



NARC CHAIR REPORT IOHA BOARD MEETING, October, 2024

National Accreditation Recognition Committee

Date report: 10 October 2024

1. INTRODUCTION

The NARC has worked well in 2024 and accomplished a significant number of achievements which will be discussed in this Report.

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:

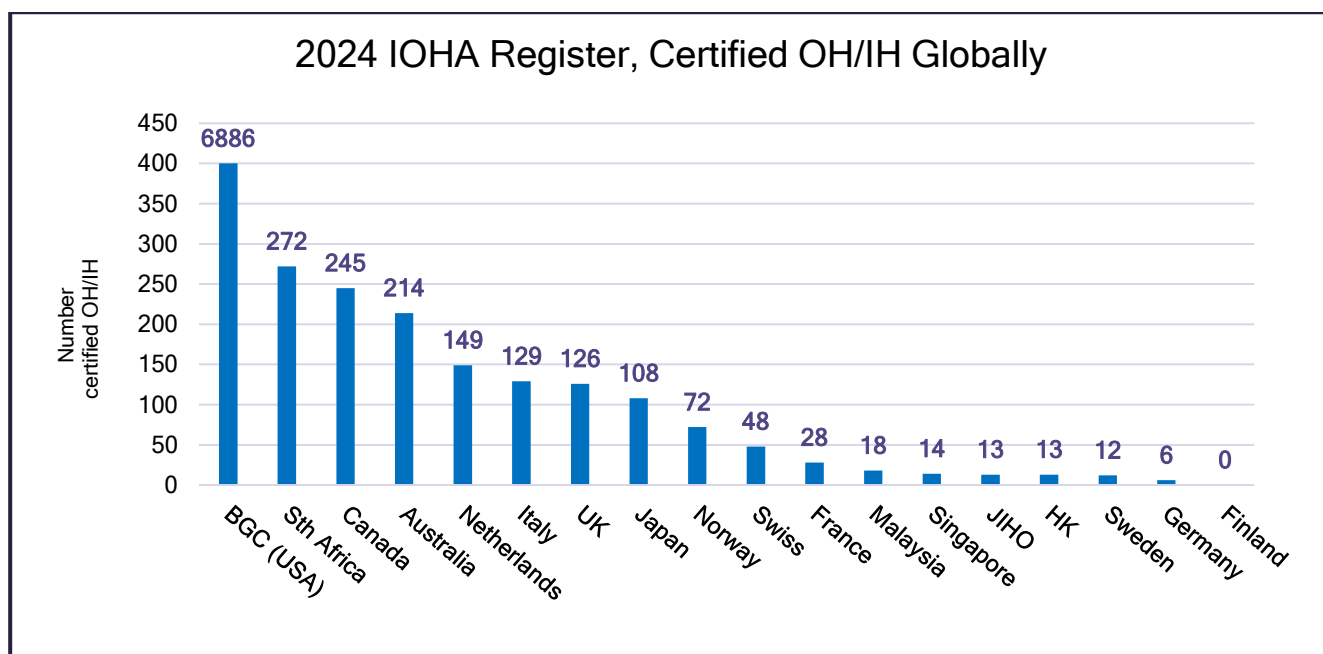
- Receiving and reviewing applications from Occupational Hygiene Certification Boards seeking IOHA Recognition.
- Maintain the NARC procedures to ensure they reflect the current operating framework for the profession and where appropriate, recommend changes for approval by the IOHA Board. The key documents 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 NAR.
- Develop a consulting role and support network which assists countries in their ability to achieve IOHA recognized.
- Maintain the NARC Register listing the national associations and organizations with recognized programs and numbers of certified occupational hygienists globally.

2. CERTIFIED OH/IH MEMBERS

The NARC has established a Register where all NARC members report in June the numbers of active and retired certified occupational hygienists.

In June 2024, there are 8353 active certified occupational hygienists globally, excluding retired certified members. The number continues to grow with the US BGC having the highest number of CIHs with 6886 members.

It is interesting to note that the next three national associations with >200 COH/CIH are from countries with a large regulated mining, oil and gas sector.



3. COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- **Committee Chair:** Dr Sharann Johnson, AM, COH, FAIOH
- **Deputy Chair** – Dr Stefan Ljunggren, CYMH
- **Past Chair** - Kelly Fernandes, MSc, CIH

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 was held on 11 June 2024 at the IOHA Conference.

| 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) | Dr 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 |

4. NEW NAR COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

The new NARC structure comprising of Chair, Deputy Chair and Immediate Past Chair has worked well in 2024. The Chairperson is in the role for 1 year. The new structure has ensured that there is support for the Chair such as coverage if the Chair is not available for the meeting, the Deputy or Past Chair have also participated with the Chair in zoom meetings with new potential national associations. The Deputy Chair now supports the Chair and the Committee by preparing the Minutes.

