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## SPOTLIGHT

### Featured Interview

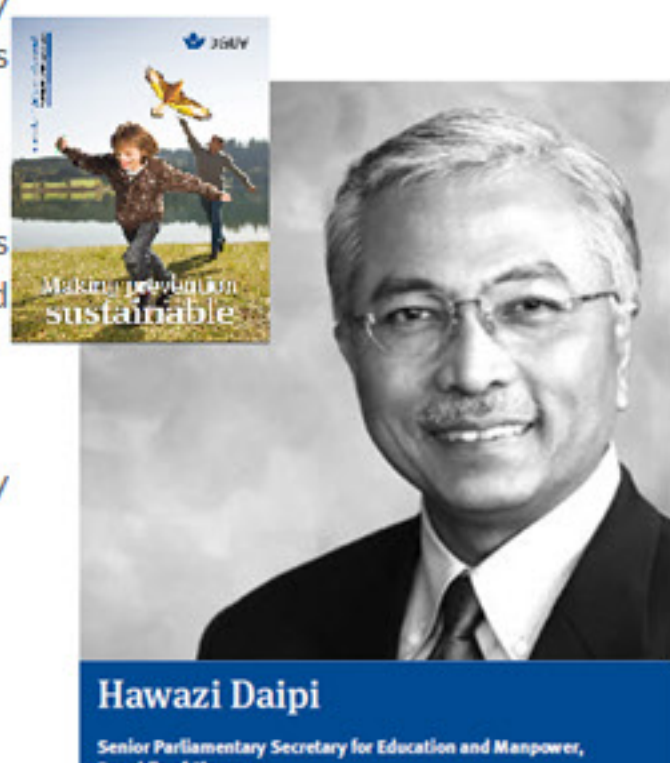
**"We want everyone to arrive back home safe and healthy"**

In the recently released DGUV Prevention Yearbook 2012/2013, Senior Parliamentary Secretary (SPS) for Education and Manpower, Hawazi Daipi was interviewed with regard to his thoughts on Singapore's WSH prevention strategies.

SPS highlighted the need to change patterns of thinking on prevention of accidents, which is for everyone to start embracing the philosophy that every accident at work can be avoided and not to accept accidents as a fact of life.

SPS reiterated Singapore's unyielding WSH efforts on all fronts to reach out and support every social group to bring about the paradigm shift.

To read the full article (pages 26-27 of the yearbook), please visit the DGUV website [here](#)



### WSH Institute Forum Report and VideoClip

The Forum Report and Video Highlights which capture the key essence of the WSH Institute Forum on 'The Next WSH Frontier' held on 11 Sept 2013 are now available.

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### Articles Reviewed In This Issue:

- 1. Making the best use of lifting and handling aids**
- 2. Safe operation of mobile cranes**
- 3. Gender specific analysis of occupational diseases of the low back caused by carrying, lifting or extreme trunk flexion - Use of a prevention index to identify occupations with high prevention needs**
- 4. Guide on manual handling risk assessment in the manufacturing sector**

#### 1. Title: Making the best use of lifting and handling aids

Date of publication: Oct 2013

Source: Publications, Health and Safety Executive

Author: Health and Safety Executive, United Kingdom

#### Synopsis:

This guidance provides a general list of factors to consider when selecting lifting and handling aids. In addition, it also introduces in a pictorial manner the lifting and handling tools available based on job roles and tasks.

Case studies are also widely used to depict the following:

The cost of manual handling injury claims to employers and employees

The use of lifting and handling aids which worked well and how it had helped the employee/organisation.

To read more, click [here](#)

#### 2. Title: Safe operation of mobile cranes

Date of publication: May 2010

Source: Case studies, Workplace Health and Safety Queensland

Author: Workplace Health and Safety Queensland, Department of Justice and Attorney-General

#### Synopsis:

The use of mobile cranes can be hazardous especially when complexity of the lift increases. The guide provides advice to crane operators and persons involved in crane operation of their safety obligations when operating mobile cranes.

It identifies the key issues that must be considered during the planning of a lift and during crane operations, with questions to serve as reminders. The questions are structured based on the following categories:

- Crane selection
- Crane condition
- Load chart issues
- Crane safety features
- Ground conditions
- Other environment issues
- Load type issues
- Load securing
- Personnel issues

To read more, click [here](#)

#### 3. Title: Gender specific analysis of occupational diseases of the low back caused by carrying, lifting or extreme trunk flexion - Use of a prevention index to identify occupations with high prevention needs

Date of publication: Nov 2013

Source: American Journal of Industrial Medicine

Author: Markus Thiede, Falk Liebers, Andreas Seidler, Stefan Gravemeyer and Ute Latza

#### Synopsis:

This study, conducted in Germany, is a gender specific analysis of the occupational disease (OD) of lower back caused by carrying, lifting, or extreme trunk flexion. Its purpose is to identify areas of focus for prevention and research regarding ODs of the lumbar spine and introduces the use of a Prevention Index (PI).

The analysis was based on confirmed cases of lower back OD from the German Statutory Accident Insurance from 2002 to 2009 (1,178 men and 1,699 women). The key findings were:

Occupations with high need for prevention among men come from nearly all major occupations, which include nurses, miners and building frame and related trades work.

Women with lower back ODs are concentrated in the healthcare sectors, which include occupations like nurses, health associated professionals and personal care and related workers.

The PI revealed the highest prevention need was for female nursing/midwifery associate professionals and male building frame and related trades workers.

To read more, click [here](#) [Access via publisher's website]

#### 4. Title: Guide on manual handling risk assessment in the manufacturing sector

Date of publication: 2013

Source: Publications, Health and Safety Authority

Author: Health and Safety Authority, Ireland

#### Synopsis:

This guideline provides direction and practical information on manual handling for those that work in the manufacturing sector. The aim is to prevent musculoskeletal injuries at work and reduce exposure to high financial costs, including compensation claims.

Manual handling activities that involve a risk of injury (particularly to the back) due to exposure to unfavourable ergonomic conditions need to be identified and managed at the workplace. 4 case studies were illustrated to explain how to complete a manual handling risk assessment process. Using a 5-step approach, some of the useful interventions included:

Using mechanical handling aids such as variable height pallet trucks, hydraulic trolleys and transporting of large parts on wheels for all or part of the activity

Improving housekeeping procedures

Restructuring the work area to allow loads to be handled at a safe height

Developing a safe system of work plan (SSWP), comprising of clear instructions on safe lifting/handling techniques

Providing training for managers to conduct risk assessments

Communicating improvements to staff

To read more, click [here](#)

### Other Useful Resources:

**Hazardous manual tasks – Overview** (SafeWork SA, South Australia)

**Manual task case study: Unloading containers – TJM products** (Workplace Health and Safety Queensland)

**Use lift trucks safely** (Health and Safety Executive, United Kingdom)

**A 'normal accident' with a tower crane? An accident analysis conducted by the Dutch Safety Board** (Safety Science) [Access via publisher's website]

**Safe lifting operation kit** (Workplace Safety and Health Council, Singapore)

**Technical advisory for safe operations of lifting equipment** (Workplace Safety and Health Council, Singapore)