

practices and experiences. It is important to develop systems that allow us to forecast and document these changes and enable us to implement appropriate actions to respond and adapt appropriately to these changes, learning from past experiences. It will also be highlighted that it is important to promote comprehensive approaches that address not only potential negative impacts but also positive outcomes and synergistic effects across several policy and organizational interventions.

9 OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH ASPECTS OF EMERGING INFECTIONS – SARS OUTBREAK AFFECTING HEALTHCARE WORKERS

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Introduction The risk of occupationally acquired infections among healthcare workers (HCWs) has been recognized for hundreds of years. Examples include HCWs managing patients with infections and infestations ranging from tuberculosis to scabies. In the past two decades, HCWs have faced an escalated threat of deadly emerging infections such as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), Avian Influenza, Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Ebola.

Methods This presentation will cover first-hand experiences gained during the SARS outbreak in 2003 in Singapore. A survey of 15,025 HCWs was conducted in Singapore during the outbreak, to study perceptions of the risk of SARS infection and work-related as well as non-work related problems faced by HCWs as a result of the outbreak.

Results Worldwide, over 8,422 cases and 916 deaths were reported from 29 countries, and HCWs comprised 21% of cases. In Singapore, HCWs managed 238 cases of SARS and accounted for about 40% of the cases. A total of 10,511 HCWs in Singapore (70%) responded to the survey. There was fear of the deadly disease and HCWs faced both work as well as non-work related problems as a result of SARS outbreak.

Discussion Among the insights gained during the SARS outbreak were the following:

1. SARS was a grim reminder that health care work can be hazardous;
2. the effects of SARS extended beyond the infection, to impact colleagues and families of HCWs;
3. General principles for prevention and infection control were effective against SARS; and
4. SARS posed both a public health and an occupational health threat.

Given these perspectives gained and lessons learnt, we should hopefully be better prepared when faced with similar scenarios in the future.

21 UNDERSTANDING ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION ON OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH IN CHINA

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Introduction With the explosive economic growth and social development, China has caught the worldwide attention. Under such high speedy industrialization, more international professionals start to pay close attention to occupational management system. This article tries to give some information in this aspect.

Methods The laws, regulations and standards related to occupational health in China were collected in the official websites, specifically at web of National Health and Family Planning Commission (NHFPC, the former Ministry of Health, www.nhfpc.gov.cn) and the web of State Administration on Work Safety (SAWS, www.chinasafety.gov.cn). The major contents of these laws or regulations and current practices were introduced.

Results The two important laws in China are the Law on Prevention and Control of Occupational Diseases and the Work Safety Law, in which the responsibility of employer, employee, the governmental agencies, the authorized occupational health service agency and other stakeholder have been described. NHFPC and SAWS, jointly with other related Departments, issued two important classified catalogues, namely, the Catalogue of Occupational Hazards; and the Classification and Catalogue of Occupational Diseases. Except for ensuring the safety and health workplaces, more work on both working environment monitoring/evaluation and health surveillance are required for employers. NHFPC and SAWS have issued a series of regulations and standards to ensure these work are properly implement. However, the occupational health problem in China seems still serious, not all enterprises did follow the requirements and the level of occupational hazards at some workplaces was not compliant with OELs, even the working environment is very poor in small-scale industries.

Conclusion The Chinese government should take great effect to enforce the employers to observe the laws and regulations. There is needed improvement of the Integrity and the systematicness of occupational health management system, while the economic is growing and governmental administrative structure and function is reforming.

Accident Prevention

1718 ACCIDENT PREVENTION IN PRACTICE OR RISK MANAGEMENT?

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Aim of special session An Eclectic mix of interesting, topical subjects in the world of accident prevention.

1718a PLAYSTATION TO WORKSTATION – HOW WILL THE INTENSIVE TECHNOLOGY USE OF OUR CHILDREN AFFECT THEM WHEN THEY ENTER THE WORKFORCE?

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