ASSE Ecuador takes significant step to advance Workplace Safety

ASSE Ecuador participated in the “Quintas Jornadas de Seguridad y Salud en el trabajo” Conference on Occupational Safety and Health in Quito, Ecuador on April 25th and 26th, 2013. Augusto Flores-Andrade, President elect of ASSE Ecuador and Anibal Franco, former Chair of SPALW at ASSE participated as presenters for more than 900 safety professionals during the two-day conference. The event was organized by the Department of Workplace Risk Prevention at the Ecuadorean Institute of Social Security (IESS) an entity equivalent to OSHA in Ecuador.

At the Conference Opening Ceremony, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between IESS and ASSE Ecuador represented by Fernando Benalcázar, current president. “This MOU is a significant advancement for the section in Ecuador and for ASSE as a whole. It opens a lot of doors and opportunities to exchange ideas, information, and best practices,” said Flores-Andrade. “It also highlights the growing importance of workplace safety in our country and the need for professionals in this area.”

The MOU establishes a framework for greater cooperation between IESS and ASSE Ecuador and encourages extensive collaboration that includes the exchange of information on workplace safety regulations, organization of joint trainings and events, dissemination of information, among other actions considered of mutual interest.
The trainings at this conference underscored the importance of workplace safety. Anibal Franco presented a Comprehensive North American approach on Management, Leadership, Sustainability, Safety, and Health in Construction. Augusto Flores-Andrade presented on Inspection of Safety and Health in the Workplace. In addition to the presentation, both ASSE members spoke about ASSE, the importance of the organization, and the benefits and opportunities that members can access.

After seeing the interest from workplace safety professionals in more trainings and the need to have access to information and resources, ASSE Ecuador is planning to organize a workplace safety conference next year that will be open to all safety professionals in Latin America.
“Without a doubt, the high attendance and the interest from the more than 900 participants at this conference shows the tremendous potential and possibilities in the SH&E field in Ecuador and Latin America,” said Franco. “ASSE can significantly expand its global reach by engaging this growing market.”

Arq. Juan Velez Andrade Director of the Department of Workplace Risk Prevention- IESS (third from the left) with representatives of ASSE and members of ASSE Ecuador