



NEBOSH students from around the world came together recently to celebrate their achievements at a graduation ceremony held at Warwick University.

Three hundred and sixty eight people who passed their NEBOSH Diploma (National, International and Environmental) were joined by family and friends at the event on 27 June, on what turned out to be one of the hottest days of 2011 so far.

Some journeyed from all corners of the globe to attend the ceremony, from countries such as Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, India, Mauritius, Nigeria, Trinidad and Tobago and the USA.

Those who achieved the highest marks in NEBOSH Certificate and Diploma examinations were also presented with special awards at the graduation.

One person who wasn't troubled by the high temperatures on the day was Doha Mattar. Doha is a Chemical Engineer who gained the highest mark for the NEBOSH International General Certificate and had travelled from Egypt to receive her 'Best Candidate' award. Currently a Safety, Health and Environment Manager with Nestlé, based in Cairo, Doha said she owed much of her success to her colleagues and mentors who had supported her through her studies.

She said: "I was both surprised and delighted to learn of this award. Achieving the highest mark

has given me a lot of recognition and credibility on a personal and professional level. It has reinforced my trust in my ability to leverage my company's OH&S performance based on the knowledge I have gained throughout the course of qualification."

Jan Scholten, a mechanical engineer from Germany, who is currently working on a major construction project in Rotterdam for E.ON, became the first person to receive a new award for the highest mark in the NEBOSH International Certificate in Construction Health and Safety. He described his success as a "great honour".

NEBOSH Chair, Sir Bill Callaghan, who led the graduation ceremony said: "Over the last 31 years our Diploma holders have made a huge contribution to improving health and safety standards in the UK. To take just one measure; fatal accidents in the UK have, in that period, fallen from around 500 deaths a year to just 152 last year. That's a reduction of around seventy percent.

"Of course the enforcing authorities and workplace safety representatives have played their part in this achievement. But we strongly believe that the rise of health and safety as a recognised and valued profession is a key factor. We hope that the increasing number of International Diploma holders will make the same outstanding contribution wherever in the world they work."