



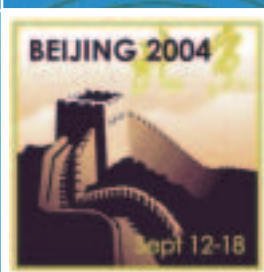
International
Labour
Office

SOCIAL PROTECTION MATTERS

5

NOVEMBER 2004

Special number:
Participation of the Social Protection
Sector in the ISSA's 28th General Assembly
(Beijing, China, 12th to 18th September 2004)



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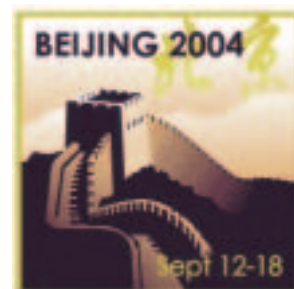
1. Introduction

This number of the sectoral newsletter is devoted to the cooperation between the Social Protection Sector of the ILO and the International Social Security Association (ISSA), both committed to promoting social justice via the strengthening and extension of adequate social security protection to all workers and their families. The importance of enhanced cooperation between the Social Protection Sector and ISSA was underlined in the Resolution and Conclusions of the 89th International Labour Conference. ISSA's social protection strategies offer a unique opportunity to strengthen the administrative and operational capacity of its member institutions and its membership are key allies in ILO's global campaign for the extension of social security, enhancing occupational safety and health and in building a socio-economic floor for all as recommended by the World Commission.

Today, ISSA brings together institutions and administrative bodies from countries all over the world dealing with all forms of compulsory social security, which, by virtue of legislation or national practice, are integral part of the social protection system of these countries. The structure of ISSA is unique in the world of international organizations: government services and semi-public or autonomous bodies work closely together. The ISSA has 377 member institutions in 151 countries and their activities are fully complementary of those carried out by the Social Protection Sector through its tripartite constituency. ISSA members collaborate and exchange data and knowledge around their following technical commissions with representation from all over the world:

- Information Technology
- Administrative Management, Organization and Methods
- Statistical, Actuarial and Financial Studies
- Provident Funds and Allied Schemes
- Family Allowances
- Unemployment Insurance and Employment Maintenance
- Old-Age, Invalidity and Survivors' Insurance
- Medical Care and Sickness Insurance
- Mutual Benefit Societies
- Insurance against Employment Accidents and Occupational Diseases
- Social Security Research
- Prevention

One of the very recent successful cooperation between the Social Protection Sector and ISSA took place during the General Assembly of the International Social Security Association that was held in Beijing, China from 12th to 18th September: The General Assembly gathered more than 1,000 participants from social security institutions in 151 countries and that was extensively reported by national and international media.





The Social Protection Sector's participation in the ISSA's General Assembly was possible thanks to the collaboration and teamwork spirit between all units of the Social Protection Sector, the Turin International Training Centre, the ILO Department of Communication (DCOMM), and ISSA; and to the efficient and gracious support provided to all of them by the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, the National Organizing Committee, the ILO-Beijing Office, the ILO Sub-regional Office for East Asia and the ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific¹.

2. Remarks of Ambassador Juan Somavía, Director General of ILO to the opening of the 28th General Assembly of the International Social Security Association

The Opening Ceremony of ISSA's 28th General Assembly took Place in the Great-Hall of People in Beijing with speeches by H.E. Mr. Huang Ju, Vice Premier of China Mr. Johan Verstraeten, President of ISSA and Mr. Juan Somavía, Director General of the ILO, through a videotape presentation². These are the words of Mr. Somavía:



