



# Protecting Worker's Life and Health

# KOSHA Newsletter

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## Germany Adopts a Statement Supporting the 'Seoul Declaration on Safety and Health at Work'

**The 2nd Global Forum on the Seoul Declaration on Safety and Health at Work, Held in Düsseldorf**



Germany adopted a statement supporting the Seoul Declaration on Safety and Health at Work, which was adopted by safety and health delegates worldwide last year.

KOSHA announced on 6 November that the Dusseldorf Statement supporting the Seoul Declaration on Safety and Health at Work was adopted at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Seoul Declaration on Safety and Health at Work Global Forum, held in Dusseldorf on 4 November.

The Seoul Declaration on Safety and Health at Work is the first international declaration in history containing safety and health action plans for each social subject. It was unanimously adopted by the 46 Tripartite Commission officials at the 18th World Congress on Safety and Health at Work held in Seoul last year.

The Dusseldorf Statement was adopted at high-level meetings by the World Health Organization (WHO) and 16 organizations related to safety and health in Europe, such as Germany's TÜV SÜD (inspection and verification agency), and Phillips, and the representatives of businesses. It supports the spread and practice of the Seoul Declaration on Safety and Health at Work.

In the forum held in Spain in March, the representatives of 24 professional safety and health agencies of America, Canada, and so forth adopted the Canary Island Statement on Occupational Risk Prevention in Support of the Seoul Declaration on Safety and Health at Work.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Global Forum on the Seoul Declaration on Safety and Health at Work is an event organized by KOSHA and the International Labor Organization (ILO) during the period of the Occupational Safety and Health Conference and Exhibition in Germany, and the first forum was held at COEX, Seoul in September 2008.

At the 2<sup>nd</sup> Global Forum on the Seoul Declaration on Safety and Health at Work, participants adopted the Dusseldorf Statement, followed by keynote speeches and discussions of high-level officials in safety and health from a number of countries.



## Half of Deaths from Occupational Disease Caused by 'Cerebrocardiovascular Disease'

**Member of National Assembly Seon-taek Kwon, Asked for 'Measures' at the Annual National Assembly Audit.**



Half of the workers to die from occupational diseases last year died of cerebrocardiovascular diseases, meaning it requires urgent measures.

Seon-taek Kwon, a Member of the Liberty Forward Party and the Environment and Labor Committee of the National Assembly, announced that 49.5% of workers dying from occupational diseases last year alone died of 'cerebrocardiovascular diseases', and 59.7% of the reasons for requesting medical treatment due to occupational disease was 'back pain', according to the report submitted by KOSHA at the inspection of KOSHA conducted by the National Assembly on 16 October.

According to the data the assemblyman announced, there were a total of 974 deaths from occupational disease last year, 482 of which were a result of cerebrocardiovascular disease.

Cerebrocardiovascular disease is caused by problems in the circulation of blood supplied to the brain and heart due to problems in the vascular system. It is a very typical occupational disease, caused by a number of things such as stress, drinking, and smoking.

Next to cerebrocardiovascular disease, pneumoconiosis was another common cause of death. This is a disorder in the lungs due to the inhalation of dust.

Also, 59.7% of the reasons for requesting medical treatment due to occupational disease were 'back pain', followed by musculoskeletal diseases and pneumoconiosis.

National Assembly Member Kwon emphasized that the occupational diseases due to 'cerebrocardiovascular disease' and 'back pain' have been the biggest cause of occupational disease for the last three years, and that it is necessary to immediately prepare countermeasures such as preventive actions, guidance, and inspections, considering the seriousness of the diseases.

KOSHA is surveying the cause of occupational disease every year, and those who require medical treatment for four days or longer are divided into occupational disease patients and occupational disease deaths.



## Entire Asbestos Removal Process Posted Online

### Seoul Government Announces Five Comprehensive Measures for Asbestos Management to Eliminate Public Anxiety

The entire process of removing asbestos from reconstruction, redevelopment, and new town areas of Seoul will be open to the public on the Internet.

