



NEW ZEALAND  
OCCUPATIONAL  
HYGIENE SOCIETY

PO Box 12-634  
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NEW ZEALAND

Newsletter

December 2011

### Annual Subscription Fees

Lets get straight down to business! Time to renew your fees now that we have renewed vigour in the society. We are currently reviewing the membership structure and fees, but in the mean time we will keep the \$60 fee (for associate or full members) and have added a \$40 fee for students (proof of enrolment required).

Please pay by internet banking to the following account: NZOHS 12-3017-0512823-00. Please put your name and your company in the details. You will also need to email John Wallart to say you have paid and let us know so we can record your details and send a receipt. [John.Wallaart@acc.co.nz](mailto:John.Wallaart@acc.co.nz)

### Membership Information

As agreed at our last meeting, we are looking to 'copy' the AIOH system of membership. The AIOH conference was a good chance to look at this more seriously and discuss the idea with AIOH. This is an area that will require much more thought but some good ideas were received and a workable system for New Zealand can be created that promotes the objectives of the society, in particular: "To further the practice, professionalism and recognition of Occupational Hygiene in New Zealand". This might take some time and preparation e.g. to set up an oral exam panel for full membership applications.

This will be discussed further by the committee and an update provided at the next meeting.

### AIOH Conference

This year the conference was held in Brisbane with attendance of approximately 500 attendees. Continuing Education Sessions were held on the Saturday and Sunday preceding the main conference and included a range of Occ Hyg topics from Intermediate to Advanced level as well as a preparation workshop for those wishing to attain COH or Full membership status of the AIOH.

Keynote speakers this year included Dr David Zalk who is a past president of IOHA and current IOHA envoy to the World Health Organisation who discussed and held a CES on Control Banding including its pros and cons and applications in various work environments (e.g. construction and nanotech).

One of the main features at this type of conference is the networking with stories and experiences, including lessons learnt, being swapped over a cup of coffee or delicious refreshment! At this years conference, discussions were held with the current and incoming President of the AIOH, David Zalk and the current President of the IOHA. These were very productive with many ideas taken on board. A key point to note is that the AIOH goals are to 1) strengthen the profession and 2) encourage competent occupational hygienists to obtain full membership and certification. These goals align with NZOHS e.g. mentoring towards certification, and the government health and safety strategy i.e. professionalising occ hygiene in NZ.

The trade exhibition was good as usual with many of the main distributors of Occ Hyg services and equipment present.

During the conference an impromptu NZOHS meeting was held for “kiwis” attending. This was well attended with 6 kiwis working in occupational hygiene or associated disciplines/areas attending. So hopefully we will see our membership grow this coming year.

One idea that came out of this meeting was for it to become a regular feature for kiwi’s attending the AIOH conference. This will be discussed at the next meeting time and date to be confirmed nearer the time.

Next years conference will be in Adelaide, make sure you get in early particularly for the Continuing Education Sessions to avoid disappointment (Booking facilities open late Sep/early Oct via AIOH website).

#### Australian WES review

You may be interested to know that Safe Work Aus (who are responsible for the Aus WES) are about to review their WES for the first time in about 20 years. They were very interested in our WES reviews here and will follow a similar process to what we have done.

#### AIOH Relationship Talks

Discussions were held with AIOH presidents past and current, plus committee members e.g. membership and qualifications committee. They shared 20+ years worth of ideas of how to increase membership, raise the level of membership and getting support from AIOH.

One idea discussed with both AIOH and one of the key sponsors, was the possibility of having a New Zealander funded to attend the conference. AIOH and sponsors have a number of ‘awards’ where they pay for awardees to attend the conference. The possibility of a NZ award for next year is strong. We might need to set up a committee to develop this idea. We will discuss this at the next meeting. Another idea is to get some of the AIOH seminar series run in NZ. These usually are day or part-day seminars so are not very cost effective for kiwis to attend in Aus. But see the next box.....

#### Seminar series in New Zealand

Garry Gately from Orica, and a well known hygienist and respected specialist in risk assessment has agreed to present his risk assessment seminar in NZ next year. He presented this seminar (part of the AIOH Seminar series) this year at a number of locations in Australia and it was very well received. More details to follow soon. It will be a one day course and the question is, **if you are interested in attending, where would you prefer it? – Auckland, Wgtn or Chch?** If we get enough interest we may be able to do two cities. I don’t know how much the cost will be at this stage, but we will provide a discount for NZOHS members. If you are certified, you can get professional maintenance points for this course.

#### IOHA Discussions

The conference was a great opportunity to meet the IOHA president Noel Tresider and the AIHA President Elizabeth Pullen. IOHA has a high regard for NZOHS and its membership of IOHA. The president of NZOHS is automatically on the board of IOHA and the expectation to attend board meetings and contribute was made clear (in a good way). For my part, I will do all I can to attend meetings and keep NZOHS members up to date on IOHA activities. The next board meeting is at the 2012 AIHce conference in Indianapolis.

#### **Basic Principles of Occupational Hygiene Course – OHTA**

During the past year the AIOH have carried out an initial workshop and eight courses in the OHTA W201 basic Principles of Occupational Hygiene Course. One of the key benefits identified by the AIOH of this course was the provision of an exam provided by BOHS, with those who pass the exam receiving the Internationally Recognised Award for Successful Completion. The feedback received by AIOH, from over 150 participants, has been positive and the Society envisages running a similar number throughout the coming year across Australia dependant upon demand.

A workshop was held on the international situation and the further development and delivery of the OHTA courses. Many good ideas were presented and these were noted by the representatives of the group for further discussion. One thing that did emerge from the discussion was the thirst for the technical qualifications across the world and the importance of the certificates being internationally recognized for those successful in the exams. Already over 600 people are on the data base as having passed courses, the most favoured being Hazardous substances effects followed by control methods. In total over 60 courses have been held in 19 countries over the past year.

New courses are in development including awareness of silica and asbestos, foundation course in silica and at the advanced level one in control banding and another on the oil and gas industry.

#### **International Partnership – British Occupational Hygiene Society**

We have had a good response for the International Partnership Scheme with the British Occupational Hygiene Society. Those who have applied will hear in the next few weeks from BOHS with how to access the Annals through the Oxford University Press. If anybody else is interested please contact [DEREK.MILLER@NZDF.mil.nz](mailto:DEREK.MILLER@NZDF.mil.nz) asap as the offer runs out soon (the idea is that for a reduced fee you get to join BOHS and get free access to the Annals of Occupational Hygiene).

#### **Next Meeting**

TBC, but will likely be in Auckland at the Department of Labour offices.

#### **Some Upcoming Occupational/Industrial Hygiene Conferences for 2012**

24 – 26 April – Cardiff, Wales, BOHS (Booking now, early bird fee closes 3 Feb)  
[www.bohs.org/events/](http://www.bohs.org/events/)

16 – 21 June - Indianapolis, Indiana - AIHce (booking now open) [www.aiha.org](http://www.aiha.org)

16 – 20 September – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia - IOHA [www.ioha.net/](http://www.ioha.net/)

1 – 5 December – Adelaide, South Australia (bookings open Sep/Oct) [www.aioh.org.au](http://www.aioh.org.au)

More conferences are published on our website so please check it on a regular basis.