



Prevention in a globalized world: Recent prevention strategies in Europe and Germany

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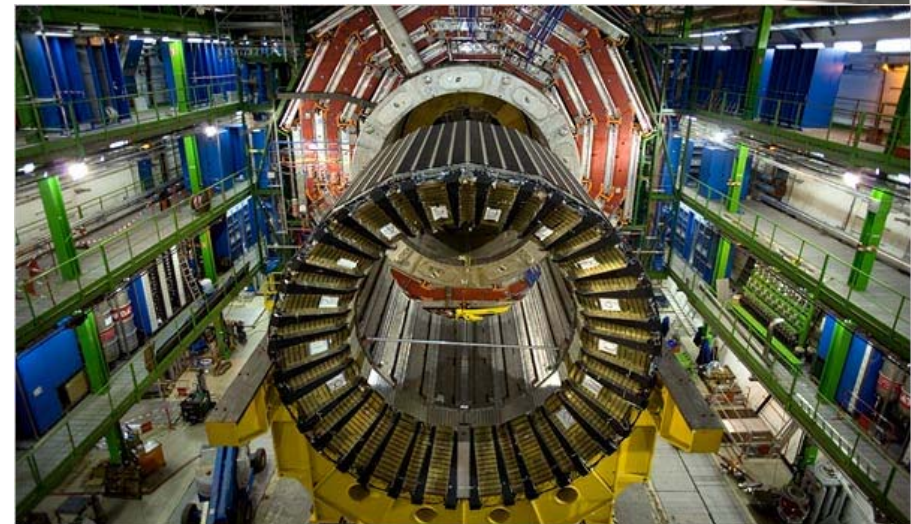
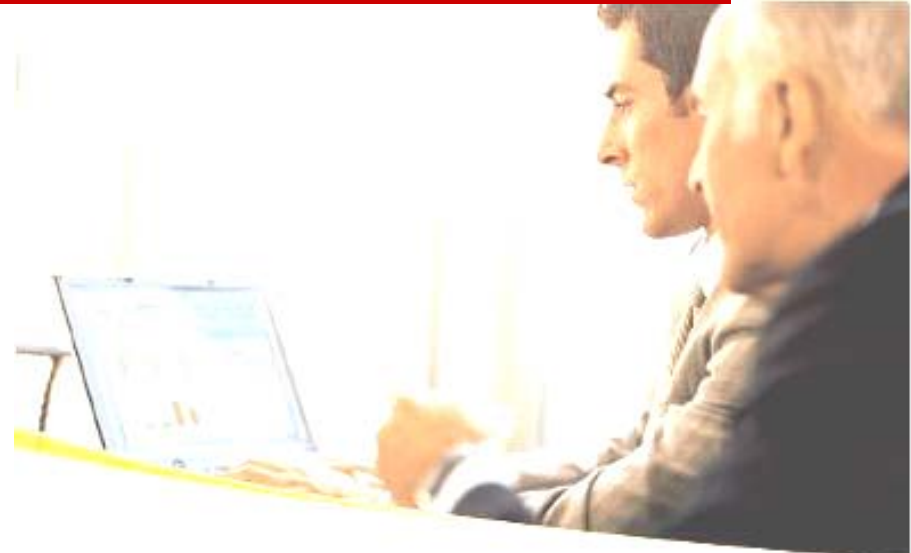
German Social Accident Insurance DGUV

Singapore, 19th September 2008

Changing world of work - industrialized countries

Transformation into **service and information society** with

- increasing pressure of competition
- new technologies
- virtualization of work forms (blurring of space and time in service industries)
- demographic change – extended working life
- increased fear of job loss – increase of non-standard employment



Changing world of work - **emerging countries**

Transformation into **industrialized, service and information economy** with

- fundamental and rapid changes for working people (from agrarian to industrialized economy)
- no sufficient legal and social protection and access to education (in most cases)
- frequently unsafe and unhealthy work places
- breakup of extended families and/or family care in cases of sickness and age



What needs to be done ...

- **Coordinate national and international policies** in OSH
- Embed OSH-activities into **social security system**
- **Activate employers** (e.g. by incentives)



Examples of strategic approaches

- **EU Commission: Improving quality at work - Community strategy 2007-2012** on health and safety at work
- **National Action Plans in EU member states:**
 - Austria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Latvia, Malta, Poland, Slovenia, Spain, Netherlands, UK
- **Outside Europe:**
 - Australia, Japan, Singapore, USA

Overview of recent OSH strategies:

[http://osha.europa.eu/organisations/list_eu_strategies#EU strategies](http://osha.europa.eu/organisations/list_eu_strategies#EU_strategies)