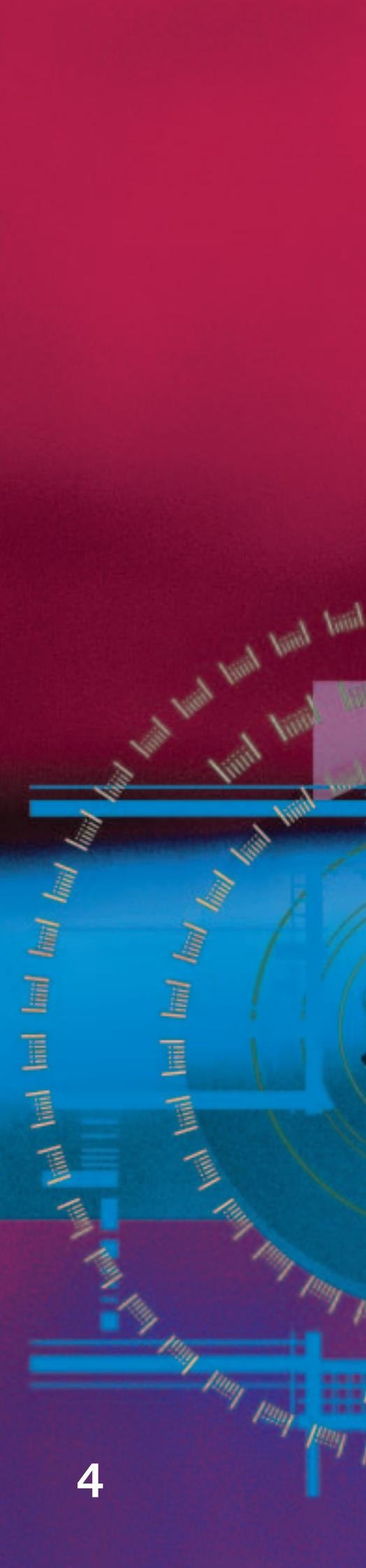
Chairperson, Secretary-General of ISSA - my good friend, Dalmer Hoskins, Distinguished Delegates, Dear Friends

My warmest greetings to all of you gathered for the 28th General Assembly of the International Social Security Association. I was happy to be in Beijing only some months ago for the China Employment Forum, which the ILO co-hosted with the Ministry of Labour and Social Security.

If my friend the Minister is there with you, my best regards. I wish I could be with you today for this important meeting.

¹ <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/asro/bangkok/>

² All these speeches are available at the following address: <http://www.issa.int/engl/homef.htm>



Social security is key to people's security. And when people have health care, income security and access to social services they can also be more productive and better contribute to sustainable development. You know that better than anybody.

The ILO shares a long and cherished association with ISSA. As national social security systems developed, the ILO saw the need for a space where largely autonomous institutions could work together to promote social security protection globally. This was the origin of ISSA.

ISSA has emerged as an important organization, with a membership of nearly 400 social security institutions in 151 countries. It's quite impressive! You extend in practical day-to-day work the social security arm of the ILO. And we have had a very good partnership.

But despite all that we have been doing, the fact is that half of the world's population has no social security coverage at all. In many least-developed countries, more than nine out of ten workers live and work without any type of safety net.

The ILO recently published a report entitled "Economic Security for a Better World". It highlights how economic security coupled with democracy and government spending on social security not only benefits growth but can also promote social stability. Yet the Report found a world full of "anxiety and anger."

The need for the expansion of social security coverage is greater than ever before.

The gap in social protection, really in human protection, is just one dimension of a world full of imbalances. It led the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization to conclude that the present model of globalization is morally unacceptable and politically unsustainable. Although its potential is big if wisely managed.

The extension of social security can play a key role in redressing this imbalance and making a fair globalization possible.

Our constituents reached a new consensus on social security at the 2001 International Labour Conference and last summer, we launched the Global Campaign on Social Security and Coverage for All.

We aim:

- to be strong advocates for social security and its extension, as a key outcome of development for people and their families
- and to support policy options that are both cost-effective and inspired by values of solidarity and universality.

The ILO and ISSA share a common perspective on social security. But now more than ever we must be innovative and creative to reach all those who most need social protection. And also to help address contemporary issues from ageing societies to reaching informal economy workers. Many of these problems are before us. In consultation with the Secretary-General of ISSA, I am establishing a task force that will examine how we can reinforce our long-standing partnership, enhance synergy and draw on our respective networks to better meet today's challenges.

Dear friends, Unemployment and social exclusion are the greatest threats against human security today. The fight against poverty demands a global engagement. Decent work, of which social security is a key component, is the sustainable route out of poverty.

Decent work is an instrument of a fair globalization. Let us build our future partnership with this goal in mind. I offer you my best wishes for a fruitful and lively debate. Thank you for the opportunity of addressing you and have a great meeting.

3. The Social Protection Sector in the ISSA's 28th General Assembly

The Social Protection Sector's contribution to ISSA's General Assembly was structured around three events in which it took the lead and two display presentations featuring the Social Protection Sector of the ILO and the International Training Centre of the ILO, based in Turin, Italy: The Social protection Sector also participated in the "Special Plenary Session on Social Security in the People's Republic of China"³.

