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Editorial

Expectations for “SHAW” and its Perspectives



The *Safety and Health at Work*, *SHAW*, was established in 2010 and emerged with the Science Citation Index Expanded in 2018. Hitherto, the *SHAW* has contributed to the development of both itself as a research journal and research on occupational health and safety in many countries including the Republic of Korea. Even though the *SHAW* declared that it would provide a research environment for all scientists in occupational safety and health, it would not be expected to be a highly acclaimed international journal since its establishment. However, there are still many things to be accomplished by the *SHAW* to fulfill the expectations.

First, the *SHAW* should be a journal that would contribute to the prevention of occupational accidents in the workplace worldwide. According to the statistics from the International Labour Organization, there are deaths of more than 2.3 million employees, which means that more than 6.3 thousand deaths of workers are occurring daily because of unexpected fatal accidents and diseases in their workplace. Moreover, there are around 340 million occupational accidents and 160 million victims of work-related illnesses worldwide, annually [1]. By providing essential safety and health information from this journal, the *SHAW* should promote the research fundamental of occupational safety and health and also contribute to the application of the research, which will lead to the prevention of those accidents and diseases.

Second, the *SHAW* should narrow down the gap of the safety level between the high- and the low-income countries. To illustrate, the United Kingdom had 0.8 death and Germany had 2.5 deaths per 100,000 workers per year, while Myanmar (Burma) and Nigeria had 26.1 and 24.1 deaths each per 100,000 workers in 2003. In other words, the number of occupational accident deaths per 100,000 workers per year in Myanmar is about 33 times higher than that in the United Kingdom [2]. Although the safety level of each country is relative and there are a plethora of international journals concerning this problem, the *SHAW* should have an essential role in narrowing down the gap in the process of safety level through sound studies to be published in the *SHAW*.

Third, the new technology of occupational safety and health should be studied and developed. They are real-time communication, Big Data, human-machine cooperation, remote sensing, monitoring and process control, autonomous equipment, and interconnectivity which are becoming major assets in modern industry [3]. In this situation, it is necessary to predict and develop new health and safety threats along with the development of new industries. The role of these journals is to introduce these roles through research and to hope that such techniques can be applied to the field. In Japan, the risk assessment and occupational safety and health management

system was introduced in 1999 [4] and strengthened to legal regulations in 2006, and the number of occupational accident deaths has decreased by 49.1% from 1,992 in 1999 to 978 in 2017 [5]. Of course, this may not be the only reason for introducing risk assessment and occupational safety and health management system. However, it is anticipated that new techniques of occupational safety and health will be developed through research, introduced through journals, and contribute to accident prevention if applied to the field.

Finally, the *SHAW* should keep on its policy open to everyone not only in submission but also in access. The *SHAW* has insisted on the open access policy since it was established to encourage researchers to submit good articles regardless of their economic situation, which is common in researchers who are working in low-income societies. Hence, it is recommended for researchers in societies where occupational safety and health research is required to enjoy the privilege of publishing their work in the *SHAW*. Through the *SHAW* forging academic research and risk reduction techniques, the hazards of occupational accidents and the risks of occupational disease would decrease.

Conflicts of interest

The author declares no conflicts of interest.

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