5. NEW APPLICATIONS, RE-ACCREDITATIONS AND MENTORSHIP

Re-Accreditations

Each accredited national association is re-accredited on a 5-yearly cycle. The following re-assessments were successfully completed in 2024. The year of their first accreditation has been included:

- Southern African Institute of Occupational Hygiene (SAIOH), 2006
- German Society for Occupational Hygiene (DGAH), 2014
- Swiss Society of Occupational Hygiene (SSOH), 2009
- Board for Global EHS Credentialling (BGC), 2003

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 procedure. The NARC is supporting the NVvA Board through this process have provided extensions until 31 December 2024

New Assessments and New Candidates

There were no new assessments in 2024. However, there are five national associations in the pipeline preparing their documentation for NAR accreditation assessment. Zoom meetings as well as email communications have continued with representatives from:

- Brazilian Association of Occupational Hygienist (ABHO)
- Argentina Society of Occupational Hygiene (SAHIO)
- Indonesian Industrial Hygiene Association (IIHS)
- Mongolian National Association of Industrial Hygiene (MNAOH) and
- Turkiye Industrial Toxicology and Occupational Hygiene Association, (ETOK IHDER)

Mentorship

Mr. Haruo Hashimoto, (JAWE) has been mentoring the Indonesian Industrial Hygiene Association (IIHA) to develop their credentialling program. IIHA have been organizing their Board and certification procedures with their first exams planned for in 1Q25. The Committee is most grateful to Haruo Hashimoto for his mentorship to this organization.

6. NAR CHIEF REVIEWER

In 2023, the IOHA ExCo agreed to establish the new position of NAR Chief Reviewer reporting to the NARC Chair. The Chief Reviewer will be responsible for conducting thorough and unbiased reviews for the NARC with new and re-assessment applications. The position was advertised and the successful applicant was Dr Sharann Johnson AM, the Current NARC Chair.

7. REVIEW OF PROCEDURES

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

| | |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| NAR-PR-008-001 | National 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 |

The NARC Matrix Assessment Tool was reviewed and significant changes were made to improve the criteria and also reflect changes which were happening in the national associations.

- Criteria 1 – Certification Board, with a greater focus and assessment of responsibilities and management of the examinations.
- Criteria 2 – Code of Ethics with the focus on implementation and training awareness.
- Criteria 3 – Education and Training , changes were made to reflect the changing nature of education and experience of occupational hygienists registering to sit for the certification examination. There are now 2 pathways which the national association can select from, depending on the education available in the country.
- Criteria 4 - Examination Process has also been updated to reflect current practices of professional competence of candidate is determined using a written examination or an oral exam or a combination of both.
- Criteria 5 – Evaluation of the Examination Results, this criteria focusses on more transparency and consistent evaluation.
- Criteria 6 – Certification of Maintenance Process, now provides more detail guidance.

8. IOHA WEBSITE

In 2024, improvements were made to the NARC section of the IOHA website to increase transparency and information about the certification programs in the various member countries.

A new table was added with links to the national association website, <https://www.ioha.net/occupational-hygiene-certification/>.

| National Accreditation Scheme | | Title of the Certificant |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Australian Institute of Occupational Hygienists | AIOH | Certified Occupational Hygienist (COH) |
| Board for Global EHS Credentialing | BGC | Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH) |
| British Occupational Hygiene Society | BOHS | Diploma of Professional Competence in Occupational Hygiene (DipOH) |
| Canadian Registration Board of Occupational Hygienists | CRBOH | Registered Occupational Hygienist (ROH) |
| Dutch Occupational Hygiene Society | NVvA | Registered Certified Occupational Hygienist |
| Finnish Occupational Hygiene Society | FOHS | Certified Occupational Hygienist |
| French Occupational Hygienists Society | SOFHYT | Hygieniste du Travail Certifié (HTC) |
| German Occupational Hygiene Association | DGAH | Certified Occupational Hygienist (DGAH) |
| Hong Kong Institute of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene | HKIOEH | Registered Professional Hygienist (RPH) |
| Iberoamerican Board of Occupational Hygiene | JIHO | Certified Occupational Hygienist (HOC) |
| Italian Industrial Hygiene Association | ICFP | Certified Professional Industrial Hygienist, |
| Japan Association of Working Environment | JAWE | Certified Occupational Hygienists (COH) |
| Malaysian Industrial Hygiene Association | MIHA | Certified Professional Industrial Hygienist (CPIH) |
| Norwegian Occupational Hygiene Association | NYF | Certified Occupational Hygienist (SYH) |
| Occupational and Environmental Health Society (Singapore) | OEHS | Registered Industrial Hygienist (RIH)(SG) |
| Southern African Institute for Occupational Hygiene | SAIOH | Registered Occupational Hygienist (ROH) |
| Swedish Occupational and Environmental Certification Board | SAOEH | Certified Occupational and Environmental Hygienist (COEH) |
| | | (Swedish Certifierad Yrkes- och miljöhygieniker (CYMH)) |
| Swiss Society for Occupational Hygiene | SSOH | Occupational Hygienist Cert. SSOH |

CLOSING AND GRATITUDE

The NARC has worked well in 2024 and accomplished a significant number of achievements. These included the complete review of the NARC procedures and documentation. The new Matrix criteria has been successfully applied to the 4 re-assessments made this year. Re-accreditations assessments are being completed in a timely manner and the program is working well. There are 5 new associations in the pipeline preparing their documentation for accreditation in 2025. The new Chief Reviewer post has been filled and will be ready for the 2025 program of 4 re-accreditations plus new accreditations.

I am most grateful for the support and guidance from the Deputy Chair, Dr Stefan Ljunggren and Past Chair, Kelly Fernandes. It has been excellent working with them.

In addition, we would like to thank the IOHA Executive Secretary, Retha van Niekerk, for all her support to the NAR Committee. Retha has been invaluable with her knowledge and experience with IOHA and providing advice to meet our deliverables.

It has been a wonderful opportunity and experience for me to work with the NAR Committee and I thank the members for their support and advice throughout the year. Finally, I am most grateful to the IOHA Board and ExCo for their support and guidance during 2024.

Sharann Johnson

Dr Sharann Johnson AM, COH , FAIOH