

## **AIHA-NCS Developing World Outreach Initiative**

### **By Richard Hirsh**

The first meeting of the AIHA-NCS Developing World Outreach (DWO) Initiative was held at the Cal-OSHA Offices, in the State Office Building in Oakland on March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2006. Several volunteers attended including Patty Beach, Garrett Brown, Randy Cook, Diana Harrington, Richard Hirsh, Jeff Hogue, Kelsey Ingmundson, Rachael Jones, Pearl Moy, Lesliam Quiros, Sara Sousa, Colleen Thornton, Natalia Varshavski, and David Zalk.

The meeting included a general discussion of the initiative, the types of assistance to be considered, the potential recipients, the vehicles for delivery, and the boundaries of this project. Richard emphasized that the group keep their efforts focused on manageable, realistic projects given the limited resources available. He also emphasized that the group would have to identify its own leader and that the final project(s) will be determined by the group.

Garrett Brown outlined the types of groups he recommended that the committee interface with: non-governmental organizations (e.g. unions, worker rights organizations), universities, and professional associations (e.g. IOHA, ACGIH-FOHS, AIHA International Affairs committee, WHO coordinating centers, NIOSH Global Collaboration Program). The group held an open discussion to brainstorm ideas, expectations, and expertise.

Natalia Varshavski was nominated and agreed to serve as the Interim Lead Coordinator for the DWO Initiative for at least the next 3 meetings. Rachael Jones agreed to serve as secretary. The group then split into 2 break-out sub-committee sessions. One group formed to create and implement a survey to inventory NCS member resources: people (e.g. skillsets, subject matter expertise, languages, travel capabilities, willingness), connections (e.g. international links, universities, associations, NGOs, etc.) and materials (e.g. texts, equipment). The other group formed to create a needs inventory by contacting international organizations to determine who, what, and where assistance is needed. Jeff Hogue agreed to draft a letter to be sent to these organizations and the group assigned 3-4 organizations for each volunteer to contact. Another group will be needed at a later date to determine transmission mode options – that is, to determine how resources should be deployed: shipments, travel to countries, monetary donations, etc. The group agreed to attempt to meet monthly, with the next meeting scheduled for early May. Please contact Natalia Varshavski if you are interested in participating.