The 24th UOEH (6th Institute of Industrial Ecological Sciences) International Symposium in Conjunction with the 6th International Conference on Occupational Health for Health Care Workers

In the field of occupational health, the health of health care workers has been attracting increasing attention. In industrialized countries with their aging populations, the number of workers engaged in the health and welfare sector has grown substantially. This trend is expected to continue for some time while also spreading to more countries. The importance of this development lies not only in the increasing numbers of health care workers but also in the nature of health care work, which involves diverse health risk factors. Inherent risks include exposure to infectious diseases, mental stress, violence, harmful working positions, contact with hazardous chemicals, etc. In comparison to improvements made in other work environments the situation surrounding health care work is relatively more problematic. Thus, the health of health care workers has become one of the leading subjects in occupational health in terms of risk assessment, i.e., exposure level and number of the exposed. Following the establishment of the Scientific Committee on Health Care Workers of the International Conference on Occupational Health (ICOH), it has been holding international conferences approximately every two years since 1992.

It is our great pleasure to host the 24th UOEH (6th Institute of Industrial Ecological Sciences) International Symposium in conjunction with the 6th International Conference of HCW, particularly when we consider the importance of this subject. We are looking forward to welcoming more participants than ever from around the globe and we are confident that this conference will prove to be of great benefit to all.
(Excerpted from greetings by the Chairperson: Dr. Toshiteru Okubo, President of the University of Occupational and Environmental Health, Japan)

Conference Date and Place
October 7-10, 2004, Kitakyushu, Japan

Conference Venue
Ramazzini Hall at the University of Occupational and Environmental Health (UOEH), Japan

Conference Language
The official language of the conference will be English
Important Deadlines
May 31, 2004 Deadline for receiving abstracts
June 30, 2004 Notification of acceptance of abstracts for conference
July 31, 2004 Early registration

[Program]

Thursday program (Pre-conference program)
13:00 - 13:30 Registration for pre-conference activities
13:30 - 14:30 Visits to a university hospital
15:00 - 16:30 Pre-conference lectures
16:30 - 18:00 Business meeting of SC/HCW

* 10:00 - 16:00 Meeting of national secretaries of ICOH

Friday program (Scientific conference)
9:00 - 9:45 Registration
9:45 - 10:15 Opening session
10:15 - 11:30 Introductory lecture and orientation of the conference
11:30 - 13:30 Lunch & Poster session
13:30 - 15:00 Keynote speeches
15:00 - 15:30 Break
15:30 - 17:30 Workshops
Concurrent oral presentation

Saturday program (Scientific conference)
8:30 - 9:00 Registration
9:00 - 11:30 Concurrent oral presentation
11:30 - 13:30 Lunch & Poster session (Authors presentations)
13:30 - 15:45 Keynote speeches
15:45 - 16:00 Break
16:00 - 17:30 Workshops
Concurrent oral presentation
18:30 - 21:00 Banquet
**Sunday program** *(Scientific conference)*

8:30 – 9:00  Registration  
9:00 – 9:45  Keynote speech  
9:45 – 10:00  Break  
10:00 – 11:45  Workshops  
               Concurrent oral presentation  
11:45 – 12:15  Closing ceremony  

13:00 – 15:00  Business meeting of SC/HCW  
13:00 – 17:00  Post-conference tour  

**Tentative Topics** *(Workshops & Oral presentation)*

* Effects of computerization  
* Hazards evaluation  
* Health and health risks of nurses  
* Health and health risks of physicians  
* Infectious diseases  
* Mental health  
* Musculoskeletal disorders  
* Occupational accidents  
* Occupational health care services for health care workers  
* Organization and management of health care services  
* Physical health risks  
* Risk for suicide  
* Shift work  
* Sickness absence and premature taking of pension  
* Terrorism  
* Toxicological risks  
* Training of health care workers  
* Working conditions  
* Violence  
* Other topics
Introductory lecture
The importance of occupational health
Professor Toshiteru Okubo

Orientation of the conference
The changing working conditions in health care
Prof. Gustav Wickstrom

Keynote speakers
1. Developing occupational health services for health care workers-what is required?
   Dr. Ian Symington
2. Health and safety for health care workers; challenges and progress:
   Dr. Gerry Eijkemans
3. Occupational health service situation for health care workers in Japan:
   Prof. Susumu Oda
4. The effects of globalization on health care work and health care workers:
   Dr. Annalee Yassi
5. Emerging infections among health care workers: Lessons from SARS:
   Prof. David Koh
6. Motivation to work and commitment to health care work:
   Dr. Hans-Martin Hasselhorn

Conference Secretariat
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