



**IOHA**

## **IOHA Facts And Observations**

**Thomas G Grumbles, CIH**

Manager, Product Safety & Occupational Health  
Sasol North America

Soon to Be IOHA President

## International Occupational Hygiene Association



IOHA is an association of member organisations (National Occupational Hygiene Associations) who subscribe to the objectives of the Association and are devoted to the promotion of the field of occupational hygiene

## Objectives



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



**Representing 25,000+ Occupational Hygienists in:**

**American** Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists  
**American** Industrial Hygiene Association  
**Australian** Institute of Occupational Hygienists  
**Belgian** Society for Occupational Hygiene  
**Brazilian** Association of Occupational Hygienists  
**British** Occupational Hygiene Society  
**Canadian** Registration Board of Occupational Hygienists  
**Dutch** Occupational Hygiene Society  
**French** Occupational Hygiene Society  
**Finnish** Occupational Hygiene Society  
**German** Society for Occupational Hygiene  
**Hong Kong** Institute of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene  
**Italian** Occupational Hygiene Association  
**Japan** Occupational Hygiene Association  
**Japan** Association for Working Environment Measurement  
**Malaysian** Industrial Hygiene Association  
**Mexican** Industrial Hygiene Association  
**New Zealand** Occupational Hygiene Society  
**Norwegian** Occupational Hygiene Association  
**Occupational Hygiene Society of Ireland**  
**Polish** Association of Industrial Hygienists  
**Southern African** Institute for Occupational Hygiene  
**Swedish** Association of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene  
**Swiss** Society for Occupational Hygiene  
**Taiwan** Occupational Hygiene Association

## Basic Facts

- Permanent secretariat (Pamela Blythe) that we share with the British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS)
- We have an Executive consisting of a President, a President-Elect, a Past-President and a Secretary/Treasurer.
  - The three Presidential positions are each held for one year, and the Secretary/Treasurer's appointment is for three years.
  - 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



## Basic Facts

- IOHA holds two Board meetings a year
- Sponsors an International Scientific Conference every 2/3 years
  - Taiwan in February 2008.
  - Italy in 2010
  - Malaysia in 2012
- IOHA is very resource-constrained; we have very limited finances and sweat equity manpower

## International Occupational Hygiene Association



- IOHA is recognized by both ILO & WHO as an official Non-Governmental Organization.
- As such it has official observer status at ILO & WHO meetings and is given the opportunity to comment on relevant programs and documents produced by these bodies before their release.
- IOHA can provide a vehicle to push the agenda internationally (via ILO & WHO) but does not have the resources to do the actual work needed.

## National Accreditation Recognition



- Global harmonization of standards of credentials, training and practice of occupational hygiene
- Enhance the capability of professional occupational hygienists throughout the world in order to consistently protect workers and their communities

## NAR Criteria

- Overall occupational hygiene definition and goals are congruent with IOHA's
- Organisation has an appropriate Code of Ethics, and a mechanism for administering it
- Organisation has provision for "cross-pollination" (input from those who are not part of the discipline) to enhance broadness and currency of outlook
- Minimum education and experience of candidate for consideration by the Board (Bachelor's degree + 4 years experience)
- Professional competency of candidate determined in a sufficiently rigorous fashion (qualifications of examiners and is evaluation to world-class standards)
- Evaluation procedures used by Board are consistent and verifiable (objectivity/standardisation/documentation of evaluation process)
- Maintenance of professional status requires formal mechanism for evaluating ongoing continuing professional experience/development

## NAR Status

### Recognized

- UK
- US
- South Africa
- Canada
- Dutch

### In Review

- Swiss
- Norwegian
- Italian

## IOHA Workplan

### *IOHA Strategy 2007-2010*

This strategy sets out what IOHA wants to achieve in the next three years. It only highlights the areas that the Board sees as key issues for the coming period. There are many other areas where IOHA is active.

	Objective	Aims	Goals
1	Promoting Occupational Hygiene	via: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• scientific conferences</li> <li>• newsletter</li> <li>• website</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• conferences in Taiwan 2008, Italy 2010, Malaysia 2012</li> <li>• Review current website design and usage to assure best use as outreach tool</li> </ul>
2	Expanding Membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• encouragement and support of OH networking opportunities and promotion of the profession in multiple regions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actively discuss membership with targeted country organizations with the goal of adding three additional member organisations by 2010</li> </ul>
3	Recognising National Accreditation Schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further development, sensitive to local academic, legislative and cultural conditions.</li> <li>• Recognition procedures are translated, where necessary, for non-English speaking countries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All charter NAR members have their schemes recognized by 2009</li> <li>• A detailed review of the existing criteria based on changes seen in the member regions and with an eye to potential activity in newer regions of the world</li> <li>• Begin process with NAR Sponsored certification discussion at the 2008 scientific conference in Taiwan</li> <li>• The recognition procedures are adjusted, where necessary, and formally accepted by all members</li> </ul>
4	Providing Technical Support and Advice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ILO</li> <li>• WHO</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Board has a full understanding of the IOHA commitment and has committed appropriate resources to achieve it</li> <li>• A sub-committee for this liaison work is in place and the chairman reports formally to the Board at regular intervals</li> </ul>
5	Recommending International Occupational Hygiene Training Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum recommended content and depth of training required in order to maintain consistency</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IOHA will be recognised as the body responsible for sanctioning the minimum standards for international occupational hygiene training</li> </ul>



## Grumble's Musings

- IOHA achieved progress in governance, procedural matters and structure
  - NAR processes
  - Incorporation and liability protection for association and officers
  - Webpage redesign and maintenance
  - Board operation and governance
    - Changed by laws to allow actions to be taken with smaller number of votes, etc.

## Grumble's Musings

- Sweat equity and overall participation a real challenge
- Underutilized NGO status influence....but no real resources to improve
- Possibilities for greater influence in international fields abound, but more resources needed
- How to tap and utilize sweat equity on a global basis is not obvious after 18 months on Board
- Goal to get more engagement with the AIHA IAC

All things considered, this is rewarding and frustrating work, usually in the same day!

