

OWLinks is brought to you by the Workplace Safety and Health (WSH) Institute to enable leaders and professionals to keep abreast of the latest WSH developments and trends from around the world.

SPOTLIGHT

WSH Institute Forum on “The Next WSH Frontier”

You can shape the next lap of Singapore’s WSH journey!!

Come to the dialogue with 7 international WSH experts and thought leaders. Hear their stories on how they have successfully driven a culture of WSH prevention in their home countries.

Dr Janet Asherson (Switzerland), Dr Walter Eichendorf (Germany), Dr David Gold (Switzerland),
Mr Heng Chiang Gnee (Singapore), Mr Steve Horvath (Canada), Mr Kevin Myers (United Kingdom)
and Ms Michele Patterson (Australia) will share their experiences on how they have been
championing their WSH visions in their respective countries.

Date: 11 September 2013 (Wednesday)

Time: 2.15pm – 5.15 pm
(Registration starts at 1:45pm)

Venue: Furama City Centre Hotel
Grand Ballroom, Level 5
60 Eu Tong Sen Street
Singapore 059804

Points: 3 SDU points will be awarded to relevant attendees (Pending confirmation)

Seats are limited, available on a first-come-first-serve basis.

Visit us for more [INFORMATION](#) and [REGISTRATION](#).

Articles Reviewed In This Issue:

1. Dr. Walter Eichendorf: Vision Zero

2. Analytical decision making & the ALCOA transformation

3. The case for research into the zero accident vision

4. Leading health and safety at work

Dr. Walter Eichendorf: Vision Zero

Source: DGUV (German Social Accident Insurance), Prevention

Author: Dr. Walter Eichendorf

Synopsis:

This conceptual paper discusses the different interpretations of the term Vision Zero. Although Vision Zero might be referred to as a philosophy or a vision, the author is of the view that it is a strategy. In 1997, “Vision Zero” was passed into Swedish law and this formed the basis of the Swedish road traffic policy. The conviction that every accident is avoidable was suggested as an effective driver and incentive for accident prevention and the four underpinning guiding principles of Vision Zero were: (i) life is non-negotiable, (ii) humans are fallible, (iii) tolerable limits are defined by human physical resistance, and (iv) people are entitled to safe transport and safe workplaces. While there are concerns and critics on the truism nature of Vision Zero, it should be viewed as defining an objective and its associated strategy. It is not so much of a quantitative target but rather a qualitative one, and that the former can only be a consequence of the latter. The paper propounded on the successful strategy implementation in the air and rail transport modes. Vision Zero has long been accepted as the gold standard, and taken socially as a norm that travelling in these two transport modes will cause neither death nor severe injuries.

While the argument on the implementation of Vision Zero could be costly, the author stressed that prevention efforts cannot be had for free. The paper suggested that the financial savings potential which can be realised by investing in prevention in general will far outweigh the disproportionate costs and effects of accidents.

To read more, click [HERE](#).

Analytical decision making & the ALCOA transformation

Date of publication: Mar 2012

Source: Innovation Center for Business Analytics

Author: Tim O’Bryan

Synopsis:

The article describes how Paul O’Neill drove the transformation of Aluminum Corporation of America (ALCOA) by focusing on safety. As its CEO back in 1987, even though the company already had an impressive safety record, O’Neill was committed to bring the injuries to zero. He made safety the common ground for excellence for all stakeholders and got all people to rally around it without question. Any injuries to an employee must be reported to the CEO within 24 hours. Workers were given the autonomy to shut down a production line if the manufacturing process poses a safety risk. As Alcoa’s safety patterns improved, other aspects of the company also started to change. As a result of the improved safety, costs were reduced, quality of product elevated, and productivity increased. Under the leadership of Paul O’Neill, Alcoa’s annual net income improved five-fold and its market capitalization rose by US\$27 billion from 1987 to 2000. It was achieved through the pursuit of perfection in safety.

To read more, click [HERE](#).

The case for research into the zero accident vision

Date of publication: Apr 2013

Source: Safety Science 58 (2013) 41–48

Authors: Gerard I.J.M. Zwetsloot, Markku Aaltonen, Jean-Luc Wybo, Jorma Saari, Pete Kines, Rik Op De Beek

Synopsis:

The article makes a call to the safety research community to undertake research to better understand and support safety strategies based on zero accident vision (ZAV). This arose from the observation that there was insufficient scientific research explicitly on ZAV and also on ZAV related practices and safety theories. While better safety level may be expected from sound technology and process improvements, the growing complexity of systems and organisations would need an approach that goes beyond simple analysis of technical systems and organisational processes. Traditional risk management models are appropriate for contexts with “known” and “knowable” issues but not for “complex” or “chaotic” situations. In such complex and dynamic situations, risk awareness, leading indicators, safety culture and appropriate approach to ZAV would complement the safety management systems. There is an important need to address the scientific research gap on ZAV related topics to drive safety improvements in the workplace. While practical experiments and innovations could provide useful information, there is a lack of scientific safety knowledge to support the innovative practices of ZAV.

To read more, click [HERE](#).

Leading health and safety at work

Date of publication: Jun 2013

Source: Leaflet INDG417(rev1), Health and Safety Executive, UK.

Authors: Institute of Directors and Health and Safety Executive, UK

Synopsis:

This guidance issued jointly by the Institute of Directors and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) sets out an agenda for effective leadership in health and safety. Protecting the health and safety of employees and members of the public who may be affected by the organisation’s activities is an essential part of risk management and must be led by the management. Failure of the leadership to include health and safety as a key business risk in management decisions could have catastrophic results as evidenced in a number of high-profile safety cases over the years.

The guidance contains the resources and references to implement the core Plan-Do-Check-Act actions for the management, based on the principles of: (i) strong and active leadership from the top, (ii) worker involvement, and (iii) assessment and review. It also includes a simple checklist of key questions for leaders.

To read more, click [HERE](#).

Other Useful Resources:

- [The best description of a zero injury culture we heard](#) (ISHN)
- [The state of WSH in New Zealand](#) (Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment)

- [Aiming for Zero](#) (Highways Agency, United Kingdom)