The London 2012 Construction Project: Health and Safety as an Enabler for Success

The London 2012 Olympic Games has highlighted outstanding athletic performances and showcased London to the World. The outstanding success owes itself to the years of meticulous planning, not just for the Games themselves but also for the Legacy it will leave into the future. An important part of this success was the focus on Health and safety during the construction of the Olympic Park and other venues which has provided significant innovations and learning that can be shared with all industries.

In 2006, the Olympic Delivery Authority’s (ODA) Health safety and Environment policy set out its vision as ‘.. To go beyond eliminating preventable illnesses, injuries, business losses and environmental harm due to unplanned events in our premises and on our sites. This includes improving the wellbeing of all involved in the project work by addressing our impact on climate change and waste, preventing pollution, enhancing biodiversity and encouraging inclusion and healthy living during the design and construction phases and beyond.’

The success of the health safety and environment programmes on the London 2012 project, along with the many innovative measures taken to promote Leadership, engagement and occupational health management will be the focus of this discussion.

Attendees will be enabled to see how the simple measures and strategy used can be transferable to their own organisations.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

Melodie Gilbert
BSc, Grad IOSH, BOHS

Melodie Gilbert is a consultant occupational hygienist with a working knowledge of occupational hygiene across many industry sectors including demolition and construction. She is a Graduate Member of IOSH and a Member of the British Occupational Hygiene Society. Melodie specialises in occupational ill health prevention on a strategic level and has played a key role in both the London 2012 and Crossrail projects.

The Olympic Delivery Authority procured a comprehensive occupational health programme to provide support to its contracting supply chain and services to the 12,000+ workers at peak working on its sites. Melodie was head of ill health prevention for 5 years and was one of the leaders of the Park and Village Health teams. The ill health prevention work that she managed has recently been identified in an independent research paper undertaken by the Institute of Employment Studies (IES) as an effective investment rather than a cost. She has also assisted in the creation of the occupational health management strategy for Cross Rail and is currently working on strategic planning for other large construction companies as a legacy of the ODA programme.

Melodies work as a London 2012 learning legacy ambassador has led to presentations to many occupational health and safety conferences and seminars including:
• The European Presidency “Working together for the future of occupational safety and health in Europe”

• The International Wellbeing at Work conference

• The Annual HSE Excellence Europe Conference

• The Chartered Institute of Environmental Health conference