promptly and effectively as needs arise. That said, given the open-ended nature of a request to "support IH equipment and sampling media needs as they arise," we are unable to guarantee that we can accommodate every individual sample type or equipment request. Availability, technical requirements, production capacity, and lead times may vary depending on the specific request. We encourage early communication and advance planning whenever possible so we can evaluate requirements, confirm availability, and work collaboratively to identify appropriate solutions. Our goal is to be a reliable partner and to provide practical, high-quality support within the scope of what we can reasonably deliver. While we may not be able to support every request, we'll do our best to help where we can." That said, the CEPHED request from Ram Charita Sah for SLM and noise dosimeters and calibrator for their current project is being processed. Lauren Jensen, a UC Berkeley graduate student will be in Nepal this May for an internship and will transport the SKC equipment to save shipment costs.
8. **Request from Mozambique:** Rich connected Joao Chidamoio at Eduardo Mondlane University (UEM) in Mozambique with Olena Bulgakova at the AIHA Laboratory Accreditation program to begin exploring the possibility of establishing an AIHA accredited lab in Mozambique. Olena also provided Joao with contact information for Chair: Emily Guy (eguy095@gmail.com); Vice Chair: Sana Javaheri (sana.javaheri@gov.bc.ca), and Secretary: Tsvetan Popov (tpopov@ucmo.edu) of the AIHA Sampling and Laboratory Analysis Committee.
9. **UC Berkeley Global OHS Course:** There are 11 students, including 8 women, in the UCB School of Public Health graduate course led by Garrett Brown with co-instructors Jay Graham and Ajay Pillarisetti. This is the 4th offering of the class, with the next running scheduled for spring 2028. Student internships through the Robert C. Spear scholarship program during the summer of 2026 have been offered by CEPHED in Nepal, IOHSAD in the Philippines, and CEREAL in Guadalajara,

Mexico. Students in the current course are working on 11 research projects from amongst 17 proposed projects submitted by 17 NGOs from around the world. The final reports will be circulated to several grassroots organizations.

10. **IOHA Global Exposure Manager DWOI article:** The newsletter article on DWOI for the Global Exposure Manager newsletter has been published. Rich has sent out the article to the DWOI distribution list and reposted the LinkedIn post from IOHA, see link: <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7447585404570091520>.
11. **RFP and Report Guidelines:** Ted provided proposed edits to the Request for Proposal guidelines, the report guidelines and suggested revisions to the excel spreadsheet criteria. **Post Script:** Rich edited the RFP and report guidelines documents and distributed them for review. Additional edits were suggested by Ted and Rich has finalized the document accordingly. The deadline for submission of final reports has been moved to November 1st.
12. Perry Gottesfeld informed Rich that the SKC equipment request for the OK International sponsored Botswana technical project is moving forward.
13. **DWOI Growth and Sustainability:** We continued a discussion on a strategy for DWOI growth in participation and financial sustainability given the age of most committee members and fundraising difficulties. One suggestion was to recruit faculty members from various universities to participate. **Action:** Ted agreed to identify young faculty teaching industrial hygiene at various schools around the country who might have an interest in global occupational health. Mentioned were the NIOSH ERC centers Drexel, Tulane, U. Michigan, Purdue UC Berkeley, UCLA and others. After identifying potentially interested faculty, we need to formulate a plan to engage them before contacting them. The plan would include how to persuade them to become an engaging DWOI active member, what they might benefit from if they join, etc. Ideally, this would include prospects from the N. CA local section and potentially from other active local sections. It was acknowledged that the same “graying of the profession” affects OHTA, WHWB and other likeminded OHS groups. Tuan indicated there is a collaboration between Sa Liu at Purdue and a Vietnam project. Karen suggested that we try and identify work activities for students and early career professionals that would be enticing for them to get involved. Another suggestion was to obtain recent lists of UC Berkeley IH grad students to gauge their interest in joining DWOI.
14. **Post Script:** Garrett has reached out to 3 individuals to request them to renew their AIHA International Affiliate Memberships for their organizations via the required AIHA form but none have been received from the following organizations:
 - 1) Coordinator of ANROEV — Nadia de Leon
 - 2) OHS Coordinator for the Clean Clothes Campaign — Thiru Y
 - 3) OHS Coordinator for Electronics Watch — Omana George
15. **Post Script:** We are still seeking interested volunteers to work with volunteer Jennifer Galvin to build an access database or web interface that would allow DWOI to query project attributes such as Project Year, NGO/University, Country, Topic, etc. and house a copy of the project report. Through her employer, Jennifer has access to provide some funding for the effort. So far soliciting graduate students at UC Berkeley has not produced any volunteers. If interested contact Rich Hirsh at rhirsh8@gmail.com or 650-722-3853.
16. The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm PDT.

Appendix 1: 2025/26 DWOI Project Status

Technical Projects

Organization	Project	Target Completion Date	Report & Photos Received
Cividep India	Document informal workers heat exposures via photo voice methods; focus groups	CLOSED by Modi government	_____
NYDHEE (Ted Z)	Hazard assessment for rag-pickers and scrap dealers	October 2026	November 2026
CEREAL	Hazard assessment for aging workers in auto and electronics sectors	December 2026	January 2027
CEPHED (Rich H)	Noise assessment of metal sculpture workers	June 2026	November 2026

Training Projects

Organization	Project	Target Completion Date	Report & Photos Received
SRS	OHS basics for 25 shipbreaking workers in Chattogram	May 2026	June 2026
C.CAWDU	OHS basics for 30 women garment workers	May 2026	June 2026
EMIH	OHS basics for 20 union stewards in banana plantations	February 2026	April 2026
Cividep India	Heat hazards for 50 informal workers in various sectors	CLOSED by Modi government	_____
JRP	Chem hazards/OHS for women seafood/dye/chem 40 plant workers	February 2026	April 2026
NYDHEE	OHS basics for 50 handloom weavers	May 2026	June 2026
SAVE	Life skills for 150 women migrant workers far away from home	May 2026	June 2026
CEREAL	OHS basics for 25 mid-level managers in electronics	July 2026	August 2026
CFO	OHS basics for 15 maquiladora workers in Torreon	March 2026	April 2026

Organization	Project	Target Completion Date	Report & Photos Received
CEISA	OHS basics for 25-40 university museum staff	March 2026	April 2026
NLC	OHS basics for 50 union staff and local reps; virtual-hybrid	March 2026	April 2026
NGWU	OHS basics for 50 women garment workers	June 2026	
IOHSAD	Storytelling workshop for 15 workers/advocates to generate effective testimonies	April & May 2026	June 2026
WAC	OHS basics for 25-30 EPZ workers / organizers	September 2026	December 2026
Univ of Moratuwa / WHWB	IH basics for 15-25 university students; virtual presentation	May 2026	
HomeNet	OHS basics/TOT for 100 community leaders in 4 sessions	May 2026	
PJN	OHS basics and worker rights for 50 brick kiln workers	March & April 2026	May 2026
Women Lawyers Council	OHS for 25-30 transgender workers in various sectors	May 2026	June 2026

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