Sharing prevention experience in a globalised world

- **Establishing occupational safety and health strategies** that go beyond the workplace and the working population
- **Integrating OSH into education and training** programmes (primary, secondary, university education)
- **Improving health** within companies
- **Introducing integrated approaches on operational level** to
 - **assess the risks** – the key tool being risk assessment
 - **eliminate risks or reduce risk factors**
 - **adapt the work to the individual** worker
- **Health surveillance** at regular intervals
- **Define Research priorities**

Intensifying und enforcing OSH efforts through international und national prevention strategies

- **ILO:** Initiative “Promotional framework for occupational safety and health” (2006)
- **WHO:** Worker’s health: Global action plan 2008-2017 (2007)
- **EU:** Improving quality and productivity at work: Community strategy 2007-2012 on health and safety at work (2007)
- **Germany:** Common German OSH strategy 2008-2012 [GDA]

Development in Europe: Paradigm shift in OSH

mandatory,
oriented towards
„law and order“



employers and
employees bearing
sole responsibility

oriented towards
rules and
regulations,
reactive,
details



driven by individual
persuasive power,
proactive,
comprehensive vision

binding detailed
parameters

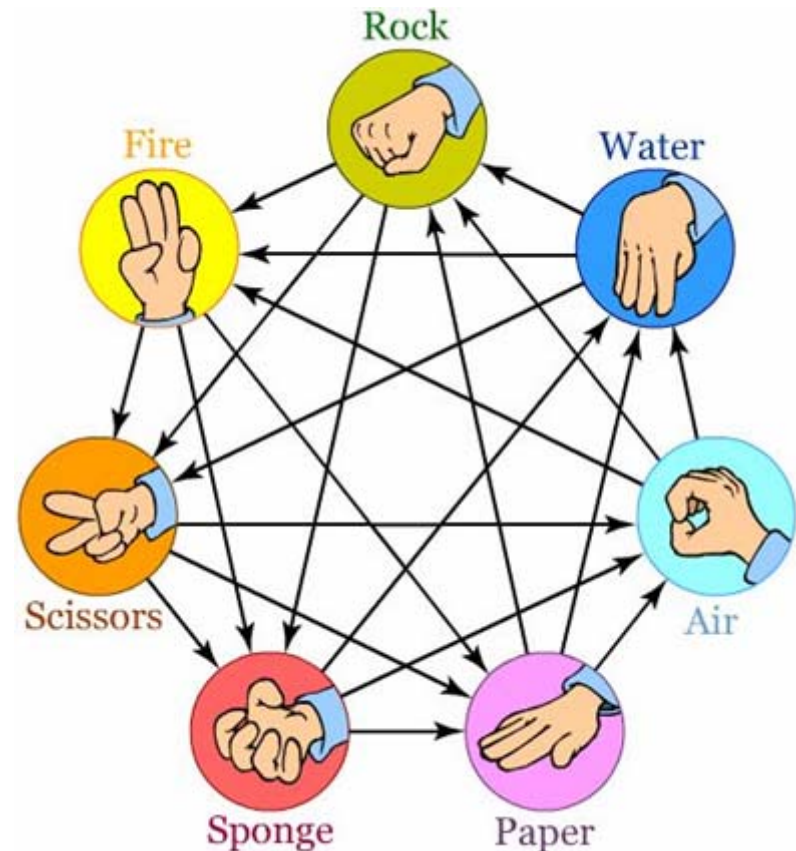


protection targets and
consultancy in
reaching these
targets

EU community strategy on health and safety at work 2007-2012

Europe has adopted an ambitious overall objective:

To reduce the total incidence rate of accidents at work per 100,000 workers in the EU 27 by 25% in the period 2007-2012





National OSH strategy – the example of Germany

Common German OSH Strategy (Gemeinsame Deutsche Arbeitsschutzstrategie GDA)

**Federal Ministry
of Labour and
Social Affairs
(BMAS)**

**States and
their OSH
authorities
(16 Bundesländer)**

**Institutions for
statutory accident
insurance and
prevention
(DGUV and
its 50 members)**

German OSH strategy (GDA) 1

Core elements

- **Developing** common OSH objectives
- **Deducing** fields of activity and work programs and their execution according to consistent principles
- **Evaluating** results
- **Establishing** a transparent set of rules and regulations

German OSH strategy 2



Targets

- Reducing the incidence and severity of **occupational accidents**
- Reducing the incidence and severity of **musculo-skeletal strain and diseases**
- Reducing the incidence and severity of **skin diseases**

Ex 1: Integrating OSH into management

- **Supporting** companies when they introduce OSH management systems
- Developing of **guidelines and codes of practice** especially for SMEs
- Foundation: ILO guidelines on OSH management systems

