



Issue 28 (November 2014)

SPOTLIGHT

WSH Institute Visiting Expert Series: Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Estimation in the World of Work

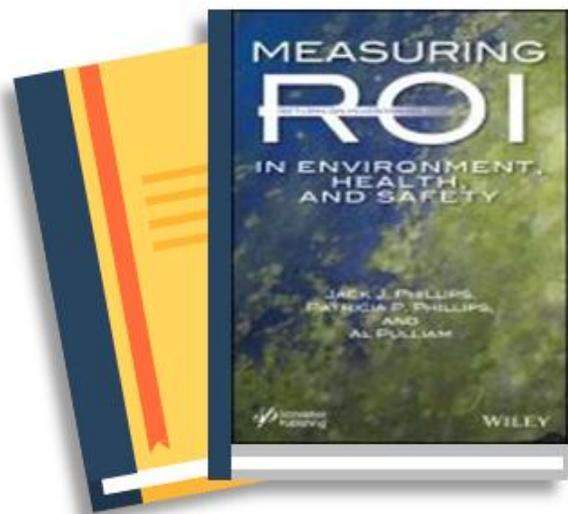
More than 165 participants attended the inaugural Visiting Expert Series organised by the WSH Institute at the Health Promotion Board Auditorium on 16 October 2014.

Professor Tim Driscoll from the School of Public Health, University of Sydney presented World Health Organisation (WHO)'s computational methodology with regard to GBD. Dr Jukka Takala, Senior Consultation to the WSH Institute shared the approach used by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in the determination of GBD. The session ended with a lively discussion with the participants, touching on the two approaches to determine GBD and the implications to health and labour policies.

Click [here](#) for Prof. Driscoll's presentation.

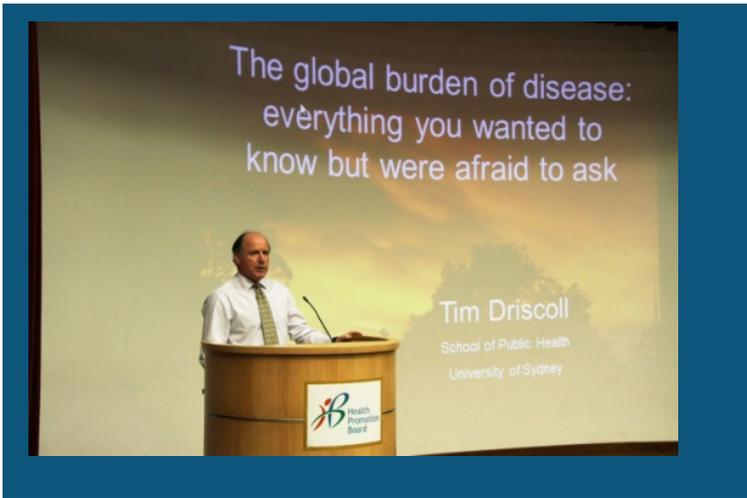
Click on the links for Dr. Takala's presentation.
[\[Part 1\]](#) [\[Part 2\]](#)

Recommended WSH Reading from the WSH Institute Collection* at the Public Libraries



TITLE:
Measuring ROI in environment, health, and safety

AUTHOR:
Jack J. Phillips, Patricia Phillips, and Al Pulliam



AREA OF INTEREST:

Environmental Health, promotion and engineering

For more information, please click [here](#).

* The WSH Institute Collection is a compilation of WSH-related resources that is made accessible to the public through WSH Institute's collaboration with the National Library Board (NLB).

1 A management accounting perspective on safety

This article looks at the adequacy of management accounting practices in the evaluation of safety issues. In this area, the dominant practice tends to focus mainly on financially quantifiable measures, such as cost per injury, or the total cost of accidents, which are used to guide decision making. The authors argue that besides monetary measures, management accounting in the aspect of safety should also focus on non-financial information, such as safety improvement, strategic safety objectives and employee relations, to account for the non-financial benefits and value created through preventing accidents. On this, the authors looked into various management accounting methods to improve cost-benefit evaluation. This includes the Balanced Scorecard approach, the payback period, the simple rate of return, and the benefit-to-cost ratio. The concept of valuing human life in cost-benefit analyses is also discussed.



