

International Social Security Association
Section on prevention in construction industry

www.issa.int/web/prevention-construction

NEWSLETTER # 2



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MORAL REPORT OF THE SECTION ON PREVENTION IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY - PERIOD 09/2011 – 07/2014

I – HIGHLIGHTS FROM SEPTEMBER 2011 TO JULY 2014

A – THE 30th INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM OF THE ISSA CONSTRUCTION SECTION – BOSTON 15 TO 18 OCTOBER 2012

The success of this Symposium is largely due to the involvement of Board members of the Construction Section, as well as to the ongoing commitment of the CPWR leaders and our Vice President Mr. Knut RINGEN.

All the work of the Construction Section led to the drafting and adoption of the Declaration of Boston, whose main provision is the creation of a new basis of excellence for sustainable work and sustainable development established on the model of the organization responsible for OSH on the construction site for the Olympics games. This reference is now known as "Going beyond Gold in the Construction Industry."

All signatories and stakeholders involved in construction activities are required to strive to *Going beyond Gold* for each construction project.

B – THE PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTATION

Firstly, it should be stressed the financial participation of the Construction Section in the creation of a Website, safety-work.org, initiated by the Section on Machine and System Safety, the participation in terms of good practices in the Website created by KOSHA, and finally the developing of its own space shared and intended to good practices in order to prevent falls from height in the construction sector.

Secondly, besides greeting cards, we can remember the work on the development of a new edition of the brochure with pictures without text, composed of illustrations in the front of the lack of concern facing the risk and the right way to proceed or to behave.

II – PARTICIPATION IN THE WORK OF THE SPECIAL COMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF THE ISSA

At first remark, it should be noted that Mr. Gérard ROPERT, Chairperson of the Construction Section, was re-elected as Vice-Chairman of the Special Commission on Prevention on May 19, 2014.

The Chairperson and the Secretary General of the Construction Section were able to attend all meetings of the Special Commission as well as a certain number of complementary working meetings, whether on the theme of prevention in SMEs or falls from height. This involvement in the work of the Special Commission is a major asset to our Section.

The headquarters of the Construction Section in Paris had therefore been the place for welcoming delegations from KOREA, GERMANY, ALGERIA, GUINEA, EL SALVADOR, TUNISIA and SENEGAL.

PARTICIPATION OF THE CONSTRUCTION SECTION TO THE WORLD CONGRESS IN FRANKFURT

Innovative and sustainable: the 2014 World Congress

To make a difference: that was the goal that the organizers of the XX World Congress for Safety and Health at Work 2014 had set themselves. And they achieved it.

Contribution of the Construction Section to the 2014 World Congress:

Prevention in the construction industry: sustainable work and development

Session 1 :

- Introduction

[Gérard ROPERT](#), CRAMIF, General Manager, France, Chairperson of the ISSA Construction Section

Session 2 :

- Sustainable Prevention through Design and Safety and Health Management
 - Chair : [Carl HEYRMAN](#), navb-cnac Constructiv, General Manager, Belgium, Vice-president of the ISSA Construction Section
 - Speakers:
 - [Erich J. STAFFORD](#), CPWR, USA: Safety and Health in the US Construction Industry
 - [Firat Sukru EKER](#), IVME Consulting, Turkey: A proposal for Sub-Contractor's Safety and Health Performance Evaluation System in the Construction Industry.

Session 3 :

- Development strategy for healthier workplaces
 - Chair : [Jan WARNING](#), ARBOUW, General Manager, Netherlands, Vice-president of the ISSA Construction Section
 - Speakers:
 - [Guy BOYD](#), BST Solutions, United Kingdom: Ensuring Safe and Successful Contractor Collaboration : The Pre-operational/Construction Phase
 - [Annette NIENHAUS](#), ERM, Germany : Introducing Behavior—Based Safety Programs on Construction and Demolition Sites – Success factors and lessons learned

Session 4 :

- Findings and Conclusions
Gérard ROPERT, Chair
- Panel : Observations and Recommendations for Actions
 - [Karl-Heinz NOETEL](#)
 - [Knut RINGEN](#)
 - Bruno BISSON
 - Jan WARNING
 - Carl HEYRMAN
- Conclusion of the Symposium, [Gérard ROPERT](#)

ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF THE PREVENTION IN THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR: TWO STUDIES BY INRS AND OPPBTP (FRANCE)

➤ **INRS (National Institute for Safety Research) study:** **Construction Sites Prevention of logistical risks and economic impact**

This brochure published by INRS (National Institute for Safety Research) shows that logistics on housing construction sites allows saving on labour costs. In other words, the introduction of mechanical handling equipment ensures a positive economic performance throughout a construction site. The process of benchmarking of costs associated with handling is pre-usable to select the best logistic organization.

Health insurance - Occupational Risks – this insurance supports services related to the consequences of work accidents and occupational diseases which represent more than 1 billion Euros annual spent for public works companies. Indirect costs (consequences on production) amount at least to four times the direct costs or 4 billion Euros for the Construction and Public Works Sectors.

