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OH&S INTENATIONAL PASSPORT TO PRACTICE ONE STEP CLOSER:

International and European networks come together

In September 2007, representatives from the International Network of Safety and Health Practitioner Organisations (INSHPO) and the European Network of Safety and Health Professional Organisations (ENSHPO) met at the A+A conference in Düsseldorf, Germany. This included the full Board of Directors of INSHPO including the New Zealand representative Neville Rockhouse and several of the executive council members of ENSHPO. Further to this meeting, both organisations agreed to work together to exchange ideas and viewpoints, and identify potential areas for future bilateral co-operation.

This alliance became the catalyst for two events in the recent history of both networks. In July 2008, an ENSHPO member organisation, Associazione professionale Italiana Ambiente e Sicurezza (AIAS), joined INSHPO as a full member resulting in Chair of the ENSHPO network, Giancarlo Bianchi, joining the INSHPO Board of Directors. Less than a year later, the two networks signed a Memorandum of Understanding, formally recognising their desire and willingness to work together, principally on an international 'transportability of safety credentials' initiative on which INSHPO has begun early investigative work.

It is hoped that this relationship will have a positive influence on developing a preventative culture and formulating common standards throughout Europe and internationally.

Further information on this strategy and/or a copy of the MoU can be found on the INSHPO website at www.inshpo.org. or by contacting the New Zealand representative, Neville Rockhouse at neviller@pike.co.nz or +64 3 769 8400.

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