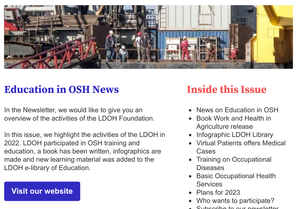
LDOH Newsletter



Education in OSH News

In the Newsletter, we would like to give you an overview of the activities of the LDOH Foundation.

In this issue, we highlight the activities of the LDOH in 2022. LDOH participated in OSH training and education, a book has been written, infographics are made and new learning material was added to the LDOH e-library of Education.

Visit our website

Inside this Issue

- News on Education in OSH
- Book Work and Health in Agriculture release
- Infographic LDOH Library
- Virtual Patients offers Medical Cases
- Training on Occupational Diseases
- Basic Occupational Health Services
- Plans for 2023
- Who wants to participate?
- Subscribe to our newsletter

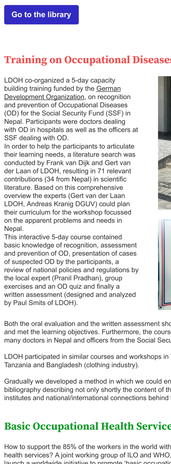
New book: Work and Health in Agriculture

After years of writing, the book 'Work and Health in Agriculture' is completed. Maarten Verberk and Frank van Dijk wrote this book for primary, community and occupational health care professionals and for students. The authors collaborated with a team of LDOH experts. The book comprises 180 pages and many illustrations. It provides information and tools on how to prevent, diagnose and treat health problems caused by work in agriculture, with accent on low- and middle-income countries.
The approach is in line with the concept of Basic Occupational Health Services (BOHS). In this context it contains not only chapters on diseases (respiratory, skin, musculoskeletal, zoonoses, mental), accidents and chemical and physical risk factors, but also information on work-related activities in primary health care: notifying work related diseases, fitness-for-work assessment, health surveillance, workplace evaluation, personal protective equipment, networking, finding up-to-date information, etc. Experts from all over the world responded with positive comments on the prefinal version. If you are interested you can find the free-of-charge online book version on our website.

Download the book

Infographic LDOH Library

Recently, LDOH developed a few infographics* with the aim of informing people about the existence of the LDOH library. The infographic as shown below is about when to use the Library of Education in Occupational Safety and Health. This infographic indicates the library's most suitable target group, purposes for which the library may be helpfull and what kind of materials are included in the library. If you can answer one or more sections with a yes, a visit to the LDOH library may help you further.



* Infographic developed by Ideesign

Virtual Patients Medical Cases

Virtual Patients (VP) cases have been developed as online lessons by the LMU in Germany, in collaboration with others. The unique VP lessons, each containing one case, were developed for undergraduate medical students and for continuing medical education. All lessons contain several so called 'cards' with information and assignments. These assignments are partly interactive, and the participant receives feedback about the answers given.

In total, the collection contains 32 cases in English and 17 in Spanish and German language. The cases were developed between 2006 and 2013. Although the cases are surely still very useful for education, students participating in an online group meeting or in a face-to-face class session can discuss details that may be no longer up-to-date. This year, LDOH has added many VP lessons to the LDOH library as we believe in the relevance and quality of the lessons. Currently, the Library of Education offers access to 29 occupational medicine lessons (English language).

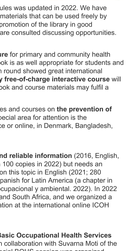
Examples of VP cases:

- Lower Backpain
- Running Nose and Breathlessness fits
- A Needle Stick Injury
- Forestry Worker with White Fingers
- Workplace Survey
- Flight Attendant
- Stomach Cramps and Anemia
- They Who Search Will Find
- Outbreak
- Ergonomics: Burnout

Go to the library

Training on Occupational Diseases in NEPAL

LDOH co-organized a 5-day capacity building training funded by the German Development Organization, on recognition and prevention of Occupational Diseases (OD) for the Social Security Fund (SSF) in Nepal. Participants were doctors dealing with OD in hospitals as well as the officers at SSF dealing with OD.
In order to help the participants to articulate their learning needs, a literature search was conducted by Frank van Dijk and Gert van der Laan of LDOH, resulting in 71 relevant contributions (34 from Nepal) in scientific literature. Based on this comprehensive overview the experts (Gert van der Laan LDOH, Andreas Kranig DGUV) could plan their curriculum for the workshop focussed on the apparent problems and needs in Nepal.
This interactive 5-day course contained basic knowledge of recognition, assessment and prevention of OD, presentation of cases of suspected OD by the participants, a review of national policies and regulations by the local expert (Pranil Pradhan), group exercises and an OD quiz and finally a written assessment (designed and analyzed by Paul Smits of LDOH).



Both the oral evaluation and the written assessment showed that the course was appreciated and met the learning objectives. Furthermore, the course was fruitful of its own, for it gathered many doctors in Nepal and officers from the Social Security Fund dealing with OSH and OD.

LDOH participated in similar courses and workshops in Türkiye, several Central-Asian countries, Tanzania and Bangladesh (clothing industry).

