



NARC CHAIR REPORT IOHA NAR Committee June 2024

**National Accreditation Recognition Committee
Chair - Dr Sharann Johnson AM, COH, FAIOH**



1. INTRODUCTION

Committee Mission Statement

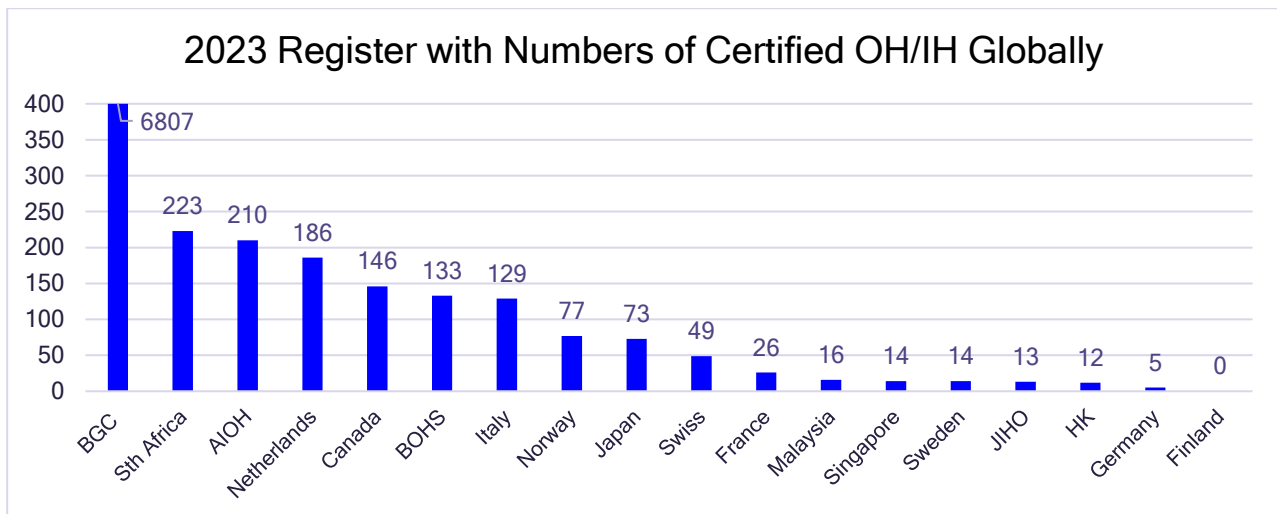
To promote global respect for and recognition of occupational hygiene credentialing programs conducted by national associations and organisations which meet or exceed the requirements in the National Accreditation Recognition Program.

Purpose and Activities

To promote the mission by:

- Receiving and reviewing applications from Occupational Hygiene Certification Boards seeking IOHA Recognition.
- Maintain the NARC procedures to ensure they reflect the current operating framework for the profession and where appropriate, recommend changes for approval by the IOHA Board. The key documents for review are the National Accreditation Recognition Program procedure and the NARC Matrix Assessment Tool.
- Establish communications with prospective national associations with an emphasis on promoting their certification programs for recognition by the NARC.
- Develop a consulting role and support networks which assist countries in their ability to achieve IOHA recognition.
- Maintain the NARC Register listing the national associations and organizations with recognized programs and numbers of certified occupational hygienists globally.

There are 8222 active certified occupied hygienists globally, excluding retired certified members. The BGC has the highest number of certified industrial hygienists (CIH) with 6807 members.



Committee Chair: Dr Sharann Johnson, AM, COH, FAIOH

Deputy Chair - Dr Stefan Ljunggren, CYMH

Past Chair - Kelly Fernandes, MSc, CIH

2. COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Committee has 18 credentialing organizations recognized by IOHA under the NAR Program. The Committee has been well supported by the IOHA Executive Secretary, Retha van Niekerk. The Committee met monthly during the year using virtual meetings. A face to face meeting has been scheduled for 13 June 2024 at the joint IOHA, BOHS, OHSI Conference in Dublin.

NARC member	Representative
Australian Institute of Occupational Hygienists (AIOH)	Dr Sharann Johnson
Board for Global EHS Credentialing (BGC)	Cynthia Ozobu
British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS)	Len Morris
Canadian Registration Board of Occupational Hygienists (CRBOH)	Matthew Brewer
French Occupational Hygienists Society (SOFHYT)	Adrien Laurent
Finnish Occupational Hygiene Society (STHS)	Milja Koponen
German Society for Occupational Hygiene (DGAH)	Dr Christoph Lutermann
Hong Kong Institute of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene (HKIOEH)	Dr Alex Tse
Italian Industrial Hygiene Association (ICFP)	Domenico Cavallo
Iberoamerican Board (JIHO)	Dr Thomas Fuller
Japan Association for Working Environment Measurement (JAWME)	Haruo Hashimoto
Malaysian Industrial Hygiene Association (MIHA)	Marina Zainal Farid
Dutch Occupational Hygiene Society (NVvA)	Andre Winkes
Norwegian Occupational Hygiene Association (NYF)	Camilla Adams
Singapore Occupational & Environmental Health Society (OEHS)	Veronica Chow
Southern African Institute for Occupational Hygiene (SAIOH)	Deon Janse van Vuuren
Swiss Society for Occupational Hygiene (SSOH)	Jean Parrat
Swedish Association of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene (SYMF)	Dr Stefan Ljunggren

3. NEW APPLICATIONS, RE-ASSESSMENTS AND MENTORSHIP

3.1 - New-assessments

In June 2023, the NARC approved the application for the Iberoamerican Board of Occupational Hygiene (JIHO) to join the NAR Committee.