A major event was the Plenary Session Chaired by Mr. Assane Diop, Executive Director of the Social protection Sector, within the regular programme of the General Assembly, which focused on the extension of social protection to rural populations.



Mrs. Mrs. Jeannette Gros, President, Central Fund of Social agricultural Mutual Benefit Societies, France. Mr. Assane Diop Executive Director of the ILO, Mr. Johan Verstraeten. President of ISSA.

Two ILO side-events supplemented the work of the General Assembly. In the first, the Social Protection Sector made a presentation of "QUATRRAIN", its state-of-the-art quantitative training initiative in social protection and social security for staff from social security institutions. In the second side-event, the Social Protection Sector presented the "Global Campaign on Social Security and Coverage for All", based on the consensus reached by governments, employers and workers during the International Labour Conference in 2001, and launched in June 2003.

³ <http://www.issa.int/engl/homef.htm>



Ms. Wang Wei and Ms. Wu Rulian from ILO-Beijing

The two display presentations made accessible to delegates a number of ILO publications and materials related to research, development, and technical cooperation issues, and International Labour Standards in the fields of social protection and social security; and provided further information about related training opportunities offered by the Turin International Training Centre of the ILO.



Mrs. Lynn Villacorta (Chief), and Ms. Irene Nori (Secretary) Social Protection Programme, International Training Centre of the ILO, Turin



Aidi Hu Social Security Expert (HQ)



Hiroshi Yamabana Social Security Expert (ILO-East Asia) with delegates

A key element in the success of the participation of the Social protection Sector in ISSA's General Assembly was the inter-phase through the expertise, direct contacts and linguistic abilities of the Senior Social Security Expert Mrs. Aidi Hu (Geneva) as well as of Mr. Hiroshi Yamabana, Social Security Specialist and Mr. Jean-Claude Hennicot, Social Security Associate Expert, both members of the ILO Sub-regional Office for East Asia.

3.1 Plenary Session Social Protection of the Rural Population

Only one person in five of the world's population has adequate social security protection, while less than half has any kind of social protection at all. This is the challenge which governments face, especially those in developing countries. Extending social security protection has been a major component of the ISSA Initiative project "Assessing the coverage gap". It was at the core of the conclusions reached by the International Labour Conference in 2001, when the International Labour Organization reached a new consensus on the major social security issues, challenges and prospects at the dawn of the century. As a consequence, the extension of social protection resulted, more recently, in a world "Campaign" launched by the Social Protection Sector of the International Labour Office (ILO).

Research and pilot projects have been undertaken and the topic has figured prominently on the agendas of ISSA and other meetings. At this Plenary Session, extension of coverage focused on rural populations. These populations include employees who are not protected by the general public scheme, agricultural small holders, and self-employed foresters and fishermen and their families. While the social security needs of employees in rural industrial and service enterprises may be the same as those in urban enterprises, what are the needs of persons working directly in agriculture, forestry and fishing?

Clearly, access to adequate health care is a priority. Is the additional protection these persons need against the various social risks different from the traditional social security benefits designed for employed persons? What is the capacity of the rural population to finance their protection? How might contributions be assessed and collected and compliance with contribution conditions achieved? How can infrastructure and other constraints to establishing an administrative structure be overcome? This Plenary Session was led by the Social Protection Sector of the ILO.



Two papers were presented during this plenary session. The first one was prepared by J.V. Gruat, Administration and Programming Coordinator of the Social Protection Sector: Social protection for rural populations: Needs, limitations, possibilities. The second one was prepared and presented by Robert Holzmann, Director, Social Protection, Human Development Network, World Bank: Social Protection for the Rural Population: The Need to Think Outside the Box⁴.



⁴ Both reports are available at the following address: <http://www.issa.int/engl/homef.htm>

A panel discussion followed the ILO and World Bank presentations. The panel was moderated by Mrs. Jeannette Gros, President, Central Fund of Social Agricultural Mutual Benefit Societies (France) and focused on practical cases and experiences in dealing with social protection in the rural sector in a number of countries.



The panelists were:

- Mr. Mohamed Chaabane, Director-General, Research and Study Centre for Social Security, Tunisia.
- Mr. Zhao Dianguo, Deputy Director-General, Department of Rural Social Insurance, Ministry of Labour and Social Security, People's Republic of China.
- Mr. Fezile Makiwani, Deputy Director-General of Social Security, Department of Social Development, South Africa.
- Mr. Helmut Schwarzer, Deputy Minister of Social Security, Ministry of Social Security, Brazil.
- Mr. Emmanuel Reynaud, Chief, Social Security Policy and Development Branch, Social Protection Sector, ILO.

