Discussion As the exact formation, content and effectiveness of OSH workforce development is not known, a comprehensive evaluation needs to be conducted urgently, as a starting point for effective OSH workforce development. This evaluation will permit the identification of strategies and interventions that can be adopted in Mozambique, including OSH models used in other countries like South Africa, Europe, Brazil and the USA.

1646

WHWB 2 – 'WORKPLACE HEALTH WITHOUT BORDERS – METHODS AND STRATEGIES: PREVENTION OF WORK-RELATED NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES IN ECONOMICALLY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES'

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10.1136/oemed-2018-ICOHabstracts.666

Aim of special session Focusing on the methods, strategies, and opportunities for increasing Occupational Safety, Health, and Hygiene professional access and reducing work-related risks

Presenters: Andrea Hiddinga-Schipper¹, Thomas P Fuller², Jackie Morton³, Ivan Ivanov⁴, David M Zalk⁵

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1646a

OHTA AND IOHA: GROWING OCCUPATIONAL HYGIENE WHERE MOST NEEDED

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10.1136/oemed-2018-ICOHabstracts.667

Introduction As every 15 s a worker dies from a work-related accident or disease, and every 15 s 153 workers have a work-related accident, the need for more occupational hygiene in the workplace does not need to be discussed. Organisations increasingly seek professionals who can catalyse the processes of promoting and creating a coherent safety culture in the workplace, but it is not always easy to find professionals with the right skills. Looking at the world map, we learn that there is a shortage of competent occupational/industrial hygiene practitioners in Africa, Asia, East Europe and the Middle East. Besides that, there is a restriction on the availability of suitable training in these areas, and particularly on practical training.

Methods Since it is IOHA's mission to enhance the international network of occupational hygiene associations that promotes, develops and improves occupational hygiene worldwide, providing a safe and healthy working environment for all, IOHA felt the need to support a group of experienced hygienists of some multinationals, who took the initiative to set up a training program focused on bringing practical 'hands on' training to those areas in the world where growing occupational hygiene is most needed.

Result The Occupational Hygiene Training Association's (OHTA) – OHLearning.com – started in 2010 and currently has eight courses that can be followed. There is one principles course and seven intermediate courses. Translation of courses is in nine languages. OHTA and IOHA are working together to provide formal recognition of the qualifications delivered by the OHTA training programs.

Discussion OHLearning provides a common occupational hygiene training and career ladder, and facilitates mobility through internationally recognised qualifications. Seven years on, the training is accepted as one of the routes to meeting educational requirements for professional accreditations. This presents some good steps on the road to meet the future needs of occupational hygiene.

1646b

BUILDING OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH CAPACITY THROUGH GRASSROOTS TRAINING OUTREACH INITIATIVES

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10.1136/oemed-2018-ICOHabstracts.668

Introduction The status of occupational safety and health (OSH) in Economically Developing Countries (EDCs) continues to lag behind more advanced economies, with resulting excessive levels of workplace injury and illness. Much of the shortfall in OSH practice is due to the shortage of professionals with subject experience, expertise, and education.

Methods Grassroots OSH training initiatives have been coordinated and conducted by the not-for-profit organisation Workplace Health Without Borders (WHWB) in several countries, including Botswana, India, Tanzania, and Viet Nam. Experienced and qualified instructors provided onsite courses from the Occupational Hygiene Training Association (OHTA) OHLearning program. Students that attend these regional courses earn the opportunity to sit for a course examination. Upon receiving a passing grade, the student is awarded a certificate of completion from the internationally recognised qualifications scheme of OHTA.

Results These pilot training courses conducted on location by volunteer professionals serve as models for expansion of the program. Graduates of the program obtain or advance jobs in OSH, and have continued on to complete university degrees. University degrees in addition to certain OHTA certificate criteria have now become qualifications to sit for some OSH professional certifications recognised by the International Occupational Hygiene Association (IOHA).

Discussion This presentation will discuss the development and success of the WHWB outreach OSH training model, and the potential for additional collaboration and training around the world. Lessons learned and solutions to course challenges are presented. Ideas for program expansion will be discussed, including possibilities for future collaboration with other professional organisations such as ICOH.

1646c

UNDERSTANDING INFORMAL SECTOR EXPOSURES AND PREVENTION

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10.1136/oemed-2018-ICOHabstracts.669