

NATIONAL PROFILE ON OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH OF THAILAND, 2012



Occupational Safety and Health Bureau
Department of Labour Protection and Welfare
Ministry of Labour



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Preface

The Government of Thailand has recognized the importance of Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) issues in its National Agenda “Decent Safety and Health for Workers”, making the reduction of preventable occupational accidents and illnesses a development target. To provide directions for the development of OSH in Thailand, the 3rd OSH Master Plan was developed together with important strategies and action plan. It is necessary to continually mobilize collaboration among relevant parties including both public and private sectors, so as to enhance safety and health at work for our valuable resources – workers in all sectors – while working towards national development.

The Department of Labour Protection and Welfare (DLPW), as the main government authority to drive the above-mentioned National Agenda, therefore published this report on “National Profile on Occupational Safety and Health of Thailand, 2012”. The main purpose was to summarize the ongoing OSH situations and statistics, national policy and action plan for OSH development of the country, as well as to facilitate mechanisms such as OSH laws, OSH organizations, OSH personnel, and relevant projects. This report will serve necessary OSH information as the baseline for the development of policy, planning, measures and directions adopted to enhance OSH for all workers.

DLPW hopes that this publication will be useful and beneficial for public and private organizations, academic institutions, all establishments and their workers, safety officers, OSH inspectors as well as concerned and interested individuals, and will contribute to the achievement of the overall goal of creating safer and better workplaces.



(Mr. Arthit Issamo)

Director-General

Department of Labour Protection and Welfare

21 August 2012

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National Profile on Occupational Safety and Health of Thailand, 2012

1. Occupational Accidents and Diseases Statistics

Data of Bureau of National Statistics in March 2012 shows that total population of Thailand is 67.80 millions where 13.43 millions are under 15 years of age and the rest 54.37 millions are over 15 years of age. Of these 54.37 millions, 38.96 millions are workforce where 38.19 millions are being employed, 0.29 millions are unemployed, and 0.48 millions are seasonal workers. Unemployment rate as of November, 2011 is 0.7%. In March 2012, there are total 406,121 establishments.

Of 38.19 millions of employed workers, 13.51 millions work in agriculture (35.38%) and the rest 24.68 millions work in non-agriculture (64.42%). For non-agriculture group, 6.12 millions work in manufacturing sector, 5.96 millions work in transportation, retail, and automobile and appliance repair sector, 2.95 millions work in construction sector, 2.25 millions work in hotel and food service sector, 1.67 millions work in government service and national defense, 1.13 millions work in academic sector, 1.02 millions work in transportation and warehouse sector, and 1.62 millions work in other sectors.

Employment status classification shows that 0.94% is employers, 3.79% are government employees, 13.07% are private sector employees, 12.38% are self-employed, 8.76% are in family business, and 0.04% is group assembly. Of the employed workers, age classification shows that 1.28% are children (age over 15 years old but less than 18 years old) and 98.72% are adults.

As of March, 2012, 9.04 millions (23.20%) workers registered with the Social Security Office, Ministry of Labour. The following occupational accidents and diseases statistics during 2002 – 2011 are only for insured workers. Occupational accidents and diseases statistics are obtained from the Office of Workmen's Compensation Fund (WCF), Social Security Office (SSO), Ministry of Labour.

1.1 Occupational Accident Classified by Severity Level and Workmen's Compensation during 2002 - 2011

Table 1 shows an overview of occupational accident statistics during 2002 – 2011 classified by severity level and workmen's compensation and Figure 1 shows a comparison and trend of those statistics. Table 1 indicates that during 2002 – 2011, number of injured workers has continually increased although slightly reduction was found during 2007 – 2011. However, numbers of death and occupational accident rate per 1,000 workers (all cases and severe cases (not included leave from work < 3 days cases)) have reduced. Possible reason for this evidence is an average workmen's compensation paid per case may be increased in 2010 in comparison with 2002.

Figure 1 indicates that during 2002 – 2011, occupational accident rate per 1,000 workers for all cases and severe cases have reduces while during 2002 – 2007, workmen's compensation paid has increased with decreasing trend until 2009 and slightly increased in 2010. These statistics indicate that workmen's compensation paid per case of occupational accident has increased until 2007 with decreasing trend afterwards.

1.2 Number of Occupational Accidents (All Cases and Severe Cases) During 2002 - 2011

Figure 2 shows trend of occupational accident, during 2002 – 2007, all case and severe case accidents are an overturn bell shape and have reduced afterwards while numbers of accident were nearly constant during 2009 – 2010 and reduced once again in 2011.

