



Indian Association of Occupational Health

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH DAY CELEBRATIONS, MUMBAI BRANCH - 9TH JULY 2010

The Mumbai Branch of IAOH had organized a Seminar to commemorate 'Occupational Health Day' for the year 2010 on 9th July at 'The Acres' Banquets, Chembur. The theme for this year was "**Occupational Health beyond Statute: Advocacy and Practice**". The Seminar attended by over 45 delegates was chaired by the National President of IAOH - Dr. Shyam Pingle and culminated into an interactive session.

Dr (Major) Bishwadeep Paul, Hon. Secretary of Mumbai Branch, in his welcome address informed the gathering of the importance of 9th July which was the very date 62 years back in 1948 in the steel city of Jamshedpur where 3 visionaries, Lt. J.R.Kochar, Col. Najib Khan and Maj. R.C.Tarapore, through their relentless efforts ceremonially baptized the Society for the Study of Industrial Medicine (SSIM) India, with an initial founder membership of 28. With a view to enlarging the scope of activities and in conformity with the trend, the name of the Society had undergone a change in 1970, to "Indian Association of Occupational Health" (IAOH) which currently boasts of an all-India member base of more than 2500 OH Physicians & Nurses, Safety Engineers, Industrial Hygienists and Personnel.

Dr. Shyam Pingle, Chairperson for the seminar, explained that statutes at best define common minimum program to meet the SHE needs of the industry. However, there is a need to go beyond statute and initiate measures to address workplace health & safety issues proactively and also engage the stakeholders, both internal and external. He said that IAOH is progressively trying to spread awareness on Occupational Health & Safety amongst the engineering, medical and entrepreneurial fraternities and this was amply demonstrated by the themes selected in the last few years. The current theme attempts to address the gap between "where we are, where we want to be and the road map". While Advocacy covers sensitization of all stakeholders, especially management and government; practice refers to the implementation of measures needed to protect the workers and the environment.

Dr. Prasad Tipnis, Sr. Vice President & Head - CHSEE (Centre of HSE Excellence) Reliance Industries Ltd. set the seminar in motion by stressing on the need to build a good safety culture along with regulatory compliance. He emphasized that OHS professionals need to spend 96% of their time on non-regulatory issues to make a difference and there is a definite need for a greater "Will" among the Leader group to comply with regulations and go beyond. Unhealthy acts by employees can be regulated through Behavior Modification and laws which define accountability would go a long way to prevent negligence.

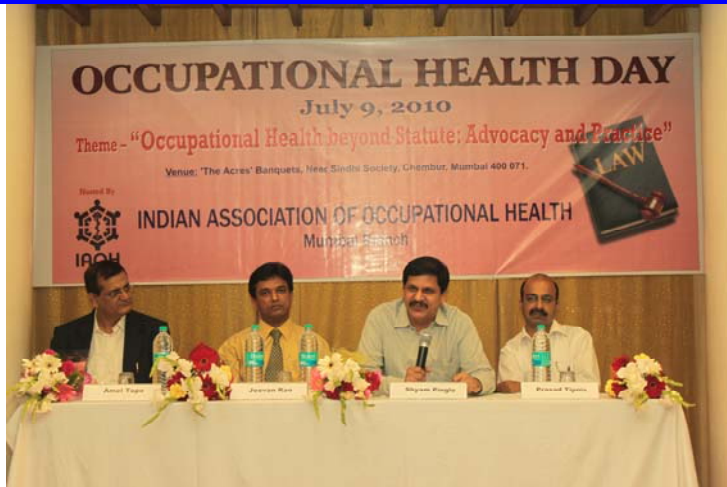
Mr. Jeevan Rao, Head – Environment & Safety (HR-ES) of Siemens Cluster South Asia gave the good example of Seat Belt implementation under the Motor Vehicle Act in India wherein we have moved from reluctance to compliance because of regulatory punishment, to an unconsciously safe behaviour, where a vehicle driver subconsciously puts on the seat belt without even being aware of it. He spoke about the various measures introduced at Siemens and emphasized that the industrial physician has the opportunity to make maximum impact on the health of their employees both in terms of direct contact as well as the policies that are implemented in the organization.

Mr. Amol Tope, EHS Trainer Consultant (ex- Johnson & Johnson Ltd.) spoke about the 'Employee Assistance Program' implemented in companies & the benefits reaped therein. He stressed that health of employee is inseparable from health of the organization. Hence mental health status of employees goes a long way in creating a healthy organization. Mr. Tope encouraged organizations to do more than statutory requirements since "Beyond Compliance today may become a norm tomorrow".

After the program Shri Rahul Shewale, Standing Committee Chairman of Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, who was invited as Guest of Honour interacted with the members.

The Seminar concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Bishwadeep Paul, Hon. Secretary of Mumbai branch of IAOH.

For more pictures, visit the link <http://picasaweb.google.co.in/iaohmumbai/OccupationalHealthDay2010#>



Dr. Shyam Pingle, National President of IAOH chairing the Seminar



Dr. Prasad Tipnis, Sr. Vice President & Head - CHSEE (Centre of HSE Excellence) Reliance Industries Ltd.



Mr. Jeevan Rao, Head - Environment & Safety (HR-ES) of Siemens Cluster South Asia



Interactive Session with the audience