Highlights of the 32nd Annual WSO Environmental and Occupational Safety and Health Professional Development Symposium

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and Dr. Michael L. Thomas (Maryland USA)

This issue of the WSO Newsletter is dedicated in loving memory to Mr. Edward E. Hogue, WSO Immediate-Past President-Director General.
Welcome to the October/November World Safety Organization Newsletter.

This edition of the Newsletter is dedicated to the annual WSO Symposium, which was held this year in Las Vegas on October 7–9. Some of you were in attendance and can report on the informative presentations and professional interchange that made up this year’s event. I think the following photos and highlights really tell the story.

As you may know, the Symposium for the next couple of years will be held in Las Vegas as it is a good central location that offers not only our Symposium attractions but other enjoyable entertainment as well. Mark your calendars now for 5–7 October 2020, and plan to join us for an exciting and professional Symposium experience.

We also hope you are thinking about making an informative presentation during next year’s event. We will begin accepting abstracts/outlines for consideration shortly after the new year. Information will be distributed in the coming weeks, so keep an eye on your inbox for those WSO eAnnouncements.*

I am also reminded that the holidays are nearing, and this is a good time to think about safety. As you know, the holiday season can be one of the most unsafe times of the year. Sometimes in the fun and spirit of the season we forget the important elements of safety. Please keep this top of mind, and plan on a safe holiday season! [CHB]

*) To guarantee delivery, please be sure to add our WSO Communications email address to your address book and safe senders list: wso_communications@worldsafety.org

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October/November 2019
On behalf of the WSO Board of Directors and the WSO Executive Action Committee, it is my privilege and pleasure to thank all the participants, presenters, special guests, awardees, and generous sponsors, as well as the organizing committee of the very successful 32nd Annual WSO International Environmental and Occupational Safety and Health Symposium. The fact that almost all the distinguished presenters and attendees traveled long distances to actively participate serves as inspirations to look forward to our yearly WSO family get-together.

The symposium also marks the 44th year of WSO in the international scene, and we are very proud to be able to successfully host it again in Las Vegas, Nevada, with all of you. You have all chosen to be a part of our organization because of our mutual passion for the safety and accident prevention and the protection of our environment. Your passions help us all to come together as one, and the energy we create as one allows us to achieve our individual as well as organization’s goals.

The symposium proved to be memorable and fulfilling as always. Meeting safety and environmental professionals from all continents, seeing old friends and meeting lots of new people and making new friends along the way. Here at WSO we value actively participate serves as inspirations to look forward to our yearly family get-together.

This year’s theme was “Professionalism and Excellence for the Future.” To be a professional requires commitment. Commitment requires courage, moral courage, or fortitude if you will. Without fortitude, integrity will fail, and when integrity fails, professionalism is gone. As safety professionals, practitioners and advocates, we need to strive for excellence – not perfection, but excellence.

Excellence differentiates extraordinary people from ordinary people. Those who strive for excellence will have longevity in their endeavors. It is both the yardstick and the benchmark. When you benchmark to other achievers, you tend to improve and grow. As WSO members and as safety professionals, we want to excel in our chosen field of endeavor in the field of environment, health and safety.

As your new President-Director General, I am the next link in a chain of dedicated safety professionals who have served as President-Director General of WSO, a chain that reaches back to 1975 from Dr. Emiliano Camarillo, Dr. Glenn Hudson, Dr. Peter Leggat, Mr. David Day, Dr. Vlado Senkovich, and to our beloved Mr. Edward E. Hogue. While I hold this torch, I pledge to continue the important and valued work of those distinguished safety professionals that came before me. I will represent the WSO with the best of my ability, I will foster and encourage growth on the WSO memberships, WSO Professional Certifications, support to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations, national and international activities of our extraordinary organization of dedicated safety, health and environmental professionals, practitioners and advocates, and I will personally be of service to as many members as I am able.

Thank you again for the faith you have placed in me, and for the privilege to serve as your President-Director General in the 45th year of the World Safety Organization. I welcome your thoughts, your suggestions and your opinions. Together with our new Vice President-Deputy Director General Mr. Perry Ballard and the WSO Board of Directors, I will do my best for you, for our vision, and for the legacy and future of the World Safety Organization.

Thank you all, and let us continue to “Make Safety a Way of Life...Worldwide.”

