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IFDAT - INTERNATIONAL FORUM FOR DRUG & ALCOHOL TESTING

November 8th – November 9th 2011 – Houston, Texas, USA

By:
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The third program of its kind globally, the highly successful, collaborative, productive and energizing IFDAT - INTERNATIONAL FORUM FOR DRUG & ALCOHOL TESTING, was held in Houston, Texas, United States of America from November 8th through November 9th. Endorsed by the European Workplace Drug Testing Society (EWDTS) and the Substance Abuse Program Administrators Association (SAPAA), IFDAT was attended by over two hundred (200) delegates, Conference Sponsors and Exhibitors from the International Workplace Drug and Alcohol Testing Industry. Additional Industry Associations and Societies around the Globe are cordially invited to collaborate and become involved in future Forums organized by IFDAT.

Representing over ten countries, the delegate professionals, speakers and presenters that attended the Forum included employers, service agents, an international publisher, and workplace testing suppliers. The purpose of the Forum was to exchange knowledge, learn about new technology and to support the evolution and growth of the emerging International Workplace Drug and Alcohol Testing Industry. This purpose was accomplished. Delegates from around the globe exchanged their experiences and thoughts about effective workplace drug testing programs over two days of intensive presentations and panel discussions. The presenters and panelists included drug and alcohol testing professionals, authorities and intellectuals from around the world.

Save the Date:

The next IFDAT Forum will be held on November 8th and 9th, 2012, in Rome, Italy. For additional information please access: www.IFDAT.com.

IFDAT FORUM REVIEW:

A wide variety of topics were presented by professionals from many parts of the world at IFDAT. Worldwide workplace drug and alcohol testing, alternative testing methods, legal challenges in testing, International Medical Review Officer Services, new technology in testing, background screening, and testing in the PetroChemical Industry were among the topics addressed. Following is a bit of detail on the topics covered, which should encourage any individual or organization interested in the emerging International Workplace Drug and Alcohol Industry to attend future Forums and become part of the growth and development of this important Industry.

- **Session One: Worldwide Testing**
This Session included featured presenters who shared their perspective on testing around the globe with focused presentations on workplace drug and alcohol testing in Scandinavia, Russia, and the European Union, China, India, Mexico, Austria, Switzerland, New Zealand/Australia.
- **Session Two: Legal Challenges, Regulations and Expectations**
This Session featured a review of the legal and regulatory framework in Mexico, the United States from the perspective of a Third Party Administrator of International Workplace Drug and Alcohol Testing Programs, and a discussion of the European Guidelines. A Representative from the United States Department of Transportation, Office of Drug and Alcohol Policy and Compliance reviewed the United States international collaborations. A representative from the United States Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security reviewed the requirements and challenges of testing U.S. Flagged Vessels at Overseas Locations.
- **Session Three: Things to Consider for the International MRO**
The Medical Review Officer's function and role as it has evolved in the United States and the role of the Medical Review Officer in International Testing were discussed by three leading medical experts. This Session reviewed the goals and objectives for the future growth of international drug testing medical review practices, Perspectives, ideas, future standards and challenges in international Medical Review Officer Services and Medical Review Officer Training were reviewed.
- **Session Four: New Edge Technology**
Information technology related advances as well as the growing international acceptance of oral fluids specimen testing methodologies were featured in two individual sessions.
- **Session Five: Alcohol Testing in Hair, Testing in Brazil, International Background Screening, and Breath Alcohol Testing**
Four individual presentations were made on the foregoing topics which were of great interest to the delegates at the Forum.

- **Session Six: Testing in the International Oil & Gas Industry**
Three Representatives from major Petrochemical Companies shared their experiences, insights, and challenges in developing and administering workplace drug and alcohol testing programs throughout their international locations.
- **Oil & Gas Roundtable/Open Discussion**
Topics of interest and questions of concern to the Forum Delegates were openly aired. The role of the Medical Review Officer in International Testing, drugs of abuse as related to individual countries, and standardization of program expectations and requirements for petrochemical companies Contractors were raised and discussed. Also highlighted by the panelists and delegate participants were the challenges encountered by contractors to large petrochemical companies associated with administering and managing international workplace testing programs. This challenge has been magnified historically by the diverse international program policies and program expectations of the various large petrochemical companies which in turn require individual contractors to manage diverse programs internationally for individual petrochemical companies in order to meet contractual requirements. Interest in reviewing the foregoing contractor concerns was expressed by the petrochemical company panelists.

As was the case with the two previous International Drug and Alcohol Testing Forums, there was a remarkable degree of consensus among the Forum delegates, presenters and delegates relative to consensus on the foregoing topics and the important basic program elements essential to an effective Drug-Free Workplace prevention program irrespective of the various Speakers' Country of origin. These elements included the availability of employee assistance, a policy developed with employee and union involvement and voluntary program participation/consent, program transparency, an understanding of legal authority to test, program safeguards and procedures, thorough consideration of the types of tests that will meet a particular workplace's program objectives, the development of alternative drug and alcohol testing methodologies, the role of the Medical Review Officer in International Workplace Drug Testing, sensitivity to confidentiality and privacy, employee and supervisor education, training and awareness strategy, family and community program involvement, and an intervention, rehabilitation and program monitoring component. An important topic new to Forum discussions was the need to understand and consider the drugs of abuse specific to each country when deciding on a drug testing panel for an international location.

Clearly, IFDAT conferences will continue to be critically important to the growth and continued development of individual country and organization/employer drug and alcohol testing program policies, global workplace drug and alcohol testing, scientific innovations, product and service development, drug and alcohol testing, and program administration.