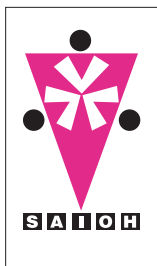


SAIOH President's page



Colleagues,

We are in the last leg of the first quarter of 2008. Amongst the challenges that are facing occupational hygiene professionals this year is the issue of power failure which poses an occupational health hazard. With a drive to minimize use of electricity, some sectors and companies might be tempted to compromise on illumination and in that sense pose an occupational health risk. Occupational hygiene professionals are once more requested to stick to the principles of good occupational hygiene and not compromise when it comes to offering recommendations on illumination standards as required by the Occupational Health and Safety Act, 85 of 1993. These are just some of the issues facing us.

COUNCIL MATTERS AND LIAISON

The Council congratulates Ms Melinda Venter on her appointment as the Vice- President of SAIOH and wishes her well in her new role on Council. Melinda has been involved with the Council for many years and now she undoubtedly brings with her invaluable knowledge and experience. The Council is grateful for her acceptance to serve in this position.

SAFECONEX'2008 is now upon us and you will soon receive the programme with firm dates and venue (25 and 26 June 2008 at the Indaba Conference Centre, Fourways). Just to recap: SAFECONEX is a cooperative initiative to bring all occupational health and safety professionals and role players under one conference. Those who participated in the previous conference (2007) will attest to the fact that it was such a successful event with excellent opportunities to network with colleagues and other industry role players and learn from one another. From the sneak preview that I have had the privilege to see, this year's SAFECONEX promises to be even much better! I encourage all Occupational Hygiene Professionals to make sure that they diarise the SAFECONEX' 2008 dates and attend this very important event.

BRANCHES

Branches continue to perform well and serve as platforms for members to share professional, theoretical and practical knowledge with one another. If you have any professional question relating to your occupational hygiene

practice, what a better place to get answers and professional advice than in your branch?

The Mpumalanga branch members are looking forward to a workshop on illumination. With the current power failure problems, this workshop promises to be a very informative session. Whether you have been practicing occupational hygiene since its inception or you have just joined the profession, you have much to learn from this workshop. By the time this journal goes to print, this workshop would have taken place on the fourth of April. Well done to the branch chairpersons for thought provoking topics that are organised at branch level! As a responsible member of SAIOH, please ensure that you know who your branch chairperson is and participate at your branch. This way you will sharpen your skills and keep yourself up to date in your practical and theoretical knowledge. You cannot afford to distance yourself from your branch!

BRANCHES IN THE PIPELINE

The Council welcomes and supports the initiative by Mr Conrad Bosch to form a branch in Namibia and Mr Kobus Davel to form a branch in the Free State / Northern Cape. Again the strength of SAIOH lies in strong branches and active participation of all members.

OCCUPATIONAL HYGIENE PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION AND CERTIFICATION MATTERS

Applications for professional registration keep on growing and growing. The last two exams held in Gauteng each saw 30 plus persons reporting for examination.

With the Board of Registration for Occupational Hygiene, Safety and Associated Professionals (OHSAP), (SAIOH is a founder member) applying for accreditation by SANAS in terms of ISO 17024 as body certifying individuals as competent to practice, the professional registration of Occupational Hygiene Practitioners should spiral even further.

Greetings!

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