

EDITOR'S COMMENT

The landmark 50th anniversary conference of the National Irish Safety Organisation (NISO) took place in tandem with the 22nd annual NISO/NISG Occupational Safety Awards presentation to over 100 organisations on the island of Ireland in October.

Now as 2013 is drawing to a close, it certainly has been an eventful year for the voluntary organisation. Its 50th anniversary year has enabled NISO to increase its profile and its range of programmes and activities around the country, across its eight regional centres.

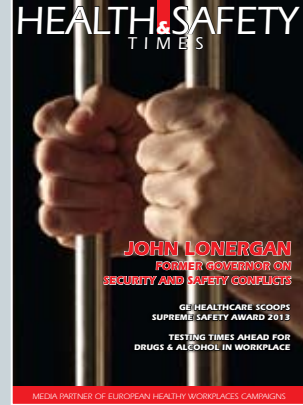
During the past five decades, this independent not-for-profit charity has witnessed major legislative not to mention behavioural changes in occupational health, safety and welfare, which has served to certainly improve conditions for Ireland's employees.

And it has played its own unique part in changing that landscape – albeit in a voluntary and observatory capacity – by helping its members to promote and improve health and safety at work, building relationships with other health and safety stakeholders, and contributing its expertise to better occupational health and safety in Ireland.

NISO collaborates with the HSA, ICTU and IBEC and each one has a seat on NISO's Executive Committee. Down through the years it has also developed a strong working relationship with counterpart Northern Ireland Safety Group – and has been successfully running the Occupational Safety Awards in association with the NISG for the past 22 years.

Congratulations NISO on the first 50 and here's to your first century!

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GE Healthcare has consistently maintained high standards of health and safety down through the years and was finally rewarded with its first NISO/NISG Supreme Award for 2013.



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Delivering the keynote address at this year's NISO Conference, John Loneragan, former Governor of Mountjoy Prison, outlined the conflict between security and health and safety during his career spanning 42 years in the prison service.



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The 22nd Annual NISO/NISG Safety Awards took place in tandem with the 50th anniversary celebrations of NISO at this year's conference in Galway on 4 October.



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Health and safety professionals need to re-align themselves as key advisors within their organisations, who can provide real-added value, advice and support that will enable the business to reach its objectives, writes health and safety consultant Mary Darlington.



41 FARM SAFETY

A new booklet promoting farmers' health, sponsored by the Health and Safety Authority, Teagasc, FBD Trust and the Health Service Executive, has been rolled out in response to worrying statistics which reveal an alarming level of fatalities in the Irish farming sector.



47 EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Ireland's young people are the biggest users of dangerous designer drugs in the EU, according to the findings of new study. The European Commission is now planning to tighten its rules on the growing problem of these psychoactive substances, which are used as an alternative to cocaine or ecstasy.



49 ALCOHOL/DRUG TESTING

Random drug testing is the most effective deterrent to ensure safety in the workplace. This was the stark message delivered to industry experts at an international symposium in Vienna on drug and alcohol testing in the workplace.

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54 ROAD SAFETY

A new road traffic control innovation, which principally aims to make crash sites safer for emergency services personnel, has been developed by a DIT graduate in consultation with members of Dublin Fire Brigade.



57 CRITICAL INCIDENT STRESS

A wide framework of actions will be undertaken by government departments, public sector organisations, businesses and communities to improve the health and wellbeing of the nation, Minister of State Kathleen Lynch, told delegates at a recent conference on the psychological perspectives of occupational health and safety.



58 WATER SAFETY

There have been calls for more education rather than regulation from water safety agencies as they highlight the need for a greater safety culture in Ireland for people using water facilities.



61 SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST

Sudden Cardiac Arrest claims the lives of over 5,000 people every year in Ireland. Declan O'Mahoney, CEO of HeartSine Technologies, says the introduction of legislation will ensure that lifesaving defibrillators are widely available across the country.



63 PERSONAL HEALTH

It is estimated that migraine costs Irish businesses €252 million every year as a result of lost productivity with the average migraineur missing between one to four days from work annually. However, migraine is the least publicly funded of all neurological illnesses relative to its economic impact.



65 BRAIN TRAINING

Revolutionary software is now available in Ireland to remediate and rehabilitate disorders such as traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder, representing a more holistic and alternative approach to the conventional forms of treatment.

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