

THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS CONTROL IN CHINA

LIN XIAO NING

Inspection Bureau of Occupational Safety and Health
The Ministry of Labour of China.

Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, Chinese government has attached great importance to protecting worker's safety and health in the production process and made safety production a basic national policy. It has improved worker's working conditions, obvious achievements have been made in occupational safety and health.

Chinese government pays more attention to preventing pneumoconioses and performs the policy of prevention as leading role. A lot of work have been done in inspection, scientific research, and publicity as well as education.

LEGISLATION OF LABOUR PROTECTION

In early 1956, China state Council published "The decision of prevention of dust hazards in factories and mines" and "The regulation of safety and health in factories." In recent years, the state has promulgated "Standard of sanitation design of industrial enterprise," "classification of hazard levers due to exposure to industrial dust," "Methods for airborne dust measurement in working place" and other national standards. In 1987, Ministry of labour, Ministry of Public Health, All-China Federation of Trade Unions revised "The scope of occupational diseases and the regulation of treating patients on occupational diseases." There are 99 kinds of occupational diseases in it, and 12 kinds are pneumoconioses which include quartz lung, asbestosis, carbon-dust lung, anthracosis and so on. The stipulation of regulations and standards above mentioned provide a basis for pneumoconioses prevention and cure.

NATIONAL INSPECTION

In China, the labour department at all levels represents state to inspect the situation of occupational safety and health in enterprises. The Ministry of Labour of the People's Republic of China is in charge of comprehensively managing and conducting nationwide inspection work about safety and health. Inspection organizations of safety and health have been set up in the labour department at all levels. In order to develop inspection tasks, 174 testing and examination stations of occupational safety and health have been established, more than 15,000 inspectors have been allocated.

In order to reduce the dust hazard and control the pneumoconioses, nation's inspectors are carrying out examination and approval to the engineering construction projects, and dust-proof equipment is required to be simultaneously designed, constructed, put into production with the major building in the construction, rebuilding, extension projects.

Meanwhile inspectors supervise and urge enterprises and factories to adopt activity prevention measures to improve working condition and reduce the dust density in workplaces, and to implement and perform the nation's regulations. At the 4th national conference on dust-proof and toxic-proof in 1985, the government clearly claimed to rapidly bring the dust hazard under control and improve labour conditions in policies and technical measures. They are as follows:

1. Resolving dust problem in some major trades which are coal mine, metal mine, building material trade, glass, ceramics, refractory, asbesting, casting, tunnel cutting engineering.
2. Control three most hazardous kinds of dust which are asbestos dust, quartz dust, carbon-dust.
3. Adopting advanced and comprehensive technical measures of dust-proof, such as wetting working, ventilating and airtighting.

The works above mentioned play an important part in reducing dust hazard and controlling pneumoconioses.

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, PUBLICITY AND EDUCATION

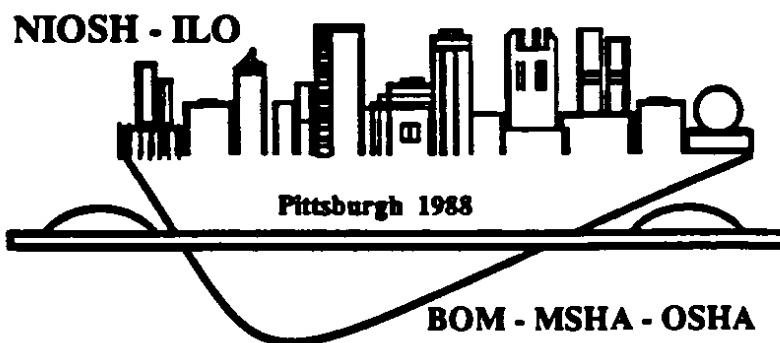
Ministry of labour has formulated "The scientific and technical plan of labour protection in 2000." It has attached great importance to the engineering and technique of reducing dust hazard and controlling pneumoconioses in it. There are 23 institutes of labour protection in the whole nation. Many of their tests are researching techniques of dust-proof and dust detectors, stipulating standards concerning dust-proof, giving advice and suggestions to enterprises.

Seventy-two labour protection education and training centres have been set up. Labour protection education offices have been established in more than 3000 large and medium enterprises. A national science and technologic information network of occupational safety and health has an initial scale. They play an important part in pneumoconioses control.

In the past ten years, the problems involved in occupational safety and health have become more complex, with the implementation of reform and open policy, growth of economy and various types of individual enterprises. It is therefore indispensable for the Chinese government, while continuously developing its economy, to learn the advanced experiences from other countries and take further action to secure a decrease in occupational accident and to prevent occupational diseases.

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