

## ***Study Tour on Work Injury to Italy and Germany for MoLSS officials and Directors from 7 Provincial Social Security Bureaux***

The visit to Italy and Germany took place between 16<sup>th</sup> September 2007 and 29<sup>th</sup> September 2007. Although there were a number of logistic problems, especially in Italy, the study tour was successful in achieving its objectives of studying arrangements in the European Union, specifically in Germany and Italy in the field of work injury prevention, insurance and rehabilitation:

- The establishment of social security work injury prevention
- The staffing and its principles in the social security work injury administration
- The human resources policy and implementing strategy, the job classification, recruitment, salaries, mobility, promotion according to the situational analysis, within the social security administration work injury prevention and rehabilitation in European Countries.
- The job requirement and qualification of the high level management and policy makers in provinces for social security work injury prevention and rehabilitation
- Organisation, business process, client's requirement in both work injury prevention and rehabilitation with specific focus on standardisation and use of technology of the process.
- EU Commission directives and policy

Mr Lu Shihai, the Deputy Director-General of the Work Injury Department of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, as leader of the tour party, and the Ministry and provincial participants all took a very active part in discussions and questions arising out of the visits and throughout the week demonstrated an enthusiasm, notwithstanding the logistic problems.

Both the Italian and German authorities and the EU Commission representatives were exceedingly helpful and supportive of the tour.

In Rome the Italian Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance outlined Italian policy in the development of its current work injury arrangements as regards assessment and compensation for those suffering from work injuries and occupational diseases and its policy on health and safety at work, outlining its policy on preventative measures.

The party visited INAIL, which is the Italian institution administering the work injury scheme. They explained how the system operates and is administered and subsequently took the party to visit a local office covering the north-west of Rome and Civitavecchia and showed how claims are received and determined.

Outside Rome, the study tour party visited the Work Injury Rehabilitation Centre at Budrio, near Bologna, where the Director and professionals showed the action taken to provide prostheses to persons who had lost limbs, eyes, etc. and how those receiving such treatment were assisted in their rehabilitation.

Moving to Germany the tour was centred at Bonn. The first day took the form of a Seminar arranged by the EU Delegation at which EU officials outlined EU policies on work injury issues and then introduced representatives of the French and Belgian work injury institutions to explain work injury arrangements in their respective countries, whether, as in France administered by the state, or in Belgium, administered through compulsory private insurance.

The officials of the German Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs outlined German Government policy on safety at work. Unfortunately the planned meeting with officials responsible for work injury insurance had to be cancelled as they were called to see the Minister in Berlin.

The study tour party visited the headquarters of DGUV, the co-ordinating organisation of German work injury insurance administering institutions, who outlined their practice of work injury compensation and rehabilitation in Germany. The party then went to their neighbouring organisation, the BGIA research institution which undertakes research into occupational diseases and the effect of different substances on the onset of such diseases.

The tour party was taken to the headquarters of the Chemical industry's work injury insurance institution in Cologne to see how claims were dealt with and determined. Instead of returning to Bonn, as originally planned, the party was taken to a Rehabilitation Centre in Bad Münstereifel, where persons suffering from work injury may recuperate.

Finally the study tour party visited a work injury rehabilitation clinic on the outskirts of Frankfurt to observe the rehabilitation techniques applicable to persons suffering from work injury, including the helicopter for bringing those suffering from work injury to the centre for immediate treatment.

The participants were thus able to learn about the operation of work injury insurance schemes, not only of Italy and Germany, but also of France and Belgium. They were also shown rehabilitation techniques in respect of the production, fitting and use of prostheses in Italy and Germany and wider rehabilitation provisions and identification of occupational diseases in Germany.

It is clear that the party received valuable information about the operation of work injury insurance, which could be considered for application in a Chinese context.