



**Foundation Learning and Developing Occupational Health**

# **Annual Report 2020**

## **Contact information**

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**ICOH congress Mumbai India, January 2020**  
*Meeting ICOH Scientific Committee on Education and Training in OH*

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# 1. Introduction

The year 2020 started well with the combined ICOH congress and Occucon conference in Mumbai, India. Soon after that COVID-19 took over. The pandemic determined the activities in 2020 and still does (April 2021). Most activities are now online, also for the LDOH.

## 2. The foundation LDOH<sup>1</sup>

The mission of the Learning and Developing Occupational Health Foundation is to support professionals all over the world through developing and disseminating good quality education on Occupational Safety and Health. The final goal is the prevention of losses of lives, health and working capacity of workers, often causing poverty for families and communities. The foundation wants to contribute in meeting the global need for Universal Health Coverage (WHO).

The LDOH experts participate in national and international activities in the OSH field showing leadership in research, development, consultations, education and information. They are mostly working in international teams and have good connections with international organizations such as WHO, ICOH, WONCA, IOHA, ILO, ISSA, ENETOSH, ACOEM and EASOM.<sup>2</sup> LDOH staff has high level expertise in:

1. Occupational and work-related diseases: research, development, health surveillance, international notification and prevention
2. Education and information: evidence-based OSH practice, online OSH information, blended education, organization of international educational and development projects
3. Primary or community health care activities for workers' health: exchange of country experiences, collaboration between international organizations
4. Occupational health care in agriculture: development of international education and health care projects, online information services

Main activities of LDOH are:

- Development and organization of OSH education and training, inclusive evaluation
- Consultancy and advisory services for the development of OSH
- Organization of international projects, meetings, conferences and collaborations
- Dissemination of good quality OSH education on-line

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<sup>1</sup> For more information about the organization of the foundation see the page *About us* at the website, or download the *Annual Report 2018-2019* at the same page. <https://ldoh.net/about-ldoh/>

<sup>2</sup> World Health Organization; International Commission on Occupational Health; WONCA represents the Family Physicians (global); International Occupational Hygienists Association; International Labor Organization; International Social Security Association; European Network Education and Training in Occupational Safety and Health; American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine; European Association of Schools of Occupational Medicine

## **3. Projects, activities and results in 2020**

### **Projects**

#### **Tutorial project in Central Asia and India (2017-2020/2021)**

The TUTORIAL project «Strengthening Network for Education, Research and Innovation in Environmental Health in Asia» 2016-2019 is sponsored by EU ERASMUS Plus program. The main objective is strengthening research and education capacities in Central Asian countries and India in environmental and occupational health. The program aims to tuning existing doctoral studies, developing new MSc programs in relevant areas and implementing blended learning. Universities from Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and India are involved together with the University of Milan (Italy), coordinator, the Technical University Berlin (Germany) and the University of Tartu (Estonia). LDOH is a full partner in this consortium involved, among others in development of new modules in MSc & PhD programs, teaching activities in Milan and in the first summer school in Berlin in 2017. The second summer school has been held in Kyrgyzstan, Lake Ysyk-Kol in 2018. The third International days ('summer school') has been held in Tajikistan (Dusjanbe and Khujand) and Kyrgyzstan (Osh), November 2018. The fourth in Kazakhstan in the cities Almaty, Karaganda and Semey, May 2019. In January 2020 the fifth and final International days were held in India (Gujarat and Kolkata). The closing conference would be held in April 2020 in Kyrgyzstan (Bishkek), but has been postponed to April 2021. LDOH staff was actively involved in all events by giving lectures and workshops and through coordinating and coaching.

The presentations and workshops of LDOH staff members in the context of the Tutorial Project can be found on the LDOH website. ([www.ldoh.net](http://www.ldoh.net))

#### **Harmonee project**

The 'HARMONEE' project is a follow-up of the Tutorial project including new points of attention: harmonization and mutual recognition of Master programs in Occupational and Environmental Health. The HARMONEE consortium consists of nine Central Asian Higher Education Institutes in four different countries (Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Oezbekistan) and two European Universities: Utrecht University (IRAS institute) and the University of Milan, coordinator of this action. LDOH is involved in this Harmonee project, supporting both the University of Utrecht and the University of Milan.

