



**International Occupational
Hygiene Association**

December 2017

Dear Presidents and board members of our member associations

I am writing to you on behalf of the IOHA board to report on the progress IOHA has made in the past two years on the work plan 2016-2020, and the plans we have for 2018.

IOHA's mission is to enhance the international network of occupational hygiene associations that promotes, develops and improves occupational hygiene worldwide, providing a safe and healthy working environment for all. From this we developed four strategic goals for the time frame of 2016-2020 to work on. These goals are:

1. Promote occupational hygiene
2. Improve occupational hygiene capabilities and practice
3. Effective networking and knowledge management
4. Robust governance

IOHA's activities will focus on these four key themes using five important principles, which underpin a global common purpose for our member associations to work together to achieve safe and healthy workplaces. These principles are: having a strong **network**, being **visible**, **influential** and **resourceful**, and working in a **tactfully tactical** way.

Since the start of our work plan in 2016 we have been working on the different objectives defined within the four strategic goals. I look upon 2018 as a crucial year for IOHA in achieving our strategy for 2020. An enormous amount of work must be done, and help from you and the associations will be essential. In this letter I would like to highlight some of the important issues that have been achieved, and some items we will be working on in 2018.

Promotion of occupational hygiene

ILO

We have been working intensively on our NGO relations with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). Extra attention has been given to our relations with the ILO, since this relationship had disappeared completely. We are currently in discussion with the ILO regarding possible participation in one of their flagship programmes. Also, the call for a global OSH coalition has our attention.

5/6 Melbourne Business Court, Millennium Way, Pride Park, Derby DE24 8LZ UK
T: +44 1 332 298101 F: +44 1 332 298099 E: admin@ioha.org W: www.ioha.net

Representing occupational hygiene organisations in Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Macedonia, Malaysia, Mexico, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, United Kingdom, United States of America, Vietnam



**International Occupational
Hygiene Association**

As an NGO we are invited to be an observer at different sectoral expert meetings (for example to discuss a Code of Practice on Open Cast Mining or Safety and Health in Shipbuilding and Ship Repair). As the role and influence of an observer has limitations, we are currently investigating how IOHA can contribute more to this process. In 2018/2019 different sectoral meetings are planned. We will keep you informed about these meetings, in the hope that you can help identify experts from our member organizations on the different topics, who can on a voluntary basis help evaluate documents and perhaps sometimes represent IOHA.

WHO

Within the WHO we are working with the Collaborating Centres. Since the WHO has redirected its focus to public health, occupational health work is no longer mentioned in its plan. In the plan for the collaborating centres we have therefore had to change our ideas. Our focus now is on activity relating to the themes of 1) Noncommunicable diseases; 2) Preparedness, surveillance and response. We are particularly looking for experts who can help us on the theme of emergency preparedness.

ICOH

As a relatively small player in the field of OSH, we have realised that collaboration is more important than ever before. We can only be influential if we work more closely with other organisations within the field of OSH. Our MoUs with ICOH and IEA need to be renewed by May 2018. We are currently in discussion with ICOH on how to give new impetus to this MoU, and we must identify the topics we would like to work on together. For that reason our next board meeting will be held in Dublin during the ICOH conference.

Once the new MoU has been established and areas for collaboration identified, we may call upon you as member associations to help us find volunteers/experts who would like to work with us on these topics.

Improve occupational hygiene capabilities and practice

If IOHA wants to improve worker health, it is important not only to have a strong network or be visible, but also to improve the number and the calibre of practitioners of OH/IH internationally. The world map of IOHA members shows us that we represent less than half of the area and people of the world. In most of Asia, Africa, and the Middle East OH/IH is at a less advanced stage.

Promote educational opportunities

Therefore, throughout the world, IOHA promotes and encourages the further development and promotion of OH/IH as a profession. We hope that people in the world can be professionally trained as OH/IH. We support the Occupational Hygiene Training Association (OHTA) qualifications framework as one of the options for modular, internationally recognised training.

5/6 Melbourne Business Court, Millennium Way, Pride Park, Derby DE24 8LZ UK
T: +44 1 332 298101 F: +44 1 332 298099 E: admin@ioha.org W: www.ioha.net

Representing occupational hygiene organisations in Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Macedonia, Malaysia, Mexico, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, United Kingdom, United States of America, Vietnam



**International Occupational
Hygiene Association**

Promote global respect for and recognition of occupational hygiene certification programs through the National Accreditation Recognition (NAR) Committee.

We focus on helping IOHA members obtain an accreditation through the IOHA National Accreditation Recognition (NAR) process. At this moment there are 15 countries with a NAR accreditation.

Network organisations

We are also investigating whether a network organisation with a link to IOHA might work in some regions. Some Spanish speaking countries started an initiative as the result of the project of an OH from Spain. The objective of this project was to bring the Spanish speaking countries together to share information/ help each other.