JIHO has been created as a means to promote and expand occupational hygiene capacity in primarily Spanish-speaking nations. It is an international collaboration between representatives from the following national IOHA organizations: Spanish Association of Industrial Hygiene, Mexican Industrial Hygiene Association, Colombian Association of Occupational Hygiene (ACHO), Association of Hygienists of Argentina (AHRA), Occupational Hygiene Association of Guatemala (AGSSO) and Asociación Peruana de Higiene Ocupacional (APEHO). It also includes representatives from Bolivia and Costa Rica which do not have a national association.

3.2 - Re-assessments

Changes made by the Dutch government which previously registered occupational hygienists has resulted in Dutch Occupational Hygiene Society (NVvA) developing their own in-house assessment program. The NARC is supporting the NVvA Board through this process and has provided extensions until June 2024.

The following re-assessments will be completed during 2024:

- Southern African Institute of Occupational Hygiene (SAIOH) expiry 8 September 2024
- German Society for Occupational Hygiene (DGAH) expiry 30 September 2024
- Swiss Society of Occupational Hygiene (SSOH) expiry 30 September 2024
- Board for Global EHS Credentialling (BGC) expiry 30 October 2024

3.3 - Mentorship

The representative from JAWE, Haruo Hashimoto, has been mentoring the Indonesian Industrial Hygiene Association (IIHA) to develop their credentialling program. At the time of this Report the examinations had not taken place. The examination process is a key component of the Matrix Assessment process. Therefore, national associations are encouraged to start offering examinations, even at a pilot level examinations prior to the NAR assessment. The Committee is grateful to Haruo Hashimoto for his mentorship to this organization.

Meetings have been held with the Industrial Hygiene and Toxicology Association, Turkey (ETOK) and the Mongolian National Association of Occupational Hygienists to discuss the NAR processes, provide an overview of our criteria, and support where appropriate.

4. REVIEW OF PROCEDURES

Building on the successful work of Past Chair, Kelly Fernandes, of reviewing the NARC procedures the following procedures have now been reviewed and completed:

NAR-PR-008-001	National Accreditation Recognition Program
NAR-PR-009-001	NAR Recognition Program Pathway and Status Process
NAR-PR-010-001	NAR Application Process and Notification of Changes to Certification Program
NAR-PR-011-001	Reciprocity and Mutual Recognition Procedure
NAR-PR-012-001	Appeals Process Procedure
NAR-PR-013-001	NAR Chief Reviewer Position Procedure
NAR-WI-001-001	NAR Matrix Assessment Tool
NAR-WI-002-001	NARC Reassessment Tracking Tool
NAR-WI-003-001	NARC Reviewer Tracking
NAR-FR-001-001	Nomination Form for Deputy Chairperson - NARC
NAR-FR-004-001	NARC Register

4.1 - NAR Program Procedure

The NAR Charter was updated and renamed to NAR Program Procedure. It now includes references to the new NAR Committee structure and the updated Matrix assessment tool. The procedure also incorporates the comprehensive description of occupational / industrial hygiene knowledge and competency requirements.

4.2 - NAR Chief Reviewer Position

The NAR Chief Reviewer Position procedure was completed and it is anticipated that the position will be advertised in 2024.

4.3 - NARC Matrix Assessment Tool

The NARC Matrix Assessment Tool was reviewed and significant changes made to better reflect the current activities of the national associations as well as improved the detailed requirements not present in the previous version.

- Criteria 1 - Changed from “Definition & Goals” “to “Certification Board Operation” with a greater focus on the Certification Board responsibilities and management of the examination process.
- Criteria 3 - Education and Experience, expanded to two pathways for candidates, including traditional university qualifications as well as candidates with diverse training and experience backgrounds .
- Criteria 4 - Examination Process now includes oral examinations to reflect current assessment practices of professional competence of candidate. Three options available are written examination, an oral exam or a combination of both. Also, the information requirements for setting examination questions was expanded.
- Updated Category 5 - Evaluation of the Examination Process - Expanded the requirements for the examination assessment process. Removed ISO requirements.
- Deleted Criteria 7 - “Interface with related discipline professional certification”

4.4 - NAR Recognition Program Pathway and Status Process

This is a new procedure which defines the various stages a new national associations can pass through to achieve full recognition of their certification program.

Finally, I wish to thank the NARC members for their support and commitment to the certification processes. In particular, Past Chair, Kelly Fernandes, Deputy Chair, Dr Stefan Ljunggren and IOHA Executive Secretary Retha van Niekerk for their wise counsel.

Sharann H. Johnson

Chair

Dr Sharann Johnson, AM, COH, FAIOH.