Concluding remarks were at the charge of Alejandro Bonilla García, Policy and Research Coordinator of Social Protection Sector of the ILO and Chair of the Task Force to enhance ILO-ISSA collaboration. He reminded the delegates that social security is a human right and that no distinction should be made between human rights in the rural or urban areas. He invited all ISSA member institutions to hear the scream⁵ of all those uncovered populations in the rural areas who do not benefit from any social protection coverage and to join forces with all sectors of the ILO to make effective access to social protection a reality for all. The strategic framework presented by the ILO and by the World Bank as well as the practical examples of concrete applications in very different regions of the world during the panel discussion, showed that it is politically, socially, and economically possible.



⁵ Image: The Scream. Edvard Munch

3.2 First side event: QUATRRAIN: quantitative training in social protection

M. Cichon, Chief of the Financial, Actuarial and Statistical Services Branch of the Social Protection Sector of the ILO around the following challenge and one of ILO's response initiatives⁶.



The Challenge: National Social Protection Systems redistribute between 5 and 35 percent of their economies' GDP. At least US\$ 5,000 billion per year – or 15 per cent of the world's GDP is being allocated to improve social security and help overcome poverty, yet too often these funds are not well managed, investment and effort is wasted, the poor remain poor.

Expert design, management and governance of social transfer systems are crucial if these systems are to succeed in their objectives and fulfill their goals. Pivotal to such success is the financial management and viability of social transfer schemes.

This good financial governance depends on the people managing those systems. Scores of business schools around the world train people to manage much smaller amounts of money in enterprises, but very little is done on a global scale to train good financial managers and planners in social protection, who are often dealing with infinitely larger sums.

ILO's QUATRRAIN initiative sets out to fill that gap:

- through its textbook series on quantitative methods in social protection;
- through its innovative Masters programme in Social Protection Financing run jointly with Maastricht University;
- by extending this collaboration to other academic institutions, notably the University of Lausanne;
- through tailor-made training programmes to staff of social security or related organizations;
- together with ILO Turin, through its regular programme of courses in social protection financing.

Worldwide efficiency gains in the total volume of social transfers could suffice to finance a minimum social protection benefit for the world's poor; well-trained and conscientious financial managers in social protection can make a lasting difference.

⁶ <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/protection/socfas/quatrain/index.htm>

3.3 Second side event: ILO's Global Campaign on social security and coverage for all⁷.



Emmanuel Reynaud, Chief of the Social Security Policy and Development Branch of the Social Protection Branch of the ILO made a presentation on the ILO's Global Campaign to extend social security in which ISSA member institutions play a key role.

Only one in five people in the world has adequate social security coverage. Half of the world's population is without any social security protection. Based on the consensus reached by governments, employers and workers during the International Labour Conference in 2001, the ILO launched the "Global Campaign on Social Security and Coverage for All" in June 2003. The Global Campaign uses three means of action to help countries extend social security and draws from successful experiences worldwide of its STEP Programme (Strategies and Tools against social Exclusion and Poverty):

- it provides technical assistance, contributes to capacity building and supports the process of social dialogue;
- it focuses on knowledge development, including research, experimentation and the dissemination of good practices;
- it raises awareness and encourages partnerships, so as to mobilize key actors at the local, national and international levels.

The ILO's Global Campaign on social security and coverage for all responds to a universal need and a universal challenge and benefits from ISSA's advances in its "ISSA Initiative: Strengthening the security in social security⁸". Furthermore, the Declaration of the ISSA's General Assembly represents an important political statement that reinforces the mandate given by ILO constituents to launch a global campaign and places ISSA's member institutions as key allies of the Social Protection Sector in this venture.

4. Special Plenary Session Social security in the People's Republic of China

A series of major reforms of the social protection system have been introduced in the People's Republic of China since the early 1980s, in order to adapt the system to changing national and world economic situations, to face up to the emergence or accentuation of various social phenomena such as unemployment or the aging of the population, and to extend coverage, slowly but surely, to the whole population. A number of steps have thus been taken, over the last two decades, towards the implementation of a modern and innovative system of social protection for the Chinese population. This session, come at a time when the latter is entering a new phase of development, so it provided a perfect opportunity for all the participants in the General Assembly to become better acquainted with this system, to appreciate its originality and particularities, and to become more aware of the challenges it faces and the strategies envisaged to meet them.