On 5 October, the Seoul government announced five comprehensive measures for asbestos management to eliminate public anxiety over asbestos fears by systematically managing the entire process of removing asbestos from preliminary investigation to removal work, and monitoring removed items and atmospheric quality within large removal sites such as redevelopment, reconstruction, and new town areas.

The measures announced this time include the operation of monitoring teams comprised of citizens, opening status updates on the Internet, the preparation of an asbestos map, a one-source policy for construction and removal companies, the rationalization of the expenses for removing asbestos, and the obligation to appoint supervisors.

According to these measures, the Seoul government will operate a monitoring team comprised of delegates of citizens of all standings, such as residents, parents of students, and environmental organizations to clearly open all processes from the preliminary investigation to removal work, including the monitoring of removed items and atmospheric quality on the Internet.

They will also draw up an asbestos map of all

buildings subject to removal and destruction in Seoul, including not only public construction, but also private redevelopment and reconstruction buildings and post it outside the building.

Also, they will propose the revision of related laws so that the current system, where the remover and constructor are different persons, can be improved to have a single constructor and remover, so that the constructor can handle the entire process with the sense of responsibility and additionally rationalize the expenses required for handling asbestos, in order to thoroughly prevent faulty removal practices.

They will also obligate the appointment of a supervisor for monitoring the removal of asbestos on the site and strengthen follow-up management by monitoring the density of asbestos in the air at the border of building removing sites, notifying the Ministry of Labor immediately of the need for stricter site management.

Also, they will push forward with the establishment of the 'Asbestos Safety Management Act' as soon as possible so that the asbestos can be managed and supervised more actively, and the establishment of 'Asbestos Management Safety Regulations (Provisional Title)', which is a supplemented version of the 'Asbestos Management Manual on Removal Sites', etc. as of 2010.





## 'Sea Bridge and Port Construction' Becoming Safer

**The Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs, Preliminary Safety Diagnosis for Construction at Sea... Revised Enforcement Decree Effectuated**



All future construction projects at sea must pass a preliminary safety diagnosis.

The Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs announced on 17 November that the revised 'Enforcement Decree of the Sea Traffic Safety Act' for the enforcement of the Sea Traffic Safety Act, including the application of a sea traffic safety diagnosis system and an International Safety Management Code (ISM Code) for large tugboats and barges will enter into effect on 28 November through Cabinet approval.

Due to the approval of the enforcement decree, the proprietor of construction projects at sea, such as sea bridges and port construction projects, must have a preliminary safety diagnosis concerning

obstacles for the safe passage of ships. The Minister of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs can measure overall safety measures according to the diagnosis results.

The revised enforcement decree stipulates the standards for large tugboats and barges reflecting the safety management system, sets the standards for the qualification and the number of persons in charge of safety management, and the safety manager whom the owner of the ship must appoint for the safety management of the ship. It also includes a clear definition of control operations for the safe passage of ships and information about the control operation on marginal seas.



## “Korea and Vietnam Signed an Agreement on Occupational Safety and Health Technology Cooperation”

**KOSHA Held an International Event on Occupational Safety and Health in Vietnam**



KOSHA decided to cooperate with Vietnam on occupational safety and health at the international employment and labor fair, ‘Job Festival’, held in Hanoi.

KOSHA concluded the Agreement for Technological Cooperation for Safety and Health of Workers with Bui Hong Linh, Vice Minister of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs of Vietnam, at the National Convention Center in Hanoi on 21 October and held a ceremony for the donation of over 20,000 safety protective gear and materials for accident prevention. Through this agreement, KOSHA and the Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs of Vietnam will strengthen their cooperation programs, such as the safety and health training and training by invitation, technical consultation, and the provision of materials.

Prior to the event, KOSHA also signed a technological cooperation agreement with the National Institute of Labour Protection of Vietnam on 20 October, and agreed to push forward with joint programs for enhancing the safety and health of workers, such as the mutual exchange of information concerning safety and health research programs, and joint research programs.

