

[ABS36]

The ISRP Education Program for Developing Countries: Report on the Pilot Project and Plans for the Future

Simon J. Smith

3M Canada

A small team in ISRP has been developing a respiratory protection training programme for developing countries. This is to address current limited recognition of respiratory hazards and lack of understanding of the proper use of protective equipment – which can lead to respiratory disease with consequent personal health and wellbeing and societal impacts.

The programme uses a ‘Train the Trainer’ approach and materials with high visual content. ISRP provides initial training and educational materials so that trainees can then instruct more people in more locations. Segments on the “how” and “why” of respiratory protection are augmented by hands-on demonstration of equipment donning and fit testing. Trainees are supported after the initial session by ongoing contact with ISRP trainers.

A pilot training exercise was successfully delivered to healthcare workers in Cambodia in collaboration with the Ministry of Health in May 2010. There was positive feedback from all involved. Equipment for training was donated by ISRP member organisations, and the team is pursuing solutions for developing countries’ need to obtain approved equipment at an accessible cost.

The need for this training goes far beyond what the ISRP can deliver on its own, and we are starting plans to cover more countries and a wider range of industries. Already, the visual training materials have been adopted by a British safety organisation. Partnerships with agencies with already working in developing countries will be essential to expand the programme in the future.