History of Prevention of Occupational Diseases

 ICOH CONGRESSES PROCEEDINGS REPOSITORY: HEALTH HERITAGE IN OPEN ACCESS

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Introduction Inail has for a long time been active in the recovery, valorization and sharing of the heritage of knowledge relating to health and safety at work, both at a national and international level. Among the activities of the triennial research plan, it is also included the creation of a repository of the ICOH Congress proceedings, starting from its foundation to the present time, with the aim of presenting the available documentation in an organised and interrelated system.

Methods The series of ICOH international congresses begins in Milan in 1906, in connexion with the foundation of ICOH. To date, 31 international congress have been held. On the occasion of the centenary Congress in 2006, a first catalogue and digitalization of the proceedings was created, with an index by author, title keywords, etc., by the Clinica del Lavoro of Milan, under the direction of P.A. Bertazzi. The aim of the project is to complete the digital version of the single proceedings for the realisation of a web edition of the complete corpus of the ICOH Congresses, along with the development of organised metadata useful for semantic research.

Result The result will be the realisation of a critical review in order to level out all the previous experiences of digitalization of the proceedings of the ICOH Congresses, including the various forms of indexing now existing, along with the creation of a thesaurus of keywords for occupational medicine, in digital format and with links to the entries.

Research output will include the creation of a structured Repository containing a series of shared metadata in open access and with tools for semantic research.

Discussion The Repository will be released at the ICOH 2018 Congress and will constitute an important research tool not only for the history of prevention and health and safety at workplaces, but also for the current research activities in OHS.

OCCUPATIONAL MENTAL DISORDER IN JAPAN, KOREA, AND TAIWAN: AN UPDATE OF INFORMATION

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Introduction Mental disorder due to work stress has been a serious problem worldwide, particularly in East Asian countries including Japan, Korea and Taiwan, where long working hour was prevalent. This study aimed to compare the trend and characteristics of occupational mental disorder and suicide, as well as the national policy for preventive measures in these three countries.

Methods A comprehensive literature search of relevant articles in English were retrieved from PubMed, irrespective of publication date. The search keywords used were occupational, work-related, mental, psychiatric, compensation, compensated, Korea, Japan, and Taiwan. Official statistical data, recognition guideline and national preventive measures regarding occupational mental disorder in respective countries were also obtained.

Results In Japan, the number of compensated cases of occupational mental disorder has increased substantially since 1999, particularly among young workers. While in Korea, the trend was more steadily increasing. However, in Taiwan only very small number of patients with mental disorder received compensation. An acute stressful event was the most common reason for approval in Korea. In Japan, change in workload and work quality accounted for an important stressor, including for the suicide cases.

Discussion The guideline for occupational mental disorder recognition came into place in Japan in 1999, and has influenced the development of guidelines in Korea in 2006 and Taiwan in 2009. All three countries recognised mental disorders as compensable occupational diseases, but the diagnosis entitled in the compensation insurance differed. Suicide due to work-related issues was discussed particularly in the Japanese and Korean context. The criteria of Japan and Taiwan included evaluation of the strength of various types of work-related and non work-related stressors. National initiative of prevention of overwork-related mental disorder was established under Occupational Safety and Health Act in all three countries. A special act against Karoshi, including work-related suicide was also enacted in Japan.