

# Asian Regional Conference on Participatory Training in Occupational and Environmental Health



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**ABSTRACTS**

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## EXPERIENCES OF AN INTERNATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMME IN THE MEKONG DELTA IN VIETNAM 2000- 2003

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**Foreword:** The Mekong Delta training programme was established for the purpose of learning from participatory action oriented activities in the Mekong Delta, and attempting to apply this programme to Japan. Training courses were carried out three times starting from August 2000. The programme characterized by grass-roots and voluntary initiative offered an important opportunity to exchange experiences of doctors, students and OSH trainers in Asian countries.

**Background:** There are 3 different types of organizations involved in this project. ECHO (Center for Occupational Safety and Environment), which belongs to the Department of Health in Can Tho, has maintained huge participatory activities and has tried to promote participatory improvements. ISL (Institute for Science of Labor Japan) is a famous independent institute for OSH in Japan and has continued international relationship among Asian countries to develop participatory action methodologies. TOSHC (Tokyo Occupational Safety and Health) Center) is a non profit organization to support victims suffering from occupational accidents and diseases and has carried out participatory activities for workers in SME recently. Despite the difference of organization, we have similarities in the style of participatory activities. #1: More than ten years training experience in using ILO participatory action training manual. #2: Key person with responsibility who carry out activities. #3: Fruitful practical fields for participatory action.

**Outline:** We conducted 3 training courses (Aug 2000, March 2002, and Aug 2003) and 2 evaluation visits (Nov.2000 and Nov 2002) in Can Tho. Exchange visits to Japan every year. The total number of participants is 49 (including participants from Japan, Korea, Thailand, Vietnam Students: 19 Doctor: 17 OSH trainer: 9 Others: 4 ).

### Results:

#1: Established fundamental international 7 day's PAOT (Participatory Action Oriented Training) course including TOT. Participants have to conduct 2 day's WIND (WISE) training course, so that they can learn real working and living conditions of local people, and also can learn how to be a good facilitator.

#2: Participants have promoted PAOT to various areas and sectors after participating in the training courses. TOSHC have developed training courses for care workers and construction workers. OSH trainers and labour union members carried out one day

training for union members. WISE and international PAOT symposium in Korea were conducted in September 2002 under the collaboration with Japanese and Korean researchers

#3: Expanded international exchange of PAOT. 3 organizations are collaborating with environmental research in the Mekong Delta and are continuing mutual learning through an evaluation visit and exchange visit to Japan. Also we are keeping an opportunity to exchange international experience especially between Japan, Korea, Thailand and Vietnam through PAOT in the Mekong Delta.

#4: Encouraging young people and students interested in PAOT. Japanese students presented their experiences in Mekong Delta on many conferences, and wrote their theses on PAOT. Some medical students turned their minds to OSH.

Expectation for the future programme: Mekong Delta international training programme should be based on grass-roots voluntary initiative. Further connection with students and development of advertising on WEB site are needed. Also we have to pay attention to organizing a networking after participation. Besides, we have to continue exchange among Asian PAOT facilitators and make a plan how to find a suitable fund.