#### **Safety culture in agriculture project, SACURIMA**

LDOH is involved in this EU COST Action which explores reasons why agriculture lags behind other sectors, and why some countries have been successful in reducing agricultural injuries and illnesses. This COST Action on 'Safety Culture and Risk Management in Agriculture' evaluates health and safety programs, identifies knowledge, attitudes, behaviors and priorities. A staff member of LDOH contributes in providing activities, especially in surveillance of Occupational Diseases in agricultural workers in Europe.

## **Book OSH online, how to find reliable information**

In 2020 many copies of the book 'Occupational Safety and Health, how to find reliable information' (third edition, 2016) were downloaded for free from the LDOH website. In 2018 a translation in Turkish was published, next to the existing ones in English and Spanish. The LDOH is planning the fourth edition of the book in 2021.

## **Course Basic Occupational Health Care in Agriculture**

A complete set of educational materials is almost ready for a concise course (3-4 days) in basic occupational health care in agriculture for primary health care professionals. These materials include a textbook with 12 chapters (scheduled approx. 70 pages), a teacher's manual with elaborated proposals for classes (that should mainly consist of participants' activities) and a section on teaching skills, presentations and assignments. The intention is that a local OSH expert team will adopt this course, adapt it to the local conditions and execute and evaluate it, all in collaboration with the LDOH working group. The challenge is to find interested teams in several countries.

## **Primary health care and workers health**

In the past years, most activities concentrated on lecturing and on connecting pioneers in the different countries and continents. In addition, we tried to interconnect the main international stakeholders WONCA, ICOH, WHO, ISSA, and ILO. We participated in the Special Interest Group for Workers' health in WONCA while organizing workshops and (special) sessions at congresses of ICOH respectively WONCA in various countries.

In January 2020, the Indian Association of Occupational Health (Suvarna Moti) and LDOH organized altogether a full conference day on this topic at the Mumbai ICOH-IAOH conference. Ramnik Parekh (IAOH), Garth Manning (WONCA), Astrid Sulistomo (Indonesia) and Somkiat Siriruttanapruk (Thailand) were invited for keynote lectures on this topic followed by a Round Table session in which participated lecturers from India, Iran, Brazil, South-Africa, Australia, and the Netherlands (Paul Smits, LDOH). Comments were given by representatives from Japan, South-Korea, ICOH and WONCA.

## **Online library of education in Occupational Safety and Health**

The online *Library of education in OSH* located at the LDOH website could start in June 2017. New online lessons and courses are being collected, selected, described and included, a few had to be removed. This project is fully based on voluntary work but for some facilities financial means are needed. So, searching for (limited) funds is important. Visit <https://library-education-osh.ldoh.net/>.

## Education: Lectures, modules, courses, congresses

Many courses, lectures and workshops were given by LDOH staff in 2020. See the overview of presentations in the Appendix. The presentations for the ICOH congress in Mumbai India in January 2020 were live presentations, just as the presentations of Ad de Rooij in Barcelona (February 2020) and Gert van der Laan in Istanbul and Krakow (both March 2020). Thereafter all presentations were online e.g. the online course of Gert van der Laan in Tanzania, November 2020, about recognition and prevention of occupational diseases, described below.

Gert van der Laan

### **Tanzania 23-27 November 2020. Description of the course**

A Training course on recognition and prevention of Occupational Diseases was organized for medical doctors working for the recently established Workers Compensation Fund. It was facilitated and financed by Socieux + the EU expertise on social protection, labour and employment. (" <http://socieux.eu>)

LDOH and the German DGUV jointly shared their expertise on Occupational Diseases and organized the intensive on-line training by ZOOM. The experiences and knowledge of the experts from LDOH and DGUV complemented each other well. There is synergy between their approaches with presentations in which one expert presented it from the occupational medical point of view complemented by the other expert explaining the procedures and the way the German Workers Compensation Fund (DGUV) is dealing with the topic, followed by discussion.

Therefore, it was possible to cover a wide scope of issues, as scientific foundation and practical handling, medical, legal and organizational background, methods and proceedings as well as the different fields of detecting and reporting Occupational Diseases (ODs), prove of their legal preconditions, investigations, exposure and medical assessment, individual and general prevention, benefits. The participants (n=18) appreciated the workshop very well. They confirmed that they learnt and benefitted very much during the workshop and that the knowledge and skills would be applicable in their daily work. Beyond the successful learning and reflecting process of the participants, the workshop was successful in two other ways: First, the workshop was fruitful of its own, for it gathered many doctors in Tanzania dealing with Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) and Occupational Diseases (OD) getting in touch with each other, exchanging their experiences and knowledge, their objectives and plans as well as their problems, needs and wishes. It provided a solid base for deepening the further collaboration between them and for building up a kind of OSH and OD network.

