



Issue 56 (May 2017)

SPOTLIGHT

World Congress 2017



Registration for World Congress on Safety and Health at Work 2017 is under way!

Featuring renowned thought leaders from around the world, the Congress includes six technical sessions to delve into the key topics of the Congress. Two of the sessions are:

T3: Compliance strategies and good practices on occupational safety and health

The session covers recent strategic options and practices of national authorities from Asia, Europe and South America to promote compliance with applicable legislation and foster good practices aiming at well-being at work.

T4: Total Workplace Safety and Health (TWSH)

The session covers strategies for countries to achieve the goal of providing occupational health services for all workers, as articulated under ILO's C161 Occupational Health Services Convention, 1985.

Click [here](#) by 31 May 2017 to enjoy the Early Bird Rate. See you there!

Other Events

WHAT'S TRENDING

Zero falls at worksites and how to get there



(Source: Straits Times)

The concept of Vision Zero is a mindset where we recognise that all injuries and ill health at work are preventable. It is easy to think that having 99.9% level risk free operations is acceptable. But with the global 3.4 billion workforce, this would mean 3,400,000 workplace deaths annually.

[More...](#)

Relevance: Vision Zero is not impossible. This was achieved in the build-up to the 2012 London Olympics. Further, there were no recorded fatal falls – from heights and slips, trips and falls - in the whole of Singapore from end August in 2016 to end Mar 2017. This means that – for fatal falls – Vision Zero is feasible in all enterprises and workplaces in Singapore for extended time periods.

Top Wearable Technology to Watch for in 2017 Construction



(Source: ESub)

The construction industry has always seen the potential of wearable technology to improve safety and increase productivity. As suppliers continue to improve their products to fit the needs of the construction industry, widespread adoption by the construction industry is expected to grow exponentially. Here are some top wearables to watch for in 2017

[More...](#)



Human Factors & Ergonomics Society of Singapore (HFESS) will be organising a symposium on 29-30 Aug 2017 for local, regional and international HFE practitioners to discuss HFE challenges in the areas of technology and the potential research directions to focus on.

To learn more about event, click [here](#)

The Asia Pacific Occupational Safety and Health Organisation (APOSHO) 32 Conference with the theme of “At the Forefront of OSH Progression” will explore OSH Progression in three important areas, namely “Risk Management”, “Safety Culture”, and “Research”. It will be held on 7 – 9 September 2017.

To learn more about event, click [here](#)



Relevance: While smart wearables can positively impact the construction industry, challenges including affordability, transferability and the ease of implementation must be overcome before they become a reality.

Semi-Automated Mason Capable of Laying 3,000 Bricks Per Day



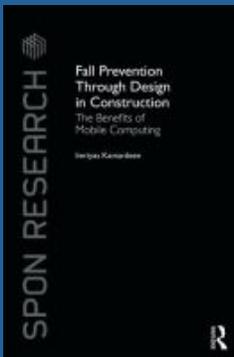
(Source: ireviews)

SAM, short for Semi-Automated Mason, was engineered by New York-based Construction Robotics to “assist with the repetitive and strenuous task of lifting and placing each brick.” With human masons averaging 500 bricks per day, there’s an obvious productivity difference. Designed to work with Masons and not replace their jobs, SAM is estimated to reduce labour costs by 50% while increasing Masons’ productivity by 3-5 times. The robotic bricklayer also reduces lifting by 80% – lowering the risk of construction-site related injuries.

[More...](#)

Relevance: The use of robotics in repetitive and routine tasks can potentially reduce the incidence of low back pain.

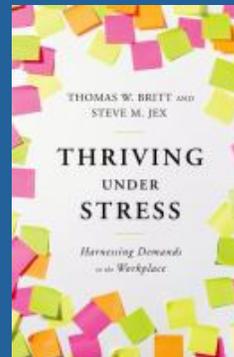
RECOMMENDED READING FROM THE WSH INSTITUTE COLLECTION*



TITLE: Fall prevention through design in construction : the benefits of mobile computing

AUTHOR: Imriyas Kamardeen

AREA OF INTEREST: Accidents, Falls, Building safety, Prevention, Safety measures, Construction



TITLE: Thriving under stress : harnessing demands in the workplace

AUTHOR: Thomas W. Britt

AREA OF INTEREST: Mental health, Job stress, Stress management, Psychology

Click [here](#) to access WSH Institute's e-books collection.

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

OWL HIGHLIGHTS

An innovative cleaning and painting system for high-rise buildings to enhance

Long working hours are associated with depression, diabetes mellitus, stroke and coronary heart disease. This study, involving 1,122 white-collar workers from a Korean company, explores the link between long working hours and psychosocial stress responses. It investigates workers who work 40 hours or more per week and compares the psychosocial responses of workers working up to 60 hours per week.



The findings reveal that participants with long working hours were more likely to be in the high-risk stress group, with around one-third of the participants belonging to the high-risk stress group. Female workers experienced higher levels of psychosocial stress responses compared to males, possibly due to poorer working conditions with respect to promotion and rewards. Finally, the authors listed several negative effects on health due to long working hours; including inadequate rest, workers engaging in unhealthy lifestyles and an increased burden in familial demands.

To read more, click [here](#)

4 Vulnerability survey helps employer assess worker OHS awareness, empowerment



Date of publication: 2016
Source: At Work

The Institute for Work & Health (IWH) has developed a tool, comprising a 27-item employee survey, which assesses the extent to which a worker may be vulnerable to workplace injuries. Extending beyond workplace hazards, measures of vulnerability include awareness of safety and health issues, employees' empowerment and the adequacy of an organisation's OHS practices and policies. Participants on the project also enjoy the ability to benchmark their performance against other employers. This article provides a case study of how an industry leader in OHS uses the tool to identify areas of improvement.

To read more, click [here](#)

Other Useful Resources

- [Aging and MSD: Strategies for older workers](#) (*Centre of Research Expertise for the Prevention of Musculoskeletal Disorders*)
- [Factors affecting operator exposure to whole-body vibration](#) (*Centre of Research Expertise for the Prevention of Musculoskeletal Disorders*)
- [Explosion protection for dust collection systems handling metal dust](#) (*Powder and Bulk Engineering*)
- [Welding safety best practices](#) (*OHS Online*)
- [Process safety management for storage facilities](#) (*Occupational Safety and Health Administration*)

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Mission: Enhancing WSH through knowledge, innovations and solutions.

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