Arab Labor Organization

Arab Institute For
Occupational Safety and Health
Damascus

Regional CIS Centre

Siba Hatem/
It is an executive institution subsidiary to the Arab Labor Organization (Arab State League).

It was established in Damascus/Syrian Arab Republic, in 1983, with the aim of implementing ALO policy in the field of OSH.

The actual work was started in 1985.
The Goals

- Promotion of preventive awareness of three labor parties in Arab countries.
- Continuous developing of technical powers for bodies engaged in working environment inspection, in Arab countries.
The Functions

- Training
- Education and publishing
- Technical support and advice
- Collaboration and coordination
Training

In the light of its annual work plan, the institute carries out many training courses in behalf of three labor parties in Arab countries.
Training course on (Measurement of Heat at workplace) Damascus 26-29 May 2009
Other Training Courses/2009

- OSH in the refineries.
- OSH in waste water treatment.
- The role of trade union in activation of international OSH conventions.
Our institute plays a major role in enriching the Arab library with many publications in various fields of OSH, by means of:

- Producing a lot of books, guides and periodicals depending on deliberate scientific bases using related international references (total 104 publications).

- Translating many books of ILO into Arabic language (total 12 publications).

It makes its publications accessible free to all interested bodies in the Arab countries.
Some produced guides

Arab list of Occupational Diseases/2000.

Environmental Monitoring in the Workplace 2007

Biological Monitoring 2007

OSH in Waste water systems 2007
Translated Publications

- The Use of Lasers in the Workplace/1996.
- Protection of workers from power frequency electric and magnetic fields/1997.
- Safety in the use of synthetic vitreous fibre insulation wools (glass wool, rock wool, slag wool)/2003.
- Safety and health in the nonferrous metals industries/2005.
- Ambient factors in the workplace/2006.
Translated Publications (2007)

- Toxicology
- Using, Storing and Transporting Chemicals
- Vibration

(Chapters 33, 61, 50 from the ILO Encyclopaedia of OSH, 4th edition).
The Institute produces annually educational posters dealing with different topics in OSH.
خطر مواد مشتعلة

خطر مواد متفجرة
يجب ارتداء
معدات حماية الأذن والعيون والرأس
يجب ارتداء
أحزمة السلامة

يجب ارتداء
قفازات السلامة

يجب ارتداء
قبعة قاسية (صلبة)
خطر سقوط الأشياء

خطر إشعاع غير مؤمن
The institute, within its available capacities, is always willing to grant technical advice to all parties and bodies concerned with OSH issues in The Arab Countries.
Collaboration and Coordination

- The institute has good relations with the following concerned bodies:
  - Arab national centres for OSH.
  - NGO in Arab countries.
  - Arab, regional and international organizations interested in general and working environment (ILO, WHO, UNEP).

- We will make every effort to promote these relations in the interest of common goals.
Co-organized Activities


Workshop on the environmental and health ramifications of the implementation of MEAs, SAICM and other relevant systems of hazardous chemicals and waste in the Arab Region, to be held in Damascus 26-29 October 2009, (Arab League, UNEP, ISESCO, ILO and OSH Arab Institute).
The 3rd Arab Conference of OSH
(4-6 November 2008)
Towards OSH Enhancement Culture
Manama- Kingdom of Bahrain
www.scosh.net
*CIS Centres Regional Meeting in the Arab States

Damascus, Syria (21-22 November 2007)
The objectives of the Meeting were to:

- Strengthen constituents’ capacity in accessing, producing and disseminating/exchanging OSH information at the national and regional level.
- Emphasize the importance of the creation and development of National CIS Centres in those Arab Countries that do not have one at present.
- Enlarge the CIS Centres network and reinforce national and regional capacities in efficiently producing and using OSH information.
The Meeting was attended by representatives of the Labour Ministries/OSH Departments or Heads of CIS Centres from the Arab States. Thirty (30) participants from 17 countries (Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Palestinian Authority, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen) attended the Meeting.
The Meeting was opened by Mr Khalaf Alabdulla, Director-General of Syrian Social Insurance Institution, Dr Sameera Al-Tuwaijri, Director of ILO-SafeWork and Dr Mahmoud Ibrahim, Director of the OSH Arab Institute (ALO).
The opening speeches focused on the active role of CIS in increasing the effectiveness of OSH knowledge management in the world by pooling the experience and information resources of National OSH information Centres. They also focused on the role of the OSH Arab Institute as a Regional Centre in the Arab region, which has the same objectives as CIS.
The first session dealt with the original role and traditional activities of CIS. The presentation by Ms Annick Virot (CIS Centres Coordinator) discussed the requirements needed to establish a CIS Centre, focusing on the differences between National and Collaborating Centres.
my presentation on the OSH Arab Institute (Regional Centre) stressed that being a Regional Centre imposed additional responsibilities towards CIS Centres in the Arab region, and required more effort. It also required the establishment of a well-designed and functional Website, in order to enable the Regional Centre to fully play its role as a Regional information Centre.
Presentations by some CIS Centres

The second session was designed for presentations by existing CIS Centres. Such presentations were made by the representatives of National CIS Centres in Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco. They focused on their main activities as information Centres, as well as their OSH services at the national level. The contact person in charge of the Collaborating Centre in Yemen showed his Centre’s experience, and underlined its educational role through its training activities and its publications.
Following these presentations, countries were divided into two working groups to discuss the following subjects:

- Setting up a CIS Centre.
- ILO world-wide Web resources.
- Networking.
- Developing a collaborative strategy.
Recommendations

- The Second CIS Centres Regional Meeting in the Arab Region would be hosted by the OSH High Institute in Libya in November 2008.

- CIS National or Collaborating Centres will be set up in some Arab States. Primary candidates are: Libya, Saudi Arabia, Iraq (National Centre) and Bahrain (Collaborating Centre).
- A Website for the OSH Arab Institute of the ALO (Damascus) will be set up. This site will be a powerful tool to link existing CIS National or Collaborating Centres in the Arab Region and with the rest of the world, as well as allow efficient information exchange and retrieval in the Region. It will also avoid duplication of work.
- Appropriate OSH information will be shared on a regular basis with all relevant parties. Such exchange will enable governments, workers and employers to have access to practical solutions for workplace problems. Typical information that can be shared is legislation or training material, as well as information on National OSH institutions (CIS collaborative database).
- A suitable database in Arabic will be set up. This database will contain information on OSH services and indicators, with a strong component on statistics of work-related accidents and diseases.

- New members of CIS Centres will be exempted from paying fees for CISDOC-TEXT, during the first year.
- ILO-SafeWork/CIS will provide assistance to CIS Centres in order to promote the establishment of National or Collaborating Centres, for example, by sending these Centres free ILO publications. It will also use its good offices to encourage easy and free access to all information in the field of OSH on the sites of other National Centres around the world.
- The importance of updating and developing the *ILO-OSH Encyclopaedia* is recognized and CIS Centres are requested to send CIS Headquarters their comments and other input in this regard.

- The ILO should provide suitable support to translate the *ILO-OSH Encyclopaedia* into Arabic, because it is a reference publication of high scientific value. The need to make it available to all concerned parties in the Arab States is also stressed.
- The effective role of the ILO in promoting and developing various labour issues in the Arab Region was recognized, including on OSH, as were the good efforts of the OSH Arab Institute in enhancing OSH services in Arab countries.
- The ILO is asked to increase the number of its projects and activities in the Arab Region in order to improve national OSH situation, emphasizing the value of mutual coordination concerning this challenge shared by the ILO and ALO.
Website of the Institute

http://www.beta.iosh.org
Thank you