Gradually we developed a method in which we could enrich the literature search by a brief bibliography describing not only shortly the content of the publications but also the authors, institutes and national/international connections behind the publications.

Basic Occupational Health Services

How to support the 85% of the workers in the world without access to expert-based occupational health services? A joint working group of ILO and WHO, supported by ICOH, decided in 2003 to launch a worldwide initiative to promote 'basic occupational health services' (BOHS), essential care for workers' health, allocated in primary or community health care. Education and training in occupational health, and expert support are needed.
A WHO 'Global Plan of Action on Workers' Health' was accepted in 2007. WONCA, the world organization of family physicians, issued in 2014 a common statement with ICOH, promising to better integrate occupational health in primary care.
Several Asian countries are now active implementing forms of BOHS such as Thailand, Indonesia, India, and Iran. Interesting experiments were reported from China and Bangladesh. Primary health care in Brazil is legally responsible for workers' health issues, but struggles - as everywhere - with a lack of skills, a deficient infrastructure, and the problem of how to choose priorities. Chile and countries in Africa show interest in the concept of BOHS as work and health problems ask urgently for new forms of health care focusing on informal workers, workers in small companies and agriculture, and self-employed. European countries, Australia and North America show interesting experiments to improve occupational health care for workers in agriculture and migrant workers.

Since 2014, LDOH has organized international lectures and meetings on BOHS. Recently, we did literature searches in PubMed and Google Scholar, for the development of the first international digital bibliography including 189 publications on BOHS and similar innovations. Next steps will be the start of an international expert group and publication of scientific articles.

Go to BOHS Repository

LDOH now and in the future

In the next period, LDOH will focus on finding sustainable partnerships and on a structural collaboration with other organizations. At the same time we want to improve the attention for our work by involving more OSH experts and others in our work, and by improving our promotion activities. At this moment we are proud to show our main products and activities:

1. The **e-library** of free OSH e-lessons and e-modules was updated in 2022. We have added a substantial amount of new educational materials that can be used freely by everyone in the world. We need to intensify the promotion of the library in good collaboration with others. Various organisations are consulted discussing opportunities.

2. The new e-book **Work and Health in Agriculture** for primary and community health care has been published on the website. The book is as well appropriate for students and OSH professionals. An international consultation round showed great international interest. Materials for a corresponding **three-day free-of-charge interactive course** will be published soon on the LDOH website. The book and course materials may fulfil a wide felt need in a variety of countries.

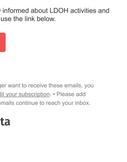
3. Contributions to international projects, congresses and courses on **the prevention of occupational and work-related diseases.** A special area for attention is the **agriculture.** In 2022, we were active, face to face or online, in Denmark, Bangladesh, Türkiye and The Netherlands.

4. The free-of-charge book **OSH online, how to find reliable information** (2016, English, Spanish, Turkish) is still downloaded (more than 100 copies in 2022) but needs an update. We published a scientific journal article on this topic in English (2021; 280 downloads in 1.5 year), and a book chapter in Spanish for Latin America (a chapter in Leonardo Briceño-Ayala. Medicina preventiva, ocupacional y ambiental. 2022). In 2022 we held lectures and workshops in Italy, Serbia and South Africa, and we organized a special session on finding reliable online information at the international online ICOH congress (Australia, Rome. 2022).

5. The **Bibliographic database (Repository) of Basic Occupational Health Services** (BOHS) has been completed September 2022 in collaboration with Suvarna Moli of the Indian Association of Occupational Health. A special BOHS session was organized during the ICOH congress (Australia, Rome. 2022). In 2023 we plan to co-organize an online international conference. Scientific publications are in progress.

6. The **Glossary of OSH terms** (2016) has been written in collaboration with LMU Munich, Germany, and the Public Health Institute in Santiago, Chile. The glossary is still unique in the world and can be downloaded for free.

Who wants to participate?



The staff of the LDOH Foundation completed many activities in the past eight years, other activities are still in development. The Board manages the financial and strategic aspects. A bottleneck is the involvement of a small team of experts from the Netherlands and Venezuela (Yohanna Caraballo-Arias). A large part of the interdisciplinary staff is a retired expert.
Almost all work is done on voluntary basis, sometimes we are participating in projects and programs paid by the EU or other financers. So, we participated in programs in Latin America, Türkiye and Central-Asia. More often, we respond to national or international invitations for a lecture, workshop or small project.
We like to collaborate with institutes, associations and universities in different countries. One of our basics is a strong network. In the pre-COVID era we used to travel often, today many contacts and lessons are online. It is uncertain how the future will be.

If someone is interested to explore if she or he can join us in our work, please contact us! Reasonable skills in English are a must, perfection is not needed. Experience in occupational safety and health is useful, as are experiences in education and/or research.

Subscribe to our Newsletter

Would you like to receive our newsletter again and stay informed about LDOH activities and OSH news? Please subscribe on our website. You can use the link below.

Subscribe

This email has been sent to {{email}}. • If you no longer want to receive these emails, you can unsubscribe here. • You can also view and edit your subscription. • Please add info@ldoh.net to your address book to ensure our emails continue to reach your inbox.

Laposta