

SAIOH and DUT host International Occupational Hygiene Training Course



Under the auspices of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Southern African Institute for Occupational Hygiene (SAIOH) and the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA), SAIOH organised and co-hosted an international training event at the Durban University of Technology (DUT), from 4 to 7 December 2017. The training course in occupational hygiene was presented by international discipline experts representing AIHA and the Indiana University Fairbanks School of Public Health (FSPH), USA.

The planning for the delivery of the course started during 2016, as part of the collaborative partnership between SAIOH and AIHA, which encompasses '*technical cooperation in a number of activity areas, including joint collaboration in the field of occupational hygiene, such as training courses, seminars, and conferences*'.

SAIOH took the decision to offer the course on a break-even model, charging the lowest possible registration fee, to cover costs it would incur for accommodation and travel expenses of course trainers, and expenses related to the course logistics and the participant training materials.

A discounted registration fee was afforded to students, to maximise the benefit which can be derived from the presentation of this type of expert training, including networking opportunities, discussion fora and first time exposure to certain topics for some of the attendees.

As a further benefit negotiated between SAIOH and AIHA, course participants were given the opportunity to purchase three of the AIHA e-books (on assessing and managing occupational exposures; a noise manual; and evaluation, control and management of the occupational environment) at a significantly reduced cost (approximately 80% off the AIHA non-member pricing, through SAIOH).

The training course, CPD-accredited by SAIOH and the South African Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (Saiosh) for their respective members, was attended by occupational hygienists and other occupational safety and health (OSH) professionals, including environmental consultants.

Participants came from as far afield as Botswana and Mozambique to attend. Thirty four participants attended the course, representing associations and organisations across various sectors, including Occutech, Apex Environmental, Engen Oil, SAPREF (a Shell and BP joint venture), Toyota, Tongaat Hulett Sugar (Botswana), Mozal Aluminium Smelter

(Mozambique), Metso Minerals SA, Petra Diamonds and SA Forestry Company Ltd (SAFCOL). Seven of the nine student participants were from DUT.

The training programme spanned a range of topics relevant to practitioners in occupational hygiene and OSH, including evaluation and control of chemical and physical hazards; ergonomics and human factors; psychosocial factors in the work environment; statistics for occupational hygiene practice coupled with the presentation and interpretation of data sets using statistical tools; field skills; and the evaluation of interventions.

The discipline experts who facilitated the training were Drs Steven Lacey, Emily Ahonen and Perry Logan, all members of AIHA.

Dr Steven Lacey is a certified industrial hygienist and safety professional, with a PhD in Industrial Hygiene. He is an Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Environmental Health Science at Indiana University FSPH, in Indianapolis, and his current research is on medical laser health and safety. Dr Lacey is the Immediate Past President of AIHA.

Dr Emily Ahonen is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Environmental Health Science and the Department of Social and Behavioural Sciences at FSPH. With a PhD in Public Health, her areas of interest and research are work and housing as they interact with health and well-being, and the evaluation of interventions to address various public health challenges. Dr Ahonen has also worked in health promotion with migrant agricultural workers in Michigan.

Dr Perry Logan, a certified industrial hygienist with a PhD in Environmental Health, is the global manager for 3M Corporate Ergonomics, Industrial Hygiene. Dr Logan enjoys all aspects of the disciplines of Environment, Health and Safety, with areas of interest in leadership, competency development, auditing, exposure risk assessment and management, ventilation design, and Bayesian and mathematical exposure modelling.

SAIOH would like to extend a special vote of thanks to Mr Shakeel Ori, Director of Co-Operative Education at DUT, for his proactive contribution to arranging the venues, student support, transport and catering logistics, and for making his staff members readily available for assistance with the training course.

SAIOH is grateful to and appreciative of two of its members for representing both SAIOH and DUT at the training course, for their on-the-ground support and assistance for the various aspects of the training, and for graciously hosting the visiting course presenters: (1) Dr Ivan Niranjana, Senior Lecturer in the Environmental Health programme, Department of Community Health at DUT and Immediate Past Chair of the SAIOH KwaZulu-Natal branch, recently appointed by the Minister of Labour as Occupational Health and Safety Advisory Council Member for Occupational Hygiene; and (2) Peter-John (Jakes) Jacobs, SAIOH Council Member and Past President, and IOHA President Elect for 2018.

Acknowledgement is also given to Claudina Nogueira, SAIOH Council member responsible for the liaison portfolio, for much of the behind the scenes work and planning of the training course; and to Kate Smart in the SAIOH Office, for administrative support.



Striking a pose – Participants and presenters of the International Course in Occupational Hygiene, hosted by SAIOH and DUT, 4-7 December 2017

Vote of thanks – Ms Muriel Mogane, Chair of the SAIOH KwaZulu-Natal branch, hands a gift of appreciation to the main course presenter, Dr Steven Lacey, while his fellow presenters Drs Emily Ahonen and Perry Logan look on



*Relaxation mode – Course presenters and hosts at the Hluhluwe Nature Reserve, post-training course.
L to R: Drs Emily Ahonen, Steven Lacey, Ivan Niranjana, Perry Logan and Mr Jakes Jacobs*