*Guidelines
on occupational
safety and health
management
systems*

ILO-OSH 2001



Ex 2: Qualifying people responsible for OSH

- **BG programs have more than 400,000 participants from the enterprise level**
- **Training as OSH specialists:**
 - ➔ Training as „OSH managers“
 - ➔ Systematic consultancy for the employer
 - ➔ Co-operation with all OSH actors in the company
 - ➔ Knowledge transfer of professional, methodological and social skills

The role of social insurance in OSH: Activating employers

- Employers **maximize benefits** and **minimize costs**
- Thus, **good behavior** can be **encouraged** by offering certain benefits (**economic incentives**, rewards) for
 - creating safe workplaces
 - adapting workplaces to requirements of older workers
- **Transfer of employers' liability** to the statutory accident insurance, no claims against employers

Conclusion (1): OSH challenges can be answered by

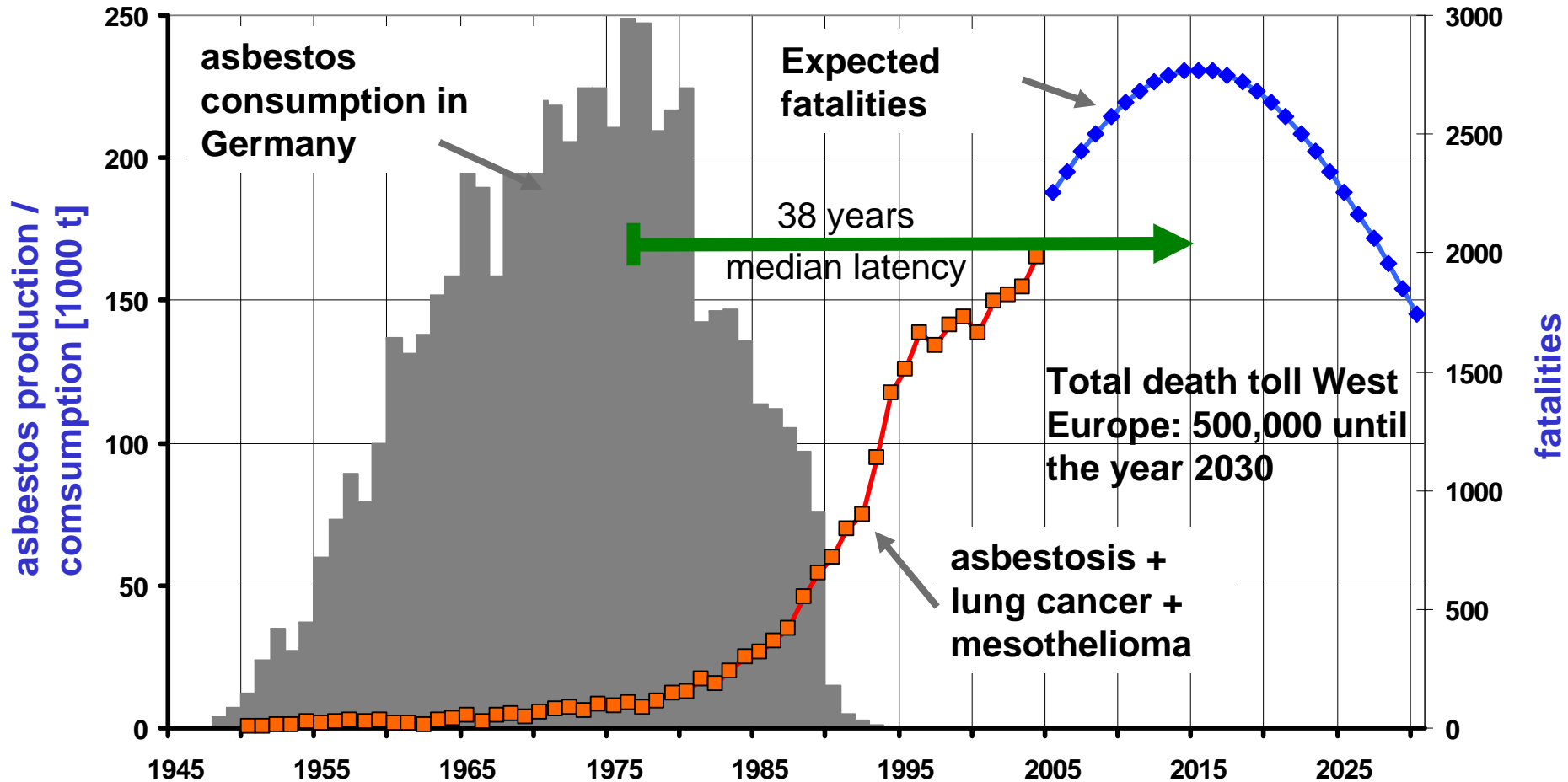
1. **International actors'** (like ILO, ISSA, WHO, EU-COM) developing suitable strategies
2. Assisting international actors as **pacemakers and implementing** strategies at the **national level**