Loss ratio in the Construction Industry is particularly important with 8.6% of employees and 18% of accidents at work with sick leave, and the majority of work accidents depend directly on logistical problems (40% of accidents at work are due to manual handling).

The management of risks related to manual handling is therefore a major challenge for the construction sector: the prepared development of the logistic of the construction site is therefore a necessity. The evaluation method of handling consists in establishing a list of materials and equipment needed for construction and to sort them according to their bulky, to identify the mode of handling for each package type and to estimate the duration of manual handling by employees.

The evaluation of the economic impact is then carried out by calculating the overall cost of handling (the amount of investment, the cost of labour for handling). From an example of construction site for the proceedings of finishing work, the setting up of a number of exterior materials compared to manual handling can divide by 3 the cost of procurement handling.

The example with figures for a housing construction site of 60 apartments shows a gain of nearly 6.7% of the amount of work costs, 3.4% of total cost of the project can be expected.

This brochure shows that the logistic on site is required to improve the working conditions of companions on site but also to improve the economic balance of the operation. Logistic is therefore a worthwhile financially investment and helps to preserve health and improve safety.

The construction section was involved in this study, because of the participation to the workgroup of its Deputy Secretary General, Mr. Bruno BISSON.

➤ **OPPBTP (Professional Organization of Prevention for Construction and civil engineering works) study:**

The DIMECO Approach

The DIMECO Approach: a field-based study to demonstrate in an accounting way that prevention can be a major contributor to the performance of companies in the construction sector

Goals

“Prevention is too expensive!”; “we cannot afford it!”; “the cost of an accident is important, but not certain, whereas the cost of prevention is immediate!”... That’s what we hear in many companies, not only from bosses and managers but also from workers themselves! How is it then possible to promote prevention in a critical economic environment?

Based on our field experience, we had built a strong belief that prevention, on the reverse, has a key positive contribution to the business performance. The issue was therefore to demonstrate that point, in a way that makes sense to business decision makers and workers alike, that need to comply with tough profitability objectives.

In order to establish the link between prevention and economic performance, we launched a major business cases study to put together sufficient practical evidence and offer a sound demonstration. This business case study based on accounting and micro-economic techniques is very innovative in the prevention sector, is complimentary to the study undertaken by ISSA in 2011 and brings a new positive approach to prevention.

Methodology

We studied 101 cases of prevention actions of various natures (equipment, organization, training...) in 27 small to medium size companies. The adopted methodology enabled to identify all the operational impacts of the actions, short and long term, whether beneficial for prevention, for production, for quality... Then, we created a standard grid to translate these impacts in euros, and compute them.

The results were collected in terms of prevention first, on 4 axis: physical risks, health, hardness, personal development. The economic results were analyzed according to usual accounting standards, and enabled to determine the net economic gain of the action, its profitability factor and the payback period.

Results

The results are very clear:

- individual prevention actions can be measured from a financial point of view
- they are overall profitable with 95 positive cases out of 101, with an average return rate of 2.19
- They are accessible to companies of all sizes, with an average investment below 5000 euros.

Conclusion

Traditionally, prevention is viewed as a way to avoid costs: the human cost of accidents and professional diseases, the material cost associated with an accident, the insurance cost.

In a practical and easy-to-understand way, this study enables to boost the message that **prevention first and foremost is a major contributor to the overall performance of companies, social performance of course but also economic and financial performance.**

The results of this first study were presented at the 20th World Congress on Safety and Health at Work, in Frankfurt August 2014, and over 60 times at various conferences on safety and health in France and in Europe, drawing a strong interest. Additional information can be found in French on the Internet site of OPPBTP, www.preventionbtp.fr.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Organization of a national conference in Dhaka - November 2015

On April 24, 2013, in SAVAR, over 1,000 workwomen for clothing confection were crushed to death in the collapse of buildings where the factories of Rana Plaza were installed.

After this disaster, several of ISSA Construction Board members met Prof. Quazi QUAMRUZZAMAN, Dhaka Community Hospital Doctor, for organizing a Conference in Bangladesh in order to gather people for more brainstorming and dialogue for construction Occupational Safety and Health, with promotion for training, distribution of the brochure “Pictures for prevention”...

This Conference will be held in the end of November 2015, in collaboration with the Mining Section and the Special Commission on Prevention, in order to have a real focus on best practices for prevention.

Participation to ICOH Congress 2015: Symposium of the ISSA Construction Section in Seoul

31st International Symposium on Safety and Health in the Construction Industry

SEOUL (KOREA) - 4 of JUNE 2015

Parallel event of ICOH 2015

Please register WWW.ICOH2015.ORG



Advancing Construction Safety and Health: Building on and Adapting the ISSA-C Experience

Global and multidisciplinary approach of prevention of risks to detect needs and expectations in occupational safety and health,

Themes:

- Sustainable work and sustainable development
- Recommendations from the ISSA Construction Section (ISSA-C)
- Dedicated COSH organizations make for best practices
- Design safety devices and measures,
- Approach to Occupational Safety and Health in Construction
- Company Visions on Implementing Prevention Culture Onsite