Second, the activity brought up a lot of information bringing forward the OSH and OD situation in Tanzania. In particular, the knowledge of the participants and of the Workers Compensation Fund as an organization improved, especially in developing useful resp. necessary skills and instruments, like structured stepwise assessment methods, medical and exposure criteria, information management including reporting and utilization of international contacts.

For all LDOH presentations: see the Appendix Presentations in 2020.

## Publications: Articles in 2020

Articles published with LDOH staff as first author or co-author:

**van Dijk F, van der Laan G.** A short contribution asking attention for a recent systematic review: Education of agricultural workers improving safety and health literacy (Coman MA, Marcu A, Chereches RM, Leppälä J, Van Den Broucke S.). ICOH Newsletter Dec. 2020; pg. 13. [http://www.ichoweb.org/site/pdf-viewer/viewer.asp?newsletter=icoh\\_newsletter\\_vol18\\_no3.pdf](http://www.ichoweb.org/site/pdf-viewer/viewer.asp?newsletter=icoh_newsletter_vol18_no3.pdf)

In 2020 much effort has been spent writing a first scientific article on the topic *Where to Find Evidence-Based Information on Occupational Safety and Health*, in the *Annals of Global Health* (January 2021). We noticed 110 downloads of the article in the first 10 weeks after publication.<sup>3</sup>

## Website [www.ldoh.net](http://www.ldoh.net)

The LDOH website has been restyled in 2019 and kept up in 2020. Six major LDOH themes are on the front page of the website now: 1. How to find reliable OSH information, 2. OSH in agriculture, 3. Basic Occupational Health Services, 4. Work-related and occupational diseases, 5. Development of education and 6. Sharing education. There is also a direct possibility to enter the Library of OSH Education and the LDOH shop. The website is an important means of communication.

## New in 2020: LDOH newsletter

In 2020 the LDOH started a newsletter. The first one was published and disseminated in December 2020. The newsletter was introduced as follows: 'This is a newsletter from the LDOH foundation ([www.ldoh.net](http://www.ldoh.net)) with information about new online educational materials in Occupational Safety and Health (OSH). And also, with an invitation to work together with the LDOH e.g., as a correspondent for your organisation or institute or contributor for the LDOH website and library.' The LDOH has the intention to release a newsletter four times a year. The second newsletter is planned in April/May 2021. Much effort has been spent to update the old newsletter design, to develop a new list of contact persons and to find a new online delivery service.

## 4. Financial results

The financial results 2020 will be published on the website in a separate document.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://doi.org/10.5334/aogh.3131>

# Appendix

## Members of Board, Staff, International Advisory Board

### Members of the Board

Marten van Til (chair)  
Mieke Lumens (secretary-treasurer)  
Teake Pal (member)  
Frank van Dijk (chair International Advisory Board, advisory member)  
Ad de Rooy (managing director, advisory member)

### Members of the staff

Ad de Rooij (agriculture, Latin America)  
André Weel (publicity)  
Frank van Dijk (reliable inform., LDOH online, BOHS, C-Asia, India, Indonesia, Turkey, ICOH)  
Gert van der Laan (agriculture, occupational diseases, coordinator Central-Asia, Turkey)  
Maarten Verberk (agriculture, coordinator task group Basic OH in Agriculture)  
Marrit van der Meer (online education and information, coordinator task group LDOH Online)  
Marten van Til (occupational health services, chair board)  
Mieke Lumens (occupational hygiene, intern. education, Central-Asia, board member, IAOH)  
Paul Smits (LDOH online, reliable information, quality of education, Central-Asia, EASOM)  
Peter Buijs (Basic Occupational Health Services, primary health care, WONCA)  
Piet Kroon (international organization of education, Indonesia, Surinam and Caribes)  
Teake Pal (chemical exposure and effects, clinical occupational medicine, board member)  
Yohama Caraballo-Arias (reliable inform., communication, LDOH online, Latin Am., ACOEM)

