

# Integrating ISO14001 and OHSAS 18001

Management systems make enterprises more objective oriented and more effective. To address environmental, safety, and health issues in enterprises, the ISO14001 (environmental management system) and Occupational Health and Safety Assessment Series (OHSAS 18001) standards were formulated. However, adopting a holistic approach to tackle environmental, safety, and health issues is prudent, integrating ISO14001 and OHSAS 18001. The APO organized a workshop on the Integration of EMS and OHSAS in Jakarta, Indonesia, 28 August–1 September, to examine that integration and related aspects in the Asia-Pacific region. The workshop was attended by 25 delegates from 16 member countries. Three experts were deputed from Japan, Singapore, and India, who along with two local experts facilitated discussions.

The workshop kicked off with a discussion of what integration is and why it is beneficial. Myriad advantages for an organization were identified in terms of function, management, logistics, and finances. A stepwise approach for the integration of ISO14001 and OHSAS standards was then focused upon including health and safety policy; identifying environmental aspects, hazards, risks, and review of legal requirements; outlining objectives and targets; documentation, operational control, and emergency preparedness; checking and corrective actions; and integrated management review. This approach is applicable for any enterprise that has already implemented one system and desires to add the other in integrated manner or that has implemented no system and desires to implement both together.

Information exchanges among participants revealed that the Industrial Development Bureau in the Republic of China provides funding to SMEs for implementation of EMS/OHSAS. A similar approach is followed in the Republic of Korea, India, Malaysia, and Pakistan. The Philippines has established a national award program focusing on the integration of safety, health, environmental, and community issues. In Thailand, despite problems like high certification fees, lack of incentives, and lack of awareness, about 1200 organizations have adopted EMS and about 170 OHSAS. Other member countries also expressed problems akin to those in Thailand. In Iran, a national health management system is adopted at school level. Bangladesh, Cambodia, Mongolia, and Lao PDR are in the process of evolving a comprehensive legal framework for resolving environmental, health, and safety issues, which will increase the adoption of the two systems.

A field visit was made to M/s Indo-cement, one of the largest cement manufacturing companies in Indonesia, which has an integrated management system in place. The participants were allowed to study the company's system documents to grasp the requirements for the integration of ISO14001 and OHSAS 18001.

An e-forum called JAKARTA EHS has been created on the APO Web site. Interested readers are invited to join this forum.