⁷ <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/protection/socsec/pol/campagne/index.htm>

⁸ <http://www.issa.int/engl/homef.htm>

5. Declaration of the 28th General Assembly of the International Social Security Association Beijing 2004

Social security directors, policymakers and administrators, representing the 377 member institutions of the International Social Security Association (ISSA) in 151 countries, gathered in Beijing, China from 12 to 18 September 2004, for the 28th General Assembly of the ISSA.

The General Assembly focused on the role that social security plays in economic and social development, and the necessity of ensuring sound governance and guaranteeing rights to social security. The reform efforts undertaken by all nations throughout the world to improve their social security systems were highlighted by the Assembly.

The General Assembly noted with profound concern that:

- The majority of the world's population is not covered by any formal social security protection against the risks of old age, disability, death, sickness, work accident and unemployment, and that coverage rates in certain parts of the world have even declined in recent years.
- Public discussion is dominated by the cost of social security while the economic and social development benefits of social security in a globalized world have been largely ignored.
- Demographic ageing is often perceived as a challenge to social security protection.
- Efforts to ensure the financial sustainability of social security schemes may neglect the adequacy of benefit levels and consequently the level of protection provided to individuals.
- The combined effect of these trends has contributed to undermining public confidence in the future viability of social security programmes, leaving many citizens confused and worried about what protection will be provided to them and their families in the event of need.

The Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the General Assembly declare that the deliberations of the General Assembly have demonstrated that there is an international consensus of the following key points:

The Essential Link Between Economic and Social Development

Social security plays a pivotal role in stimulating economic and social development by supporting economic growth and fostering social cohesion. Social and economic development must occur hand-in-hand and social security is a key factor for achieving both.

Extending Coverage

In order to reduce poverty and achieve social inclusion, coverage must be extended to the categories of the population that do not benefit from any formal social security protection. Social security is at the core of any poverty reduction strategy, and new approaches to extending coverage must be sought.

Sound Governance and Public Understanding

Sound governance is the foundation of an effective social security programme. Clear and effective communications and balanced debates about social security create confidence and empower the public to make informed choices. The programme must be administered with integrity and with respect for the laws on which it is founded.

Rights to Social Security

Governments are responsible for providing appropriate guarantees of social security rights. This responsibility includes putting in place effective supervisory and regulatory mechanisms to protect the benefit rights of members of privately managed social security schemes.

Population Ageing

Population ageing presents both opportunities and challenges to reform labour markets to adapt to the ever-evolving global economy and to ensure long-term sustainability of social security schemes. Governments have a key role to play in extending working lives by changing retirement patterns and in developing their labour markets through skills and learning development.

Conclusion

Social security plays an essential role in economic and social development. All countries must therefore renew their efforts to cope with the challenges facing social security, to take immediate action to extend social protection to those living at the margins of society and to make social security available to more people.

Each country must decide what kind of social security system it wants and can afford, and build a system, which fully reflects the values of the people. This is not a decision for government alone, or for social security administrators alone or for the social partners alone. A strong government commitment to social security is essential for ensuring its long-term social and financial sustainability.

The ISSA is in a unique position to assist social security institutions throughout the world in their efforts to extend social security coverage, to improve their administrative capacity and service to the public, to improve the level of protection and to promote a more informed debate about the future of social security in their countries.

The ISSA must therefore increase and improve its efforts to pursue the objective set out in its Constitution: *"...to co-operate, at the international level, in the promotion and development of social security throughout the world ...in order to advance the social and economic conditions of the population on the basis of social justice."*

6. Declaration on Asbestos. Beijing 2004

The Special Commission on Prevention of the International Social Security Association (ISSA), assembled in Beijing on 16 September 2004 on the occasion of the 28th General Assembly of the Association, issued an appeal to governments in asbestos-producing countries to ban the manufacture, trade and use of all types of asbestos and asbestos-containing products as soon as possible. The full text of the ISSA Declaration on Asbestos can be found at <http://www.issa.int/pdf/GA2004/2DeclarationAsbestos.pdf>

