



Fact Sheet

IOHA was formed in 1987 as an association of national occupational hygiene organisations. There are currently 26 member organisations representing 24 countries and over 20 000 occupational hygienists.

26 Member organisations: 24 Countries: >20 000 occupational hygienists

- American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH)
- American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA)
- Australian Institute of Occupational Hygienists (AIOH)
- Belgian Society for Occupational Hygiene
- Brazilian Association of Occupational Hygienists (ABHO)
- British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS)
- Canadian Registration Board of Occupational Hygienists (CRBOH)
- Colombian Association of Occupational Hygiene (ACHO)
- Dutch Occupational Hygiene Society (NVvA)
- French Occupational Hygiene Society (FOHS)
- Finnish Occupational Hygiene Society (STHS)
- German Society for Occupational Hygiene (DGAH)
- Hong Kong Institute of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene (HKIOEH)
- Italian Occupational Hygiene Association (AIIH)
- Japan Occupational Hygiene Association (JOHA)
- Japan Association for Working Environment Measurement (JAWEM)
- Malaysian Industrial Hygiene Association (MIHA)
- Mexican Industrial Hygiene Association (AMHI)
- New Zealand Occupational Hygiene Society (NZOHS)
- Norwegian Occupational Hygiene Association (NYF)
- Occupational Hygiene Society of Ireland (OHSI)
- Polish Association of Industrial Hygienists (PTHP)
- Southern African Institute for Occupational Hygiene (SAIOH)
- Swedish Association of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene (SYMF)
- Swiss Society for Occupational Hygiene (SGAH/SSHT)
- Taiwan Occupational Hygiene Association (TOHA)

IOHA has a permanent secretariat (at BOHS in the UK) and an Executive Committee consisting of a President, a President-Elect, a Past-President and a Secretary/Treasurer. Currently these positions are filled by Rob Ferrie (S Africa), Tom Grumbles (USA), Tai Wa Tsin (Hong Kong) and CC Chen (Taiwan).

Each member association designates one person to serve on the Board (IOHA does not place a time limit on this position and prefers a long-term appointment). We hold two Board Meetings a year and an International Scientific Conference every 2-3 years with Taiwan planned for February 2008, Italy for 2010 and Malaysia or Canada for 2012.

The IOHA provides the occupational hygiene profession with an international voice through its recognition as a non-governmental organisation (NGO) by the ILO (International Labour Organisation) and the WHO (World Health Organisation). IOHA is working (via ILO & WHO) to raise the profile of occupational hygiene worldwide and to show that we can offer a cost-effective way to reduce the burden of illness and disease in workplaces around the world.

IOHA also co-operates with the work of other international organisations such as ICOH (International Commission on Occupational Health) and IEA (International Ergonomics Association).

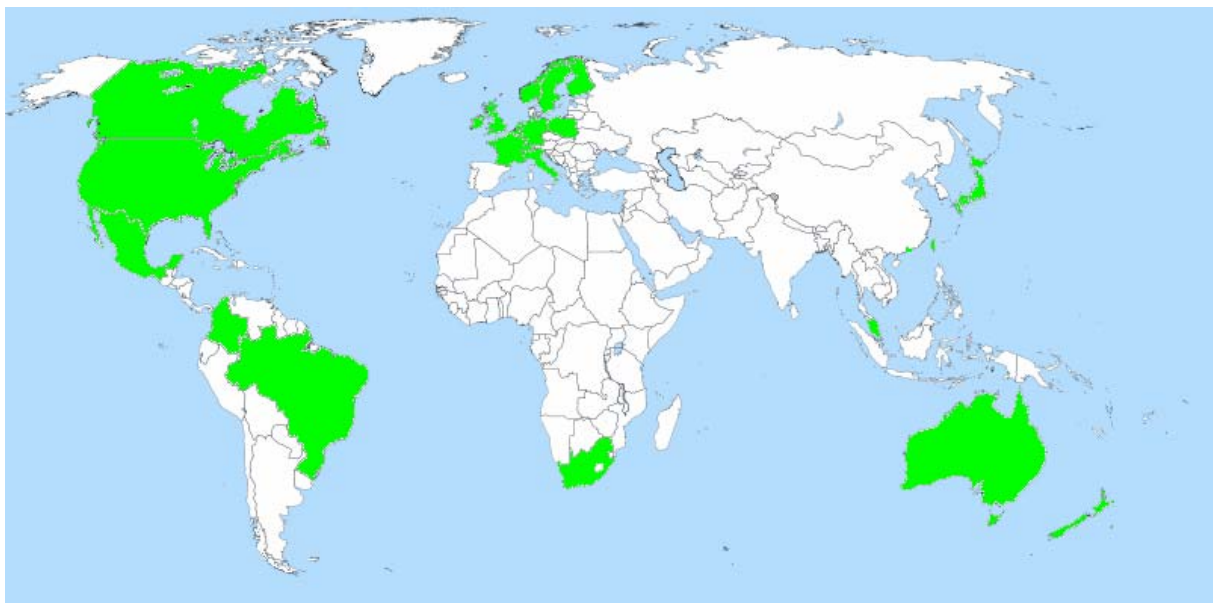
Our objectives are:

- to promote and develop occupational hygiene throughout the world;
- to promote the exchange of occupational hygiene information among organisations and individuals;
- to encourage the further development of occupational hygiene at a professional level; and
- to maintain and promote a high standard of ethical practice in occupational hygiene.

IOHA is very resource-constrained; we have very limited finances and manpower. However, we do believe that IOHA does provide considerable value by encouraging and developing international consensus on key occupational hygiene issues.

The Board is currently finalising IOHA's strategy until 2010 and details of that will be published in a forthcoming issue of the IOHA Newsletter.

IOHA is concerned that there appears to be a perception in the developed world that occupational health and safety issues have largely been beaten. The demand for undergraduate studies in occupational health is diminishing and several universities have stopped offering courses. At the same time, perhaps due to globalization and the export of "dirty" industries, the occupational health challenges facing the Third World are increasing rapidly.



The green coloured areas on the map show those with member organisations of IOHA. As you will see, there are still very many areas of the world where occupational hygiene is not recognised or organised. It is in these same areas where there is the greatest need for effective and professional occupational health services.

If the occupational hygiene community does not begin to address this challenge then other professions will step into the gap.

Rob Ferrie, President of IOHA. July 07