

AIHA-NCS Monitor

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DWOI is Reaching Out to Turkey!

It all started at a joint meeting of ASSE and AIHA in Oakland where Taner Pamuk, a CSP originally from Turkey, met with Richard Hirsh, MPH, CIH. Taner asked Richard if DWOI had any contacts from Turkey. It turns out the Turkish Labor Ministry had indeed contacted DWOI and requested informational materials on Industrial Hygiene. Luckily, Taner was planning a visit to Turkey and was able to contact and meet with the Turkish Labor Ministry while in Turkey.

Turkey has a long history in worker safety dating back to the Ottoman Empire. In the late 1860's legislation was enacted to regulate worker safety for coal miners. When The Republic of Turkey was formed in 1923, new legislation affecting workplace safety was introduced 7 years later which required an occupational physician for any place employing more than 50 workers. More recently, in the last decade, Turkey has been working in collaboration with EU member countries on Occupational Health and Safety. This collaboration has focused on improving and facilitating industrial hygiene services in order to become more available for small and medium size business throughout Turkey. A result of this joint effort was the purchase of Mobile Health Screening and Surveillance Vehicles (Mobile Labs), shown above. The Turkish Labor ministry is also increasing the number of Laboratories for OHS.

(Continued on page 2)

Reaching Out to Turkey (continued from page 1)

Taner had the chance to meet with Mr. Ismail Gerim, Deputy General Directorate of Occupational Health and Safety of the Turkish Labor Ministry. Mr. Gerim proudly mentioned recent progress in Occupational Health and Safety in Turkey and their future goals on reducing incident rates. Turkey is also taking an interest in developing countries' progress in OHS. In 2011 The Turkish Labor Ministry hosted an international safety event (19th World Congress on Safety and Health at Work) in Istanbul where 32 labor ministers from different countries signed the Istanbul Declaration on Safety and Health at Work. This declaration demonstrated the dedication of these countries to building and promoting a sustainable national preventative safety and health culture.

Though optimistic of Turkey's progress in relation to OHS, Mr. Ismail Gerim has stated the need for trainings for their OHS professionals. DWOI is willing to collaborate with Turkey on needed OHS trainings for the Occupational Health and Safety of Turkish Labor Ministry.



(Sarah Hartmann, Taner Pamuk, Ismail Gerim, Yagmur Ertekin, Ahmet Ersoy (L-R))

Renew Your Membership Dues

Now is the time to renew your AIHA-NCS membership! Similar to last year, you can renew your NCS membership through AIHA national's website by clicking on the box for Northern California Section and your money will automatically be sent to NCS. As always, you can continue to sign up and pay your local membership through our NCS website or at one of our meetings.

2013 Operating Budget

The Members of AIHA-NCS approved the 2013 Operating Budget in October, as proposed by the NCS Board. At least 10% of the voting members in good standing voted (45 ballots were casted electronically). Thank you to those members who voted. Our approved 2013 Operating Budget is attached for your information.

NCS SHORTS

James Martin

New CIHC Representative for 2013

The local section Board has unanimously approved Steve Derman as the new CIHC representative for our local section starting his three year term in 2013. Thanks to Patty Beach for all of her CIHC contributions during the past three years and to Chris Laszcz-Davis for her continuing CIHC contributions as the local section's other CIHC representative!

AIHA-NCS and CIHC

It is worth noting that there have been several recent meetings and conference calls with local section Board members and the CIHC. This communication between the local section and CIHC is intended to strengthen the relationship between the two organizations. The Board recognizes that the CIHC is important to local section members. Efforts are being made to build on our relationship with CIHC and contribute to goals that serve all industrial hygienists in California.

New 5-Year Strategic Plan

The AIHA-NCS now has a new 5-year strategic plan, thanks to the contributions of the Strategic Planning Committee members – Debbie Keyes, Jyoti Kumar, Eric Winter, and James Martin. The strategic plan is intended to establish long term goals and objectives for the local section and provide guidance for local section Board members. This plan is now posted on the NCS website for your interest.

Forum Events Volunteer Needed

While Steve Derman plans to continue his long time role as the Forums chair, we are in critical need for a volunteer to help him with the planning and coordination of Forum events starting in 2013. Try as he might, Steve can't do it all and the Forum events are very important as local educational events. Please contact Steve Derman or Eric Winter if you are interested in helping.

