



SAIOH signs Memoranda of Understanding with AIHA and BOHS

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 both the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) and the British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS), in September 2015 and February 2016, respectively.

These successfully formalised agreements were the culmination of proactive interaction and liaison between representatives of SAIOH and AIHA, and between SAIOH and BOHS, during 2014 and 2015, to develop cooperation contracts that would be beneficial to all concerned.

Founded in 1939, the AIHA is one of the largest international non-profit organisations serving occupational and environmental health and safety (OEHS) professionals practicing occupational hygiene, and is a resource for those in large corporations, small businesses, and those working independently as consultants. AIHA administers comprehensive education programmes that keep OEHS professionals current in the field of occupational hygiene, and has more than 40 scientific and technical committees, task forces and working groups that deal with the OEHS challenges faced daily by occupational hygiene experts and workforces worldwide. The Association, comprising in excess of 10 000 members, is well known for its publications, *The Synergist* and the *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene*.

The BOHS is a science-based, charitable body that provides information, expertise and guidance in the recognition, control and management of workplace health risks. Founded in 1953, BOHS is the only professional society representing qualified occupational hygienists in the UK, and has over 1 800 members in 57 countries. Additionally, it is the only occupational hygiene organisation to be awarded a Royal Charter, which was granted in April 2013 in recognition of BOHS' unique and pre-eminent role as the leading authority in occupational disease prevention. The Society aims to protect the health of workers by preventing ill health in the workplace, by promoting the science and practice of occupational hygiene via membership growth, qualifications, conferences, events and campaigns. The Society's key publications include the *Annals of Occupational Hygiene* and the *Exposure Magazine*.



Dr Adrian Hirst, President of BOHS, at the SAIOH-BOHS MoU signing ceremony in Derby, UK, accompanied by Mrs Tracey Boyle, BOHS President Elect, February 2016



Dr Daniel Anna, President of AIHA, at the SAIOH-AIHA MoU signing ceremony in Falls Church, USA, September 2015. SAIOH takes this opportunity to congratulate Prof. Steven Lacey, the newly inducted President of AIHA, as of 26 May 2016



Mr Peter-John (Jakes) Jacobs, SAIOH Past President 2014 and IOHA Representative, signing both MoUs on behalf of SAIOH

SAIOH, AIHA and BOHS 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 AIHA, and SAIOH and BOHS, 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 these cooperations will consist of the following, among other activities, which will be subject to the availability of funds and other resources:

- Exchange of scientific information and publications, i.e. potentially making the *Occupational Health Southern Africa* journal available to both AIHA and BOHS members electronically, and welcoming AIHA and BOHS submissions. In addition, SAIOH members can subscribe to the AIHA newsletter and official journal; BOHS offers reduced price access to its research journal to SAIOH members via the International Partners agreement;
- Mutual sharing of, and occasional inclusion in, the respective institutional / association newsletters;
- Identification of occupational hygiene initiatives which

may lend themselves to joint collaborations between SAIOH and AIHA, and between SAIOH and BOHS, such as training courses, seminars and conferences where workplace safety and health are proactively addressed;

- Identification of opportunities for transferring and promoting knowledge and findings in the field of occupational safety and health, and exchange of information as related to technical programmes in fields of mutual interest; and
- Potential for the development of exchange programmes for visits by scientific personnel to the sites of respective entities, with the ultimate aim of building capacity and expertise in occupational hygiene.

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