SAIOH signs Memorandum of Understanding with NIOSH

In line with the Southern African Institute for Occupational Hygiene’s (SAIOH) broad aims and objectives of nurturing the interests of its members, promoting education and training in the occupational hygiene discipline, and creating and sustainably maintaining opportunities for professional development and mentorship support, SAIOH signed a five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), USA, in Washington DC, in December 2014.

This successfully formalised agreement was the culmination of proactive interaction and liaison between representatives of SAIOH and NIOSH for a number of months during 2014, to develop a cooperation contract that would benefit both entities.

NIOSH is the USA federal agency that conducts research and makes recommendations to prevent worker injury and illness, and is tasked with protecting the safety and health of the nation’s 155 million workers.

Both SAIOH and NIOSH appreciate the importance of research and new knowledge in developing and applying preventive measures in occupational safety and health, and share a common mission to contribute to the prevention of occupational accidents and diseases. Hence, SAIOH and NIOSH plan to cooperate to use their collaborative efforts and expertise to advance the protection of workers and to promote best practices to improve worker safety and health.

It is envisaged that this cooperation will consist of the following, among other, activities which will be subject to the availability of funds and other resources:

- Development and dissemination of information on worker safety and health at appropriate conferences and through multiple media, including the NIOSH and SAIOH publications, newsletters, and websites
- Participation at conferences, meetings and other key events where occupational safety and health issues, especially those related to occupational hygiene, are addressed
- Promotion and facilitation of the transfer and implementation of research results
- Discussion of opportunities for enhancing capacity in occupational hygiene
- Exploration of scientific activities of shared common interest, including practical occupational hygiene/occupational safety and health approaches in identified industry sectors
- Identification of opportunities for transferring and promoting occupational safety and health knowledge/findings
- Sharing and exchanging occupational safety and health-related information resources.

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