President's Message

As 2012 winds down, it's time to reflect on our accomplishments (especially for those of you gearing up for annual performance reviews). Looking back over the past year, I think NCS has accomplished a lot:

- Very successful IH Forum Series;
- Well attended and profitable Technical Symposium in April on Lab Risk Management and Safety Practices;
- Highly impactful year for the Developing World Outreach Initiative (DWOI) Committee (receiving the AIHA Social Responsibility Award and several monetary grants and donations to further the mission of the DWOI Committee);
- First workshop held on Job Search, Resume Writing, and Interviewing Skills;
- Hosting the Chief of Cal/OSHA and the President of the Mexican Industrial Hygiene Association as guest speakers for our dinner meetings; and
- Continuing dialogue with the California Industrial Hygiene Council on how we can collaborate together to support the future of our profession and vitality of our organizations.

In pursuit of increasing value for our members and trying new things, we have a lot more planned for you in 2013. In response to member feedbacks, we are trying a lunch meeting (in January) to see if it provides greater access for some of our members. We also plan to launch our organization's social media presence (it's about time!) and plan other avenues of providing networking and local professional development opportunities. Please contact myself or any member of the Executive Committee with your ideas and/or any ability to contribute.

I want to acknowledge all of our hardworking volunteers (each and every one of them on our 2012-2013 organization chart). It is not easy to put in the effort and time consistently with all of our very demanding professional commitments and family needs. I thank all of you volunteers who have contributed your time to keep this Local Section running.

There are plenty of opportunities for NCS members to get involved in 2013! Please consider how you might be able to make a contribution, whether it's offering your organization for a technical tour, hosting a webinar at your organization's facility, participating on the Symposium planning committee, or filling one of our open volunteer positions. No contribution is too small!

On the business side of things, annual membership dues renewal notices will be sent out this month, if you haven't already taken the opportunity to renew your membership. Along with that, please remember to update your profile, especially if your contact information has changed. We want to continue to provide you with the latest updates and membership services. I wish you a happy and safe holiday season. Do enjoy some quality time with your family and friends and I hope you will have a chance to relax and recharge your batteries. Happy Holidays!

Colleen Thornton
AIHA-NCS President

Application Deadline for Student Scholarships Approaching

Each year the AIHA-NCS gives awards to commemorate Dr. Bernard D. Tebbens' and Dr. Robert T. Legge's contributions to the fields of occupational medicine and public health and to support and encourage the study and practice of Industrial Hygiene in the Bay Area by recognizing and rewarding worthy students for academic excellence or service to the profession. The Bernard D. Tebbens award goes to a full time graduate UC Berkeley Environmental Science student who has completed at least one year and the Robert T. Legge award is open to any Bay Area student in IH or related environmental health studies. The application deadline for the 2013 awards is February 22nd. Please apply on our website or forward this information to Bay Area industrial hygiene and environmental health students. If you have any questions about the student scholarships, feel free to contact William Cyr at wcyr@chemrisk.com.

Stories from the “Trenches”

November 13, 2012 Dinner Meeting Highlights



Our November meeting was at Francesco’s Restaurant in Oakland. The guest speaker at the dinner meeting was Mike Cooper with Exponent / Failure Analysis Associates

Mike divided his talk into two topics. The first was lessons learned from investigating industrial accidents and the discussion highlighted a systems approach to EHS management. Mike has investigated detonations, equipment failures, and uncontrolled reactions in various industries which have led to significant incidents and fatalities. Common themes in these investigations have been the lack of a defined change management process, poor use of historical data, lack of defined ownership for complex systems, and no process reviews like Hazard Operability (HazOp) studies to assess what deviations can occur and their impact to the workplace if they occur. The discussion included excerpts from *Normal Accidents* by Charles Perrow (1982), MIT’s Nancy Leveson’s work on systems safety, and *High Reliability Operations* (2008) by B&W Pantex.

The second topic for the evening was public health issues in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. For several years, Exponent has provided engineering support and investigated accidents, fatalities, and public health issues in both Iraq and Afghanistan. Mike explained the unusual, at least by historical standards, and extensive use of contractors to provide all of the logistics support for the US military. The Logistics Civil Augmentation Program (LOGCAP) extensive work on US bases means that contractors (DynCorp, Fluor, KBR, etc.) may incur liability when accidents, sickness, and fatalities occur during their tenure. The Maseth electrocution case and its outcome in the courts were discussed. Open burn pits were also discussed as a potential public health and security issues in combat zones. Scenes of daily life from several US bases in Iraq and Afghanistan were shown.

Mike also brought some show-and-tell items from his travels including maps, pogs, lapis stoneware, and protective gear worn in theatre. Many members who tried on the gear could not believe how heavy everything was.

AHIA-NCS Seeking Sponsors

AHIA-NCS is always looking for sponsors to support the local section. Not only do our sponsors help sustain NCS, but they offer valuable services to our members. Please consider partnering with NCS as a sponsor at one of the levels described below. Contact Martin Suen at martinsuen@gmail.com to express your interest or if you have any questions.