The Asian Network of Occupational Hygiene (ANOH) is proving successful in engaging occupational hygienists in countries which have no national OH/IH organisation, and this year a European platform has been established as a focus for EU collaboration in areas such as legislation.

Form the IOHA viewpoint, these are important and valuable initiatives with which we try to stay connected, and work together on important topics.

Effective networking and knowledge management

Global Exposure Manager

Being an international organisation, IOHA knows how important it is to share ideas and communicate achievements within the community of occupational hygienists. Although IOHA has had a newsletter since 2004, in 2016 significant changes were made. The newsletter got a new name: Global Exposure Manager. It is produced by the journalists of Chemical Watch.

Looking at the figures, we have noticed that Global Exposure Manager is not yet read by all member associations. We therefore would like to encourage you as president of your association to bring Global Exposure Manager to the attention of your members. The good news is that people can register themselves to receive the IOHA Newsletter on the website <http://ioha.net/newsletter-signup/>. Links to the new newsletter will be sent to the ones who have registered themselves through the website.

What we also hope is that you will motivate the members of your organisation to write articles about OH/IH, important developments or studies that are carried out in your countries. So, the newsletter will truly represent all member associations in a good way.

Knowing that language barriers exist, we also hope that there are some volunteers who might help us with translations. We have recently started this with a group of volunteers who have translated articles into Spanish for posting on the website.

5/6 Melbourne Business Court, Millennium Way, Pride Park, Derby DE24 8LZ UK
T: +44 1 332 298101 F: +44 1 332 298099 E: admin@ioha.org W: www.ioha.net

Representing occupational hygiene organisations in Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Macedonia, Malaysia, Mexico, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, United Kingdom, United States of America, Vietnam



**International Occupational
Hygiene Association**

Website

The most important goal for 2018 is the development of our new website. It is important to change the website for better visibility. IOHA wants to be the world's "go-to organisation" for OH/IH: for people new in the field to find out what an occupational hygienist does, but also for colleagues who search for information or want to share ideas. Within the next two months we will be sending a questionnaire to your organisation, with the aim of providing IOHA with a better understanding of what the website should look like and what our member associations consider important functions. We would like you to ensure that the questionnaire is discussed within your board so that the ideas and wishes of the member associations are investigated. After the IOHA board meeting in May you will be asked to write some information on your association or on OH/IH within your country. As we are dealing with a relatively short timeline, we will rely heavily on your timely cooperation and support.

11th Scientific Conference in Washington

From 24-26 September 2018 the 11th IOHA conference will be held in Washington. Preparations have started, and it promises to be an interesting conference which breathes the atmosphere of the IOHA strategy. We would like you to bring the conference to the attention of your members. From my perspective an international conference like the IOHA gives occupational hygienists worldwide a good opportunity to exchange ideas, follow professional development courses and meet occupational hygienists from around the globe. It will be an experience that can enrich you and your colleagues.

Collaboration Award

During the IOHA conference a new award will be granted: the Collaboration Award. The Collaboration Award celebrates an OH or OH-organisation who have chosen to collaborate with other countries or organizations to share ideas and technologies to improve the calibre of occupational hygiene worldwide. The person/organisations who have achieved outstanding results by collaborating with others will be granted the award. The project should also raise awareness for others that collaboration can be an effective strategy to improve outcomes, achieve scale, increase efficiency, and maximize impact. More news on the Collaboration Award will be sent to you in the next few months.

Robust governance

Regarding the goal of robust governance, in 2018 we will investigate how IOHA can develop a more robust financial model. The primary reason behind this action is to achieve our full potential for the role we want to have, but also to provide a solid basis for the organisation.

5/6 Melbourne Business Court, Millennium Way, Pride Park, Derby DE24 8LZ UK
T: +44 1 332 298101 F: +44 1 332 298099 E: admin@ioha.org W: www.ioha.net

Representing occupational hygiene organisations in Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Macedonia, Malaysia, Mexico, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, United Kingdom, United States of America, Vietnam



**International Occupational
Hygiene Association**

Final remarks

I hope that with this president's report I have given you a little bit of insight into our achievements and plans for the next year. There are six items mentioned in this letter for which we hope you can provide support. The items are summarized below:

- Identify experts - evaluate sectoral ILO documents
- Provide experts for the topic of emergency preparedness and surveillance
- Identify volunteers on OH topic (collaboration ICOH)
- Promote Global Exposure Manager amongst your members, and encourage them to write articles
- Discuss the website through the questionnaire
- Promote the Washington conference within your organization.

I sincerely hope you will support our work in the next year, as mentioned before, a crucial year for the IOHA organisation.

Yours sincerely

Andrea Hiddinga-Schipper MSc
President 2017-18

5/6 Melbourne Business Court, Millennium Way, Pride Park, Derby DE24 8LZ UK
T: +44 1 332 298101 F: +44 1 332 298099 E: admin@ioha.org W: www.ioha.net

Representing occupational hygiene organisations in Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Macedonia, Malaysia, Mexico, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, United Kingdom, United States of America, Vietnam