Sincere Thanks to our Very Generous 2019 Symposium Sponsors:

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Highlights of the 32nd WSO Symposium

Ricardo and Cecile Salanda, Jeric Del Rosario

Monday Morning Meet-and-Greet Social

Meliton Sarmiento, Miguel Morante

K.G. Premaratne, Joseph Kimeu

Edward Hogue (WSO Immediate Past President-Director General), Bo Mitchell (Keynote Speaker), and Alfredo De La Rosa (WSO President-Director-General)

Kristiana and Norris Varkalhoff

Attendees participate during Keynote Presentation

Alfredo De La Rosa, Ugochi Obidiegwu

Bo Mitchell, Cethrobelle Briñas

End of Keynote Presentation
Highlights of the WSO Global Safety Roundtable

Engr. Alfredo De La Rosa, Jr.
David North
Kevin Brown

David Roberson
Joseph Kimeu
Ugochi Obidiegwu

Participants in Global Safety Roundtable
Monica Cervantes
Participants in Global Safety Roundtable

Dr. David Gilkey
Douglas Perryman
K.G. Premaratne, Edward Hogue

Participants in Global Safety Roundtable
Michael Brown
Participants in Global Safety Roundtable
Recipients of the 2019 WSO Awards

WSO Glenn E. Hudson Award
Dr. Janis K. Jansz

WSO Safety Person of the Year
Michael Brown

WSO James K. Williams Award
WSO National Office for Nigeria

WSO International Office of the Year
WSO International Office for Philippines

WSO Award for Scientific Research & Development
Prof. Dr. Elias M. Choueiri

WSO Concerned Organization
Indonesia Mining Safety Professionals Association (APKPI)

WSO Concerned Company/Corporation
The Capital Metro Transportation Authority

WSO Concerned Company/Corporation
Cobalt Safety Consulting, Inc.

WSO Concerned Company/Corporation
PT Waskita Karya (Persero) Tbk

WSO Concerned Company/Corporation
Zachry Construction Corporation

WSO Concerned Professional
Willy Macias

WSO Concerned Citizen
Christian Mark Dimayuga
Recipients of the 2019 WSO Awards

Profiles of all recipients of the 2019 WSO Awards may be found on the WSO website under the WSO Library Menu Heading.
Highlights of the 32nd WSO Symposium

Pictured above: Attendees in Karen Townsend’s breakout session learned several stretches and techniques to de-stress and maintain flexibility while on the job. Pictured below: Attendees in Stephanie Gerken’s breakout session received information about the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act pertaining to assistance animals in the workplace as well as demonstrations by a therapy dog and a service dog.
Highlights of the 32nd WSO Symposium

Pinky and Scott Peters, Eros Zuñiga, Cethrobelle Briñas, James and Ruby Porter

Seated, left to right: Dr. Janis Jansz, Gail Brandys
Standing, left to right: Jean-Marie De La Rosa, Eros Zuñiga, Cethrobelle Briñas, Dr. Bob Brandys

Emmanuel Sarmiento, Michael Brown

Eros Zuñiga, Dr. Paul Jansz, Ricardo Salanda

Willy Macias, Manuel Machado

Joseph Kimeu, Perry Ballard
Highlights of the 32nd WSO Symposium

Dr. Paul Jansz serenaded during our break times.

Scott Peters, Alfredo De La Rosa, Christian Mark Dimayuga, Jean-Marie De La Rosa

William Thompson, Alfredo De La Rosa, Margarita Thompson

Ugochi Obidiegwu, Olusayo Oladotun Olanipekun

KG Premaratne, Rafiu Zakaria, Kevin Brown, Michael Brown

Joseph Kimeu, KG Premaratne, Ed Hogue, Olukayode Mobolaji Omiwole

Alfredo De La Rosa and Martin Logan with Representatives of Indonesia Mining Safety Professionals Association (APKPI)

Scott Peters, Eros Zuñiga, Cethrobelle Brinas, James Porter, Alfredo De La Rosa, Emmanuel Sarmiento, Michael Brown

David Roberson, Leigh Tomich, Kyndra Titmas

Meliton Sarmiento, Emmanuel Sarmiento, Cethrobelle Brinas, Miguel Morante
IN LOVING MEMORY
Edward E. Hogue | 1948–2019

Doing what he loved...moderating and facilitating the Global Safety Roundtable.
As part of the WSO Symposium, an excursion was organised by Gail and Dr. Robert Brandys on Thursday, October 10, for international symposium participants to learn about American desert plants. On arrival participants were welcomed to the University of Nevada and given information about the Master Gardener program and gardening volunteer work that is conducted through the University’s Cooperative Extension (UNCE). This was followed by listening to Gail present information in a class room using power point slides. We were then taken on a tour through the 40-acre Research and Display Gardens adjacent to UNCE’s office and training facility. There was a wide variety of types of gardens and plants that varied from growing cottage garden herbs, fruit trees, and plants that could be grown in the home garden in Nevada, Arizona, and other places, to a wide variety of native desert plants. Some plants were grown for scientific study or for horticultural research purposes to determine the best plants to grow in the area and conditions required for growth, while other plants were grown for educational purposes such as the school children’s garden that was being used to help children to learn gardening skills, to develop their enthusiasm for working in a garden and to assist children, and interested members of the public, to learn about many types of plants, including the plants that were indigenous to the area. What was enjoyed most was seeing such a wide variety of plants, many with beautiful flowers or fruit, that were so different to plants grown in other parts of the world, and learning from Gail and Dr. Bob who are gardening experts with a wealth of knowledge about what is growing in the research and display gardens.