### Members of the International Advisory Board

Katja Radon (Munich, Germany)  
Claudio Colosio (Milan, Italy)  
Roberto Lucchini (Brescia, Italy; Miami, USA)  
Robert Wagner (Singapore)  
René Mendes (Curitiba, Brazil)  
Frank van Dijk (Leiden, Netherlands) chair

## Presentations in 2020

### Lectures and workshops

January 18<sup>th</sup> -31<sup>th</sup> 2020  
TUTORIAL Erasmus + International Days with Indian Partners in Gandhinagar and Kolkata  
(see Projects LDOH).  
Gert van der Laan

ICOH congress Mumbai January 26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> 2020, co-organized by LDOH:

January 28<sup>th</sup> 2020. Mumbai India, ICOH/IAOH Occucon Conclave 2020  
Lecture: A new Course on BOHS in Agriculture for primary health care professionals  
Dr Maarten Verberk

January 28<sup>th</sup> 2020. Mumbai India, ICOH/IAOH Occucon Conclave 2020  
Session ICOH SC Education & Training and Effectiveness OH Services  
Chair Dr Frank van Dijk

January 28<sup>th</sup> 2020. Mumbai India, ICOH/IAOH Occucon Conclave 2020  
Lecture: Introduction on scientific evaluation of education.  
Dr Frank van Dijk  
Panel discussion on the same topic. Chair Dr Frank van Dijk

January 28<sup>th</sup> 2020. Mumbai India, ICOH/IAOH Occucon Conclave 2020  
Joint session RH & SSEIS. Lecture New & Emerging Occupational Diseases  
Gert van der Laan

January 28<sup>th</sup> 2020. Mumbai India, ICOH/IAOH Occucon Conclave 2020  
Keynote plenary 'New Occupational Health risks in Agriculture'  
Gert van der Laan

January 29<sup>th</sup> 2020. Mumbai India, ICOH/IAOH Occucon Conclave 2020  
Workshop and Lecture: How to find online information on Occupational Safety and  
Health efficiently and effectively.  
Dr Paul Smits, Dr Frank van Dijk

January 29<sup>th</sup> 2020. Mumbai India, ICOH/IAOH Occucon Conclave 2020  
Joint session Rural Health and Construction, Asbestos-related diseases  
Gert van der Laan

January 30<sup>th</sup> 2020. Mumbai India, ICOH/IAOH Occucon Conclave 2020  
Round Table / Special Session Basic Occupational Health Services:  
Chairs: Dr Suvarna Moti. Dr Frank van Dijk  
Lecture: Collaboration between occupational health care and primary health care in  
The Netherlands.  
Dr Paul Smits

January 30<sup>th</sup> 2020. Mumbai India, ICOH/IAOH Occucon Conclave 2020  
Workshop: Core values at work.  
Co-chair Dr Frank van Dijk

January 30<sup>th</sup> 2020. Mumbai India, ICOH/IAOH Occucon Conclave 2020  
IAOH meeting Orientation to Occupational Health  
Dr Frank van Dijk  
Lecture: Introduction to Basic Occupational Health Services

January 30<sup>th</sup> 2020. Mumbai India, ICOH/IAOH Occucon Conclave 2020  
Special session Basic Occupational Health, WONCA experience  
Dr Peter Buijs

February 19<sup>th</sup>, Barcelona. Jornada Zoonosis Laboral, estamos preparados? (Zoonosis labor day, are we prepared?).  
Ad de Rooij

March 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> 2020. International Congress on Occupational and Environmental Diseases, Istanbul. Keynote 'Workers Health and Safety in Green jobs' and presentation on 'Workers Health Surveillance in Agriculture'  
Gert van der Laan

March 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> 2020. SACURIMA meeting Krakow, Poland. Presentation on 'Keys to Agricultural Workers Health, some challenges ahead'  
Gert van der Laan

June 7<sup>th</sup>. Washington USA, American Congress on Occupational Health (ACOEM) Workshop (online) How to find reliable OSH information online efficiently.  
Yohama Caraballo-Arias, Frank van Dijk.

June 27<sup>th</sup> 2020. International Safety Professionals Conference Mumbai, India (webinar) 'Green Jobs, Safe Jobs? Workers Health and Safety in the Green Economy'  
Gert van der Laan

November 23<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> 2020. Tanzania (virtual). Socioux+ Training Occupational Diseases, 5-day online course. Medical & Exposure Assessment in collaboration with DGUV Germany.  
Gert van der Laan