‘Job Festival’ is an international event that Vietnam and Korea held to enhance their mutual cooperative relationship on employment and labor from 18 to 24 October, and KOSHA operated the ‘Occupational Safety and Health Corner’ and exhibited and donated safety protective gear, safety and health training materials prepared in Vietnamese, and audio-visual materials.

Vietnam became the country to dispatch the largest number of workers to Korea after the latter established the work permit system, and has also been pushing forward with a number of cooperative programs, such as the dispatch of occupational safety and health experts, training by invitation, and exchange of technical data since the Arrangement for Cooperation was concluded between the Ministry of Labor of Korea and the Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs of Vietnam in 2003.



# Support for Special Health Examination Expenses Expanded to 'Businesses with Less Than 20 Employees'

**KOSHA Expects Benefits for 25,000 Workers.**



The financial support for special health examinations performed to protect worker's health from harmful factors such as chemical substances, dust, and noise is to be expanded from businesses with less than 10 employees to businesses with less than 20 employees.

On 11 November, KOSHA announced the expansion of the support for special health examination expenses and started receiving applications through the Internet homepage.

KOSHA has been supporting the expenses for special health examinations for businesses with less than 10 employees from April this year, and those to benefit as of the end of October include 31,000 workers across 8,000 businesses

As the support is expanded to cover businesses with less than 20 employees, KOSHA expects that about 25,000 more workers will be entitled to free

health examinations.

When the owner of a business with less than 20 employees insured against occupational accidents submits the application online ([www.kosha.or.kr](http://www.kosha.or.kr)) to receive the special health examination, KOSHA checks whether the applicant is entitled to financial support for special health examinations and notifies the applicant. The applicant receives the examination at the institute designated by the Ministry of Labor for special health examinations.

After the special health examination, the examining institute requests KOSHA for the settlement of expenses along with the examination results, and KOSHA checks the examination results and settles the expenses.

A KOSHA official said, "Small businesses have difficulties in managing worker's health and a harsh working environment systematically... we expect to reduce the financial burdens on small businesses and protect more workers vulnerable to occupational accidents through the expansion of support."

According to occupational accident statistics, there have been a total of 5,925 occupational accident victims, an average 1,975 a year, due to occupational diseases such as chemical substances, pneumoconiosis, and noise over the past 3 years.



## Occupational Safety and Health Research Institute, Designated as a 'Managing Organization for International Standardization'

**Manages the Establishment and Revision of International Standardization Documents for Respiratory Protective Devices**



OSHRI announced that it had been designated as the managing organization for the technical committee of the international standardization organization for respiratory protective devices by the Korean Agency for Technology and Standards of the Ministry of the Knowledge Economy.

The designation of domestic managing organizations are supervised by the Korean Agency for Technology and Standards of the Ministry of the Knowledge Economy, which is in charge of the official standards related operations of the International Standardization Organization (ISO) and those of the related organizations with expertise and representation. It was selected as the managing organization.

As a designated managing organization, OSHRI will carry out investigations and reviews of the establishment and revision of International Standardization Organization documents presented by the subcommittee on respiratory protective devices of the technical committee of the international standardization organization.

An OSHRI official said, "With designation as the managing organization, OSHRI will lead the establishment and revision of occupational safety and health related national standards and make an effort to make Korean Industrial Standards (KS) on respiratory protective devices and the mandatory safety standards notified by the Ministry of Labor the international standards."



## Providing Safety and Health Information to 100,000 Newly Opening Businesses

KOSHA Providing Education Materials Including the Maintenance of a Safe Working Environment



Safety and health information guidance materials for business owners are being provided to 100,000 newly opening businesses around the nation.

KOSHA announced on 4 November that they are distributing materials that introduce the basic duties that the owners of newly opening businesses must know in relation to the Industrial Safety and Health Act and the services provided by KOSHA to 100,000 newly opening businesses.

KOSHA will produce the materials and make them available for distribution in the regional and district tax offices that everyone who is newly opening a business must visit. This is being accomplished through the cooperation of the National Tax Office.