Levels:

General (\$100/year) – Website and newsletter listing

Vendor (\$300/year) – Website and newsletter listing, display/speaking opportunity at one dinner meeting

Symposium Vendor (\$500/year) – Website and newsletter listing, display and speaking opportunity at annual technical symposium

Gold (\$750/year) – Website and newsletter listing, display/speaking opportunity at two dinner meetings and annual technical symposium

Supporting (\$1000/year) – Website and newsletter listing – If your employer offers philanthropy grants, please consider reaching out to support NCS in this manner.

Developing World Outreach Initiative Update

Richard Hirsh

DWOI received \$1350 as match donations to local section member David Kahane's matching grant challenge. David donated \$5000 plus a matching donation to DWOI, thus we have raised a grand total of \$7700 on this fund drive! Thanks to everyone for your generous donations. To put those funds to good use, DWOI has been working on several exciting projects lately. Nina Townsend, Perry Gottesfeld and David Zalk are currently reviewing submissions from NGOs and Universities to fund their OHS projects. Garrett Brown is helping to coordinate sponsoring two OHS training courses in Asia in early 2013.

We are currently hoping to fulfill requests for reference book shipments to Turkey, Bhutan, and Ghana however we are searching for a new book donation coordinator – after several excellent years of service, David Hornung would like to step down from this critical post. If you are interested in helping on this important aspect of DWOI's work, please let us know.

Perry Gottesfeld has been in contact with Naanjela Msangi, an OHS inspector in Tanzania. Her book requests have been forwarded to David Hornung. Mike Horowitz forwarded the book publication list to her and will have Doug Dowis at SKC send an equipment donation request form to her to fill out for consideration in the SKC equipment donation program. We also received reference books and an equipment donation from Lauren Geddes, an IH with Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation in Georgia which will be transferred to Karen Gunderson for use in Indonesia during her return visit to the U.S. in December. Karen is also receiving sampling pumps from local section member Randy Cook. Doug Dowis at SKC has volunteered to service these pumps for free.

Karen has been busy training teaching assistants at the University of Indonesia's occupational health and safety program (see photos below). Karen has also met with Darisman from the Local Initiative for OSH and Social Network (LION) in Bandung to discuss sustainable business models for future activities. Karen is also planning to put together an air sampling manual for students. She reported that university students are beginning to translate sections of the OH Learning W201 module with assistance from Professor Fatma and a person from British Petroleum. Karen is also working on using an older Korean asbestos exposure assessment at a factory to plan out another asbestos exposure assessment at a corrugated roofing factory. She is also working on developing better asbestosis diagnosis awareness for occupational physicians.

In January we hope to hear from the AIHA board and the International Affairs Committee regarding our funding proposals for 2013 on book shipments, training grants, and NGO/University submitted projects. Remember, if any of you are traveling internationally and would like to participate in a technical talk or training, please contact Mike Ratelle who is our DWOI travel coordinator.



Karen Gunderson (5th from left) training University of Indonesia teaching assistants with recently donated SKC equipment

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Upcoming Events

Tuesday, January 15 – NCS LUNCH Meeting: Steve Hemperly, Advisory Industrial Hygienist HGST, Location – South Bay TBD

Budget Category (Income)	2013 Proposed
Dues	6200
Payment to NCS \$2525	
Payment to CIHC \$3675	
DWOI (contribution funded)	0
IH Forum Series	2700
Interest from CDs and savings	30
Mailing Lists	0
Program Dinner Meetings	8000
Review Courses	0
Symposium/Technical conferences	10000
Technical Tour	300
<i>Transfer from savings to checking for "balanced budget"</i>	<i>(2695)</i>
Vendor's Spotlight/ New Sponsorships	1750
INCOME TOTAL	\$28,980

Budget Category (Expenses)	2013 Proposed
Administrative Support (We Produce)	2500
AIHA-NCS Scholarship	1700
AIHF Endowment	1200
Awards	550
Charity Donation	0
CIHC Payment	3675
Continuing Education - 3rd Year Director	0
DWOI (contribution funded)	0
Credit Card Transaction Expenses	2000
Membership Incentive	0
Support - 1st Year Director	50
Newsletter	0
Outreach - 2nd Year Director	100
Past President/Nominating Committee	0
Planning Meeting	600
President/President Elect	100
Program Expenses (Dinners)	8000
Secretary	0
Symposium Expense	5000
Treasurer	800
Uncategorized Expenses	0
Website Contract and Maintenance	5400
EXPENSE TOTAL	\$31,675

Net: Income vs. Expense	\$0
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