



NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH (Indian Council of Medical Research) AHMEDABAD



Annual Report
2007-08

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NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH
AHMEDABAD



REGIONAL OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH CENTRE
(EAST) KOLKATA



REGIONAL OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH CENTRE
(SOUTH) BANGALORE





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(Indian Council of Medical Research)
AHMEDABAD-380 016

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From the desk of Director



I am delighted to bring out the annual report of the institute for the year 2007-2008. The modest presentation of the progress report of activities at NIOH and its regional centers at Kolkata and Bangalore, highlights the length and breadth on several emerging areas of occupational and environmental health. The activities encompass a range of health and safety issues of the workforce in the organized and unorganized sectors, including environmental concerns.

The studies include health risk assessment of some public sensitive areas, hazards of exposure to noise, asbestos and asbestos containing materials and heavy metal fumes. The indicative health hazards in selected occupations, such as fish processing activities, work of the traffic policemen and other industrial sector reiterate the changing paradigm of work-relatedness to wider environmental health implications. Special emphasis has also been placed to address the reproductive health of working women. The institute's involvement in multicentric studies in difficult areas of north-east regions exploring the role of pesticides and tobacco in the cancer occurrence makes an effort to understand the multifactorial nature of the disease. Experimental studies on the effect of arsenic on brain and testicular tissues, geno- and feto-toxicity of panmasala open up newer dimensions of occupational and environmental exposure associated effects. Studies on heme metabolism in human lymphocytes, methaemoglobin, blood chromium and serum PCB levels have worked in the directions of developing biomarkers for early detection of exposure related health effects. Stabilometric studies in human posture analysis substantiate its high promise in understanding the postural behavior, balance and control, with ergonomics implications in workplace design.

Our specialty is in demand for a range of local, regional and national needs. The policy makers, judiciary and the citizen's group bestow trust on our expertise in delivering health and safety knowledge and services. Our endeavors and preparedness are in continued process of regeneration, and our scientists maintain efforts in achieving milestones to bring in better support system for health and safety of the workers. I express my deep gratitude to the Director General, and colleagues at the ICMR, and the distinguished members of the Scientific Advisory Committee and Ethics Committee for their guidance and continued support in shaping the programmes and activities of the institute.

PK Nag
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