

Protecting Worker's Life and Health

KOSHA Newsletter

June 2010

“Investigation on Safety and Health for Foreign Workers in the Nation”

Sample survey for 2,000 in the nation to examine their working environment and sense of safety

April 12th, 2010

- An investigation to see the current state of safety and health of foreign workers in the nation is being conducted.
- Occupational Safety and Health Research Institute of Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency(president Gang Seonggyu) is about to examine current state of safety and health of 2,000 foreign workers in the nation to keep them from industrial disasters and to protect their health.
- According to the statistics, 14,419 foreign workers experienced industrial disasters for the last 3 years, and 305 innocent lives among them were lost.
- Especially, in 2009, the number of victims reached 5,231 which were increased by 31.8% compared to 2007; the disasters are analyzed on the rise over the last 3 years.

• Disaster-Experienced Foreign Workers in the Nation for the last 3 years (unit: victims)

Division	3years in Total	2009	2008	2007
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Total Victims in Korea		283,774	97,821	95,806	90,147
Koreans	Casualties	269,355	92,590	90,585	86,180
	Dead	6,704	2,080	2,305	2,319
Foreigners	Casualties	14,419	5,231	5,221	3,967
	Dead	305	101	117	87

★ Casualties = including the dead

- Therefore, the research institute of the Agency plans to investigate △ working environment and conditions △ occupational accident and occupational disease experience △ use of health and medical institute △ education on safety and public health for foreign workers in the nation for foreign workers by the end of May.
- This investigation is the first national-wide one. Workers of 13 nationalities such as China, Vietnam and the Philippines are being interviewed one by one, using the questionnaire in pertinent language.
- The research institute plans to raise credibility of the survey by gaining advices from statistics experts, with samples regarding their nationalities, working regions of Korea, sexes, and business categories.
- The research result is supposed to be posted on the website of the research institute on November after analyzing and reviewing its credibility; it would be also published and spread out to relevant institutes as the material to establish systems to prevent industrial disasters and policies for industrial disaster and public health for foreign workers.

- Meanwhile, Samsung Economic Research Institute has recently reported that 550 thousand of foreigners work in Korea, sharing 2.2% of total economically active people as of the end of last year. <‘Financial Crisis and Change of Conditions to Employ Foreign Workers,’ April 6th, 2010, Samsung Economic Research Institute >
- Researcher Lee Gwanhyeong of the Agency said that “We have to take measures to protect foreign workers in small companies which are weak at safety and public health management; they are in charge of tough and difficult jobs although the number has already reached 500,000”, and that “Hope the result of this survey contribute to raising the level of safety and public health, as well as preventing industrial disasters happening to foreign workers.”

Nationwide Relay Campaign to Prevent Tripping Accidents

KOSHA launches a campaign to raise public awareness on the seriousness of accidents in service industry

June 30, 2010

- Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency (KOSHA; President: Noh, Min-Ki) embarked upon a 100-day campaign named ‘Nationwide Relay Campaign to Prevent Tripping Accidents.’ The campaign will continue for 100 days – a special period designated for accident prevention – starting from KOSHA’s Seoul Regional Office on June 25.
- Tripping is the most common accidents in the service industry,

accounting for 35% of the total. This nationwide campaign will be in the form of a relay to publicize the seriousness of service industry accidents and the importance of raising safety awareness.

- As of April 2010, Korea's occupational accident increased 8.8% year-on-year. The campaign's main targets are locations with many service industry workplaces and other crowded areas. Together with the campaign, 'Signature-seeking Campaign for Tripping Accident Prevention' will also be launched targeting the general public.
- During the campaign period, KOSHA, the Korea Restaurant Association, Office of Education, institutions related to safety and health, service industry safety managers, and the Ministry of Employment and Labor plan to launch street campaigns and distribute accident prevention materials, and inform the public of the importance of preventing accidents in the service industry.
- The Seoul Regional Office, the front-runner of the relay campaign, jointly launched the campaign on June 25 near Gangnam Subway Station and adjacent areas with the Korean Dietetic Association, the Korea Restaurant Association, local governments and vocational training institutes. The campaign proceeded by distributing information materials and holding a cartoon panel exhibition showing examples of accidents of service industry employees. The Seoul Regional Office will then deliver the zero-accident banner to Eastern Gyeongbuk Area Office, the second location of the campaign. The final location of the campaign will be Jeju Area Office on September 11, after which the banner will be returned to the head office, closing the campaign relay.

<Seoul Regional Office campaign>

Korea Presents a New Keyword of Safety

KOSHA proclaims 'Watchful, Careful Korea'
as the new safety slogan on July 1



July 1, 2010

- A nationwide campaign has been launched to enhance safety awareness in Korea to the level of advanced countries.
- On July 1 at the head office of Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency (KOSHA; President: Noh, Min-Ki) located in Bupyeong-gu, Incheon, the new slogan of safety culture campaign 'Watchful, Careful Korea' was unveiled with the attendance of the managers and employees of KOSHA.
- At the proclamation ceremony, KOSHA introduced the purpose of

establishing the slogan and the implementation plans to disseminate it in the future.

- The proclamation ceremony of the slogan ‘Watchful, Careful Korea’ was held to create a true advanced society by replacing Korea’s deeply ingrained ‘culture of haste’ with the ‘culture of caution’, and spread the idea of safety as a cultural movement.
 - KOSHA believes the ‘culture of haste’ as the main culprit of continued accidents despite its contribution to Korea’s rapid development. That is why KOSHA presented ‘Watchful, Careful Korea’ as the new keyword of safety culture, which will direct Korea to the right path in the 21st Century.
- In fact, Korea has world-class levels of auto and shipbuilding industries. However, safety levels are far below that of advanced countries.
- Statistics show that occupational accidents claim six Korean lives every day, resulting in the annual economic loss of KRW 17.4 trillion.
 - * Occupational accident fatalities in 2009: 2,181 persons
(Occupational accident casualties in 2009: 97,821 persons)
- KOSHA proclaimed ‘Watchful, Careful Korea’ as the new safety and health campaign slogan to promote safety awareness, and presented ‘Detecting risks is the first step to safety’ and ‘Don’t take safety for granted’ as practical slogans.
 - ‘Detecting risks is the first step to safety’ means to say that risk factors in daily lives should not be overlooked, while ‘Don’t take safety for granted’ means to always follow the principles of safety even in familiar surroundings.
- KOSHA will make continued efforts throughout the year to promote the safety slogans. To that end, broadcast campaigns under the theme of ‘Detecting risks is the first step to safety,’ on-line promotions using portal sites, and the other promotions through various advertising medium will help to raise public awareness on safety.
 - From July 5 to 10, Korea’s largest safety and health event, the 43rd Occupational Safety and Health Week, was held in COEX to publicize the slogan to safety and health related officials and the general public.

- In addition, KOSHA will formulate its mid- to long-term strategies to spread the slogans, to promote the level of national safety awareness and induce behavioral changes among the public.

○ ”While the ‘Culture of Haste’ has so far contributed to remarkable economic growth, I hope the slogan ‘Watchful, Careful Korea’ will help Korea to reach the level of advanced countries by creating a culture where people consider the social risk factors first and prevent accidents,” said a KOSHA official. (End)



<Safety and health campaign slogan>



<Related photo>