The materials focus on five main matters that business owners must fundamentally observe:

- ▲ Maintaining a safe working environment and eliminating health challenges
- ▲ Safety measures for facilities and mechanical devices
- ▲ Implementation of a statutory safety inspection
- ▲ Safe storage and use of chemical substances
- ▲ Provision of information and guidelines on safety and training opportunities.





## 931 More Victims of Occupational Accidents than at the Same Period Last Year

The Ministry of Labor, 3rd Quarter as of September...

'Reduction of Occupational Accidents' Failed



The Ministry of Labor is pushing forward the policies for reducing victims of occupational accidents by 10,000, but the number of victims increased by 931 from the same period last year.

The Ministry of Labor announced the statistics for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter as of the end of September on 9 November.

According to the statistics, the total number of occupational accident victims was 71,760, some 931 more victims than at the same period last year.

It did not satisfy the estimated figure of 5,000 victims they announced in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, not to mention the initial plans for a reduction of 10,000 victims, and the number of victims increased.

In their announcement in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, the Ministry of Labor said that they had expected the number of occupational accident victims to decrease due to the shrinking economy, but the number of victims did not decrease as much

as they had expected. There were a number of public work programs and large SOC construction projects, which may explain the discrepancy.

Forestry and other industries including food, accommodation, and building maintenance showed the highest increase and decrease rates of victims compared with the same period last year, according to the statistics announced this time. Most victims were workers in their 60s or older. The results appear to suggest the impact of the causes announced in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, such as the public work program.

The accident rate was 0.51%, which is 0.02% lower than at the same period last year. The total number of deaths, including deaths from disease, was 1,653, falling by 177. The number of accident-related deaths was 1,049, eight fewer than the previous figure.

The number of workers suffering from occupational disease was 6,234, which went down by 1,084 from the previous figure.

Especially, the number of workers suffering from cerebrocardiovascular disease went down by 467, the highest reduction rate.

Considering the scale of business, the number of victims in large businesses with 1,000 or more employees went down by 566, while that in small businesses with less than 5 employees went up by 2,273.



## Safety Technology Enhancement Forum for Preventing Chemical Accidents at Petroleum Factories

**Problems in Pushing Forward the Special Act on the Safety Control of Petrochemical Complexes pointed out**



depth presentations and discussions.

During the technical session, Jae-yeol Lee, technical expert of the Technical Expert Department of KOSHA, made a presentation on the outcome from the improvement of petrochemical process safety and future plans. Nakagawa Masaki, Senior Engineer for Environment

A forum for promoting the domestic chemical accident preventing safety technology and preparing for effective government-level prevention policies was held.

The Safety Technology Enhancement Forum for Preventing Chemical Accidents in Petroleum Factories, organized by the Korea Petrochemical Industry Association and sponsored by KOSHA, was held at the Shilla Hotel on 28 October.

The forum was divided into a technical session, policy session, and panel discussion and the staff and employees in charge of safety and health at the Korea Petrochemical Industry Association and domestic and foreign experts from related fields participated in the forum and had in-

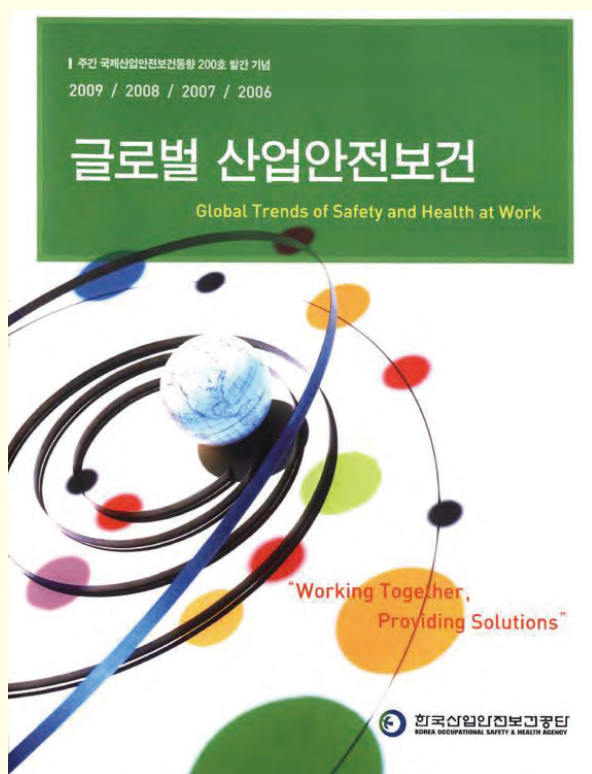
Safety Engineering of Mitsubishi, one of the three largest petrochemical corporations in Japan, made a presentation on the outcome from the improvement of process safety and future plans.

