

## Collaborative Eye Injury Prevention Program

Sherpur Safe Community, Bangladesh - Noarlunga Towards A Safe Community, South Australia

During September 2002 Sherpur Safe Community and the Noarlunga Towards A Safe Community Program worked together in developing and implementing an eye injury prevention program for metal workers in small businesses located in Sherpur, Bangladesh.

During February 2000 I was fortunate to present a workplace safety paper at the WHO 9th International Conference on Safe Communities held in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

During my visit I made contact with Dr. Harun Or Rashid, Coordinator for the Sherpur Safe Community Project (SSCP). During 2001, Dr Harun was sponsored by NHS to visit Australia and the workplace health and safety program at Noarlunga. During this visit the real need for an eye injury prevention project in Sherpur was identified and both organizations started to discuss the possibilities of developing a joint project to address this vital health issue.

Sherpur District is a mainly rural, village area located in the north-east of Bangladesh. There are hundreds of small metal fabrication, welding and woodwork shops. In Bangladesh when a worker receives an eye injury they often cannot afford basic medical treatment. A worker affected by occupational injury can quickly become unemployable and as a result his family suffers. As



*Local blacksmith wearing protective safety glasses*

very little eye protection is worn serious eye injuries are common.

During 2002 I was busy organising a small business donation campaign to collect new and used eye safety wear for use in the Sherpur eye injury prevention program. Over 500 new pairs of safety glasses and welding helmets were collected from the many local small businesses in Noarlunga.

Following an extensive injury audit of small businesses by SSCP and months of careful joint planning, I flew from South Australia to Dhaka on September 15th 2002. The next ten days were spent visiting small workplaces in the local area and inviting workers to a series of eye safety training sessions where eye safety glasses were given to participants. During these sessions enthusiastic workers were instructed in the correct use

of eye safety wear for welding, machining and grinding.

In total over 250 workers attended the 11 workshops held at the Sherpur Safe Community centre and over 500 pairs of new safety glasses were distributed to metal and wood trade workers. The intensive project visit also allowed for the vital training of Sherpur Safe Community health coordinators in workplace eye safety risk assessment.

Both Noarlunga and Sherpur Safe Communities are very keen to further develop links with the extremely successful and effective eye injury prevention pilot project being another important stage in cementing a collaborative, lasting liaison between our two communities and organisations.

Stephen Parker  
Community Safety Consultant  
Noarlunga Health Services

# Conferences

**2<sup>nd</sup> International Safe Community Conference  
on Cost Calculation and Cost-effectiveness  
in Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion  
Falun, Sweden 11-12 June 2003**

For further information:  
Falu Kommun, Agenda 21, SE-791 83 Falun, Sweden  
E-mail: [ann.jonell@dalarna.komforb.se](mailto:ann.jonell@dalarna.komforb.se)  
[www.falun.se/safe2003](http://www.falun.se/safe2003)

**1<sup>st</sup> Brazilian and Mercosul Congress of  
Promotional Strategies for the Prevention  
and Control of Accidents, Suicides and Violence  
23-26 June 2003 New Date!**

Porto Alegre - Rio Grande do Sul - Brazil  
For further information:  
E-mail: [ananyr@sms.prefpoa.com.br](mailto:ananyr@sms.prefpoa.com.br)  
E-mail: [armando@portoweb.com.br](mailto:armando@portoweb.com.br)  
[www.portoalegre.rs.gov.br](http://www.portoalegre.rs.gov.br)

**5<sup>th</sup> Nordic Safe Community Conference  
26-29 August 2003**

**Marina Congress Center  
Helsinki, Finland**

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[www.safe2003.net](http://www.safe2003.net)

**1<sup>st</sup> Indian Ocean and 3<sup>rd</sup> African Region Safe  
Communities Conference- OIA 2003  
(Safe Comm-OIA 2003)**

**Safe Communities: Exploring Options for  
Sustainable Development and Peace Promotion  
in Indian Ocean and Africa**

**8-10 October 2003, Mauritius, Indian Ocean**  
SECRETARY SAFECOMM - OIA 2003  
(CODEPA), 23, Royal Road, La Louise Quatre- Bornes  
Mauritius, Indian Ocean  
Tel/ Fax: +230- 4 27 54 09  
E-mail: [comupa@yahoo.com](mailto:comupa@yahoo.com)

**ECOSA 4<sup>th</sup> European Convention  
in Safety Promotion and Injury Control  
10-11 April 2003 Paris, France**

[www.ecosa.org/csi/ecosa.nsf/news](http://www.ecosa.org/csi/ecosa.nsf/news)

**XXII Congress of the International Association  
for Suicide Prevention (IASP)**

**10-14 September 2003, Stockholm, Sweden**  
[www.ki.se/suicid/iasp2003](http://www.ki.se/suicid/iasp2003)

**13<sup>th</sup> International Safe Communities Conference  
2-4 June 2004, Prague, Czech Republic**

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Staromestské nám 17  
CZ-110 00 Prague 17  
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Phone: +420 224 942 575  
Fax: +420 224 942 550

**7<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Injury Prevention  
and Control**

**6-9 June 2004, Vienna, Austria**

Inequalities of Injury Risk and Access to Safety –  
Children, Elders and Other Vulnerable Groups  
For further information:  
Institut Sicher Leben  
Izeltgasse 3 / Postfach 190  
A-1031 Vienna, Austria, Europe  
Tel: +43 1 715 66 44 0  
Fax: +43 1 715 6644 30  
[www.safety2004.info](http://www.safety2004.info)

**Pacific Rim Safe Communities Conference  
15-17 September 2004  
Mackay, Qld, Australia**

For further information:  
Conference Secretariat  
Fax: + 61 7 3847 21 48  
[www.nisu.flinders.edu.au/aipn/conference2004](http://www.nisu.flinders.edu.au/aipn/conference2004)

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