



LEAD *Action* NEWS

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Newsletter of The LEAD (Lead Education and Abatement Design) Group Inc.
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Article 1

Editorial

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**Celebrating 5 Years of the
WHO Lead Week of Action**

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Celebrating 5 Years of the WHO Lead Week of Action



2017 Volcano Art Prize (VAP) Entry. Title: 1.2 million, Lead-safety Message: The LEAD Group's target for 2018 is that 1.2 million people ask their doctor for a blood lead test and start to reduce their body burden of lead. Artists: Elizabeth O'Brien (text, film & voice), Ian Smith (soundtrack), Poornima Murthy (editor). Materials: Video filmed on iPhone 4S. Voice improvisation composed by Ian Smith, recorded & edited using Ableton. Edited using Filmora by Wondershare.

<http://volcanoartprize.com/portfolio-item/1.2-million/>;

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SgtTm1p-JDc>

Editorial

The International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action is held in October every year since 2013 and this year organisations from 42 countries held an event. We have event reports from eight organisations from around the world to showcase the need for public awareness in eliminating and preventing lead poisoning.



The Lead Week of Action has a particular focus on eliminating lead in paint, one of the major contributors to lead poisoning. This is showcased in the Les Amis de la Terre (ADT) / Friends of the Earth (FOE) event report on their use of a press conference and debate conference in hope to develop regulations and standards to phase out lead in paint in their respective countries. There is both a French and English ADT event report which was kindly translated by our Spanish and French translator volunteer, Orlando Aguirre-Lopez. Following the 2017 reports is the ADT's 2016 event report in French. Children's Environmental Health Foundation, Republic of Zambia, (CHEF) event reports also utilised a press conference and several of the PowerPoint materials on lead poisoning that were used during the event are accessible through our library.

Public awareness is effective in facilitating change. This can be seen in Toxics Link, an organisation in India, who reports on how their continuous efforts resulted in the government of India issuing a gazette notification for lead in paint that was enforced in November 2017. Following this, is the event report from Environmental and Social Development (ESDO), an organisation in Bangladesh that started the lead free paint campaign in Bangladesh in 2008. ESDO used a rally and human chain that was widely documented by the media to promote awareness of lead in paint.

Aside from lead in paint, lead in dust is common and during the Lead Week of Action, the National Institute of Public Health in Slovenia, focused on preventing exposure to dust by running workshops on hygiene and healthy diets.

Generating social awareness and educating the public is a key process in reducing lead poisoning. The Shelby County Event in the United States of America reports on their various displays of information on protecting young children and homes from lead poisoning. The following report from Ulster University, Northern Ireland, provides further information on how lead toxication impacts on pregnant woman and a possible new technology to detect toxicity levels of lead.

The final event report is the event we run yearly in Australia which is the Volcano Art Prize Competition and includes a variety of the colourful entries with lead safe messages.

Following these event reports is a short summary of each event that was held during the Lead Week of Action in 2017. Concluding this newsletter is a list and maps of all the countries that held an event during the Lead Week of Action from 2013-2017. It is clear that preventing lead poisoning has become increasingly important and more organisations around the world are joining in to tackle this challenge. The LEAD Group particularly encourages countries listed on the last page of this newsletter to organise an event for International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action 2018 (Sunday 21st to Saturday 27th October 2018).