Further information on asbestos can be found at the ILO pages: Asbestos Convention No. 162 and Occupational Cancer Convention No. 139 (<http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/convdisp2.htm>) and their accompanying Recommendations Nos.172 and 147 (<http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/recdisp2.htm>); the recent Dresden Conference Proceedings and Dresden Declaration (<http://www.asbestkonferenz2003.de>) and related materials from SafeWork (<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/protection/safe-work/accidis/asbestos-dresden1.pdf>)

7. Elections of ISSA Officers.

At the 32nd Session of the ISSA Council which took place immediately after the 28th General Assembly in Beijing (The People's Republic of China) on 18 September 2004, the International Social Security Association (ISSA) elected its President, Treasurer, ISSA Bureau and members of the Control Commission, for the next three years. ISSA will elect its next Secretary General in September 2005 and will start in functions in October 2005. A call for candidatures to the position of Secretary General has been launched by ISSA⁹. For the importance of their role in the conduction of ISSA's activities and the value added of these to ILO's tripartite activities in the field of social protection, the full list of current ISSA officials is reproduced hereby:

President of the ISSA



Mrs. Corazon DE LA PAZ
President and Chief Executive Officer
Social Security System
Philippines

Secretary General of the ISSA



Mr. Dalmer HOSKINS

Treasurer of the ISSA



Mr. Wim FRANSEN
Director International and Foreign Affairs
Sociale Verzekeringsbank (Social Insurance Bank)
Netherlands

⁹ <http://www.issa.int/engl/homef.htm>

ISSA Bureau Members

Europe

Mr. Gennady Nicolaevich BATANOV, Russian Federation
Mr. Joachim BREUER, Germany
Mr. Bernard DE BACKER, Belgium
Mr. Maurice DURANTON, France
Mr. Claude EWEN, Luxembourg
Mr. Fidel FERRERAS ALONSO, Spain
Mr. Alexander GUNKEL, Germany
Mrs. Elisabeth IMESCH, Switzerland
Mr. Jiri KRÁL, Czech Republic
Ms. Adriana LENDER, Sweden
Mr. Vincenzo MUNGARI, Italy
Mr. Salim MUSLIMOV, Republic of Azerbaijan
Ms. Marie NIVEN, United Kingdom
Mr. Lars ROHDE, Denmark
Mr. Jean-Marie SPAETH, France
Mr. Norbert VANAS, Austria
Ms. Aleksandra WIKTOROW, Poland

Africa

Mr. Abdelmajid BENNACER, Algeria
Mr. Ahmadou Yéri DIOP, Senegal
Mr. Ahmed S. EL-SHARIF, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
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Mr. Naftali O. MOGERE, Kenya
Mrs. Sakinatou SIDI, Benin
Mr. Andrew G. SYLVA, Gambia
Mr. Antoine Danguouali YALANZELE, Gabon

Americas

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Mr. Alfredo H. CONTE-GRAND, Argentina
Ms. Narda GARCIA, Belize
Mr. Carlos Enrique GASPARRI, Uruguay
Mr. Carlos GOMES BEZERRA, Brazil
Mr. Santiago LEVY ALGAZI, Mexico
Mr. Néstor R. RODRÍGUEZ ARDILA, Colombia
Mr. Alberto SÁENZ PACHECO, Costa Rica
Ms. Susan SCOTTI, Canada
Ms. Antoinette SKELTON, British Virgin Islands

Asia and the Pacific

Mr. Kalf AL ABDALLAH, Syrian Arab Republic
Mr. Khalid Wassef AL-WAZANI, Jordan
Mr. Abbas ASSARI ARANI, Islamic Republic of Iran
Mr. Ajay DUA, India
Mr. Abdulmalek I. HAJAR, Yemen
Mr. LEE, Seung-Jae, Republic of Korea
Mr. MENG Zhaoxi, The People's Republic of China
Mr. Kiyoshi MURASE, Japan
Mr. Mark A. SULLIVAN, Australia
Dr. Orié Andari SUTADJI, Indonesia

Members of the ISSA Control Commission

Chairperson of the Control Commission
Mr. Ted NESBIT, United Kingdom

Titular Auditors of the Control Commission
Mr. Philippe CONUS, Switzerland
Ms. Päivi-Inkeri KINNUNEN, Finland

Deputy Auditor of the Control Commission
Mr. Sergio B. ARVIZU TREVIÑO, Mexico

8. Conference - 2nd International Forum on Work Safety, Beijing

A few days before the 28th General Assembly of ISSA took place, also in Beijing, the 2nd International Forum on Work Safety (1-4 September). This Forum was sponsored by the State Administration of Work Safety (SAWS) and the ILO, and organized by the China National Centre for International Exchange & Cooperation on Work Safety (NCICS). The event included many seminars with the theme "Safety, Health and Development", as well as exhibits from 195 companies of the latest technology, products, and equipment in work safety and occupational health. Over 450 representatives from governmental institutions, organizations and companies in 20 countries and regions were in attendance, with 100 foreign experts and top officials from US, UK, Germany, Australia, Poland, and China.