Also during the policy section, Professor Seung-bu Shin of the University of Ulsan made a presentation on the objective review of the promotion of the legislation of the Special Act on the Safety Control of Petrochemical Complex. Yasumi Shinozaki, Director of the Environment and Safety of Sumitomo, a Japanese petrochemical corporation, made a presentation about related safety regulations in Japan and the improvements that have been made.



## 200<sup>th</sup> Issue of the 'Global Trends of Safety and Health at Work' Published

**KOSHA Collected the World's Latest OSH News and Delivered it to Interested Parties.**



The 200<sup>th</sup> issue of the Global Trends of Safety and Health at Work, which summarizes the latest international occupational safety and health related news and delivers it to those concerned with safety and health was published.

KOSHA held a ceremony for the publication of global occupational safety and health, which summarizes the contents of the Global Trends of Safety and Health at Work, published from 2006 by each subject for the commemoration of the publication of its 200<sup>th</sup> issue on 17 November.

KOSHA summarized the contents of the Global Trends of Safety and Health at Work into the six categories of international occupational safety and health policy and system, international occupational safety and health standards and cooperation, occupational safety and construction safety, occupational health, training, public relations, and safety culture, and research and surveys.

It also introduced best practices in preventing accidents from major advanced nations including England, America and Japan. It includes the current status of 34 occupational safety and health related organizations in the world including America's Occupational Safety and Health Agency(OSHA), England's Health and Safety Executive(HSE), and pictures from the 18<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Safety and Health at Work held in Seoul in 2008.



## Distribution of Safety and Health Materials for Six Service Industries with a Frequent Occurrence of Accidents

### KOSHA Prepared 1,270,000 Copies of Posters and Training Materials

Materials for preventing accidents for workers engaged in service industries, including cooking, delivery, cleaning, and apartment management, were prepared.

KOSHA announced on 8 October that they had prepared 1,270,000 copies of posters, stickers, pamphlets, and training materials for workers, distributing them to six service industrial categories exhibiting a high frequency of accidents, so as to prevent accidents in the service industry, which are increasing every year.

The posters and stickers will be placed in the workplace and are designed to arouse workers' attention to safety and health issues, and the pamphlets and the materials for training workers contain the status of accidents and how to prevent them.

According to statistics on occupational accidents, a total of 30,160 victims were identified in the service industry last year, with 23,711 victims, 78.6% of all victims, from six of a total of 19 categories of the service industry, such as wholesale and retail and consumer goods repair services, food and accommodation services, comprehensive management business for multistory buildings,



hygiene and similar services, health and social welfare services, and education services.

KOSHA is providing the materials prepared and distributed this time through related organizations and associations, and is also providing them while visiting businesses for technical support.

Businesses that wish to make use of these materials can download them from the 'New

Data' corner of KOSHA's homepage (<http://www.kosha.or.kr/>).

According to occupational accident statistics, victims in the service industry have been continuously increasing over the past five years since, with numbers reaching 22,589 in 2004, and 30,160 victims last year alone.

Min-ki Noh, President of KOSHA, said "The service industry must make enormous efforts to prevent accidents in the service industry to reduce the occupational accident rate of 0.7%, which has been stagnant over the most recent ten years... we will continue to push forward accident prevention policies by cooperating with related associations and vocational institutes."