To read more, click [here](#).

2 The business case for safety and health at work: Cost-benefit analyses in small and medium-sized enterprises



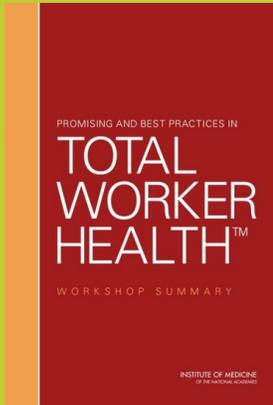
In Europe, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) form the backbone of the European economy. While they account for 67 percent of employment, they also account for 82 percent of occupational injuries. Occupational safety and health in SMEs involves a number of challenges, including greater exposure to risks and the lack of resources to finance an OSH policy, amongst others. This report provides case studies to help raise awareness of OSH benefits at enterprise level among SMEs and addressing the need to change perceptions of OSH so that SMEs see it as a worthwhile investment and not as a cost burden. The report's two main strands include "identifying case studies of OSH interventions in the existing literature and developing new case studies on OSH initiatives in European SMEs." The industry sectors looked at are: healthcare, manufacturing and warehousing, administration, transportation, public administration, mining, accommodation, food, and construction.

3 Depression in working adults: Comparing the costs and health outcomes of working when ill

Instead of taking medical leave when depressed, such employees are better off staying at work as it will help them to better manage their illness. In this Australian study, the authors found that depressed employees who took medical leave did not experience any improvement in their health or quality of life. On the other hand, those who continued to work experienced better health outcomes. Interestingly, "costs associated with depression-related absence and attending work while depressed was also found to be higher for white collar workers who also reported poorer quality of life than blue collar workers." In this regard, promoting continued working should be considered as part of an organisation's mental health strategy.



4 Promising the best practices in total worker health management: Workshop summary



Traditional employer occupational safety and health activities are combined with newer employment-based programmes to promote better health. These activities include smoking cessation, weight loss, stress reduction or regular exercise. Some employers have made policy and facility changes to support physical activity and healthier eating while others tap on community resources for health education, health fairs and other services. This publication notes that some employers have “reconceptualised their safety, prevention, and promotion initiatives and attempted to bring them together into a coherent whole, a move supported by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).” This document summarises the discussions and presentations of the workshop.

To read more, click [here](#).

Other Useful Resources

- Development of cost estimation tools for total occupational safety and health services: Cost estimation from a corporate perspective (*Journal of Occupational Health*)
- Risk awareness and perception of health and safety in the workplace (*Safe Work Australia*)
- 10 steps management can take to improve safety culture and prevent accidents (*CAL/OSHA Compliance Advisor*)
- Managing noise and preventing hearing loss at work. Policy and procedure (*Department of the Environment, Australian Antarctic Division*)

OWLlinks is brought to you by **Singapore WSH Institute** for leaders and professionals to keep abreast of the latest WSH development and trends from around the world.

For enquiries or feedback, please email us at contact@wshi.gov.sg
Visit the [WSH Institute website](#) for updates on WSH-related matters, information and events.

Vision: A leading Institute for WSH knowledge and innovations.
Mission: Enhancing WSH through knowledge, innovations and solutions.

The information provided here is based on information available at the time when this issue of *OWLlinks* was compiled. The information provided here is not to be construed as implying any liability to any party nor should it be taken to encapsulate all the responsibilities and obligations of the reader of *OWLlinks* under the law. Please note that the WSH Institute will be unable to provide full-text of articles listed in this *OWLlinks* if it contravenes the copyright regulation.