The Forum focused on cutting the number of deaths and accidents in hazardous sectors such as the mining, construction and chemical industries. The Forum facilitated exchange of experiences in the effort in these areas with a view to supporting Chinese programmes.



Christine Evans-Klock,
Director of the ILO Sub-regional Office for East Asia¹⁰.

According to State Councilor Hua Jianmin, the Chinese government will strengthen its legal system in the field of OSH, adopt advanced technology and equipment to better ensure workers' safety, and hasten the development of an emergency rescue system. "Many developing countries ... are experiencing an increase in occupational accidents and diseases as a result of industrialization. To address the emerging safety and health issues of China, the ILO has been strengthening its technical co-operation programmes" said Christine Evans-Klock, Director of the International Labour Organization (ILO) Office for East Asia, in her opening speech.

9. The 10th International Conference on Occupational Respiratory Diseases (ICORD). Beijing, China, 19 to 22 April 2005¹¹



During ISSA's General Assembly, special attention was given to forthcoming international conferences on occupational safety and health, in particular to the 10th International Conference on Occupational Respiratory Diseases (10th ICORD) that will be held in Beijing, China, from 19 to 22 April 2005¹². The Conference is organized by the International Labour Office (ILO) in collaboration with the Ministry of Health of China, with the participation

¹⁰ <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/asro/mdtbangkok/index.htm>

¹¹ <http://www.ICORD2005.com>

¹² www.safety2005.org

of the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH) and the International Occupational Hygiene Association (IOHA). The nine previous Conferences were held respectively in Johannesburg (1930), Geneva (1938), Sydney (1950), Bucharest (1971), Caracas (1978), Bochum (1983), Pittsburgh (1988), Prague (1992) and Kyoto (1997).

The theme of the Conference is "Occupational Respiratory Hazards in the 21st Century: Best Practices for Prevention and Control". It will provide an excellent opportunity for scientists, occupational physicians, health practitioners, hygienists, engineers, management, workers and legislators to exchange scientific and technical information on the health effects of air pollutants at the workplace and on the prevention and control of occupational respiratory diseases.

10. XVIIth World Congress on Safety and Health at Work- Success through Partnership. September 18 - 22 2005. Orlando, Florida, USA¹³.



The World Congress on Safety and Health at Work will be held in the USA for the first time from September 18-22, 2005 in Orlando, Florida. It is jointly organized by ILO, ISSA and the National Safety Council (NSC) of the United States of America.

Both the U.S. Department of Labor (Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Mine Safety and Health Administration, and the Bureau of International Labor Affairs) and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health are supporting the World Congress and participating as important government partners on the National Organizing Committee.

The World Congress is a particularly well-suited and innovative forum for international discussion and debate on current inter-disciplinary issues relating to all aspects of prevention. It will focus on ways to strengthen partnerships among governments, employers, workers, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's), and safety and health professionals to improve workplace safety and health throughout the world.

The World Congress on Safety and Health at Work is an international forum of 3000+ professionals who gather every 3 years to exchange ideas, research and best practices on highly topical issues in the area of Occupational Safety and Health. The Congress is a five-day event – including an array of educational platforms (technical, practical, research topics and networking opportunities).

Attendees include: safety engineers and technicians, hygienists, ergonomists, occupational physicians, labour inspectors, scientists and researchers, technical factory inspectors, trainers and teachers, workers and their representatives, decision makers in the public sector and in social security, senior executives in industry, representatives of governmental and non-governmental organizations

¹³ www.safety2005.org

International Labour Office

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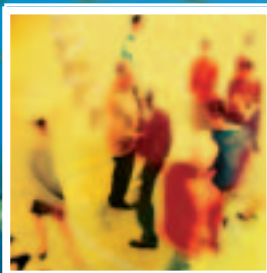
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