

**MEETING TO DEVELOP THE 2006 – 2010 WORK PLAN OF
THE GLOBAL NETWORK OF THE WHO COLLABORATING
CENTRES IN OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH**

**JOHANESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA
16-17 September 2005**

The meeting to develop the structure and content of the new 2006-2010 Work Plan for the WHO Global Network of Collaborating Centers in Occupational Health was held in Johannesburg, South Africa, on 16-17 September 2005. The National Institute of Occupational health hosted the meeting. Delegates included the Network Advisory committee (NIOSH, NIWL, ICPS, FIOH) and Planning Committee, IOHA, ICOH and ILO.

There were 32 participants. The meeting was chaired by Mr Max Lum from the Office of Communication and Global Health Coordination, NIOSH, Washington, USA.

The Co-ordinators were Dr Gerry Eijkmans, Focal Point for Occupational Health, WHO HQ Geneva, and Dr Marilyn Fingerhut, NIOSH - CC Co-ordinator, Washington.

Dr Fingerhut reviewed the evaluation and results of assessing the 2001-2005 work plan, and the criteria for the 2006-2010 work plan. A plan based on 9 activity area recommendations was developed. They included:

1. Evidence for Action
2. National Policies, Strategies and Plans
3. Occupational Risk Management Toolbox
4. Training Materials
5. Technical Materials and Research
6. Avenues for Information
7. Basic Occupational Health Services
8. Strategic Situation Analysis considering the occupational health consequences of global changes related to employment and work
9. Support Group for Resources

After a discussion, the number of Activity Areas was reduced to 6 of them: only Numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, and 9.

Each of the six Activity Areas is anticipated to include multi-center projects that advance the goal of the AA.

The content of Activity Area 4. includes: Education, Training, and Technical Materials.

The Temporary Manager of this group of collaborating centres is Dr Leslie Nickels (University of Illinois, USA), Temporary Deputy Manager is Prof. Mohammed Jeebhay (University of Cape Town, South Africa), and Advisor is Tom Robins (University of Michigan, USA).

The Activities to be developed are:

- OHS professional degree programmes
- OHS training courses at all levels
- E-learning, electronic and print materials, CD-ROMs
- Booklets, brochures, fact sheets, and technical materials
- Global Electronic Library of Training Materials

By 15 December 2005, all WHO Collaborating Centres were supposed to update and submit their collaboration projects for 2006-2010.

The Institute of Maritime and Tropical Medicine in Gdynia, Medical University of Gdańsk, Poland, is one of the WHO Collaborating Centres: the Inter-Regional WHO Collaborating Centre on Maritime Occupational Health.

In 2001-2005, the Institute has implemented 3 collaborative projects, including the organisation and conducting international WHO postgraduate training courses in maritime occupational health (3 of them were already held in Gdynia), and publishing and distribution of the scientific journal International Maritime Health, volume 55 of which was published in 2004.

These two activities will be continued in 2006-2010, and external support for them will be requested.

The Global WHO Collaborating Centres in Occupational Health meeting will be held in Milan, Italy, on 8-9 June 2006, and final plans of actions, projects, and collaboration will be decided and approved for implementation.

(Contributed by S.Tomaszunus)