Conclusion (2): OSH challenges can be answered by

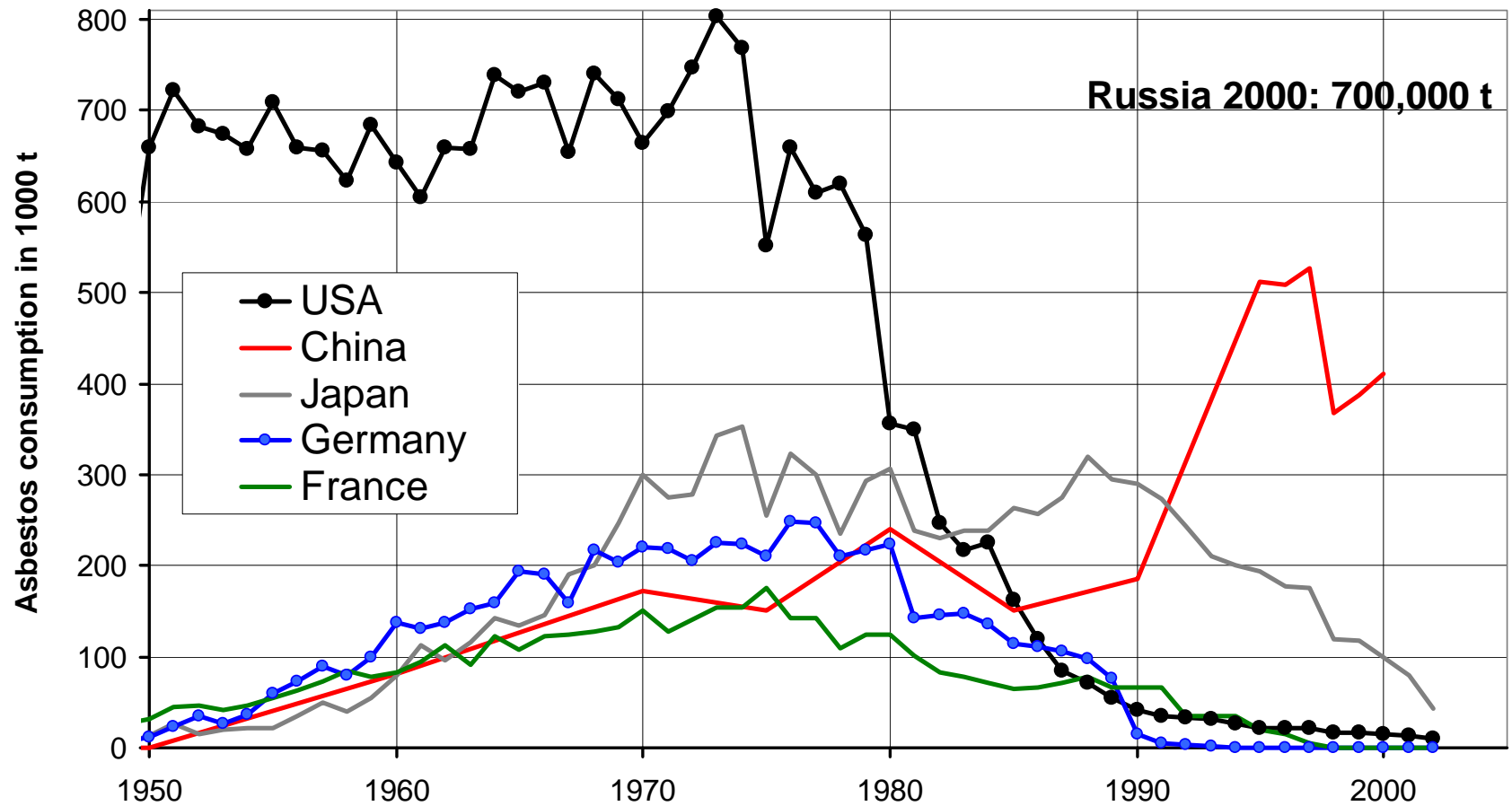
3. Embedding approaches into the system of **social security**
4. Fostering activities on the **company-level** by implementing **incentive** schemes
(e.g. rewarding action taken in OSH and/or the adaptation of workplaces to the needs of older workers)

What we are still learning ...

The example of asbestos-induced occupational diseases



Did we really get the lesson?



Reporting Systems for **occupational accidents**, **occupational diseases** and **work-related dangers**

- To ensure knowledge about what is really happening at the work place level we do need reporting systems with a very low degree of under-reporting
- This becomes especially important with a view on emerging risks or possible risks due to new technologies like nanotechnology



Thank you for your attention.

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