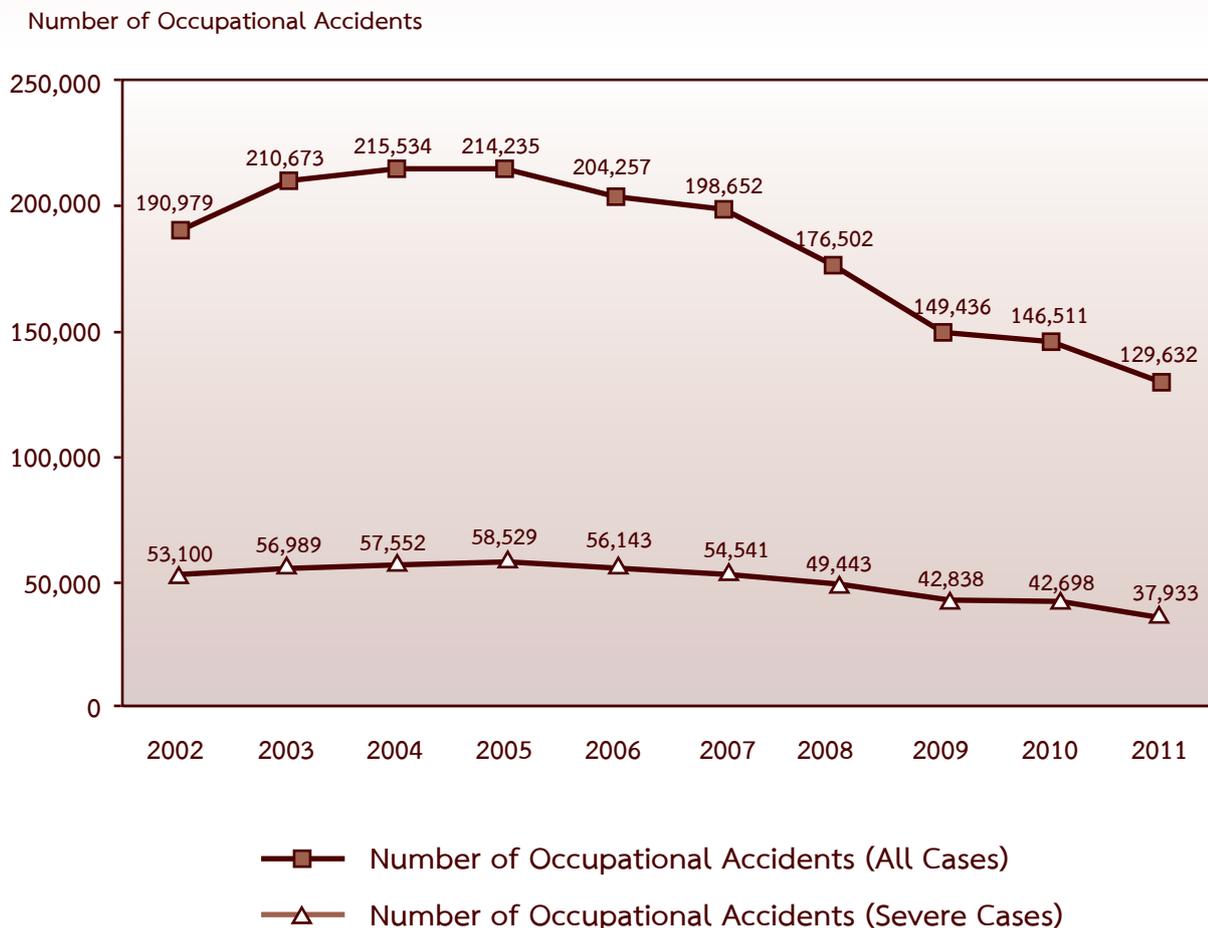
Table 1 Occupational Accident Statistics during 2002 – 2011 Classified by Severity Level and Workmen's Compensation

Year	No. of Employees	Decided Cases								Occupational Accident Rate per 1,000 Workers		Workmen's Compensation (Million Baht)
		Death (1)	Disability (2)	Lost of Organ (3)	Leave from work > 3 days (4)	Leave from work < 3 days (5)	All Cases (1-5)	Severe Cases (Not included leave from work < 3 days cases) (1-4)	All Cases (1-5)	Not included leave from work < 3 days cases (1-4)		
2002	6,541,105	650	14	3,424	49,012	137,879	190,979	53,100	29.20	8.12	1,220.14	
2003	7,033,907	787	17	3,821	52,364	153,684	210,673	56,989	29.95	8.10	1,480.36	
2004	7,386,825	861	23	3,775	52,893	157,982	215,534	57,552	29.18	7.79	1,490.19	
2005	7,720,747	1,444	19	3,425	53,641	155,706	214,235	58,529	27.75	7.58	1,638.37	
2006	7,992,025	808	21	3,413	51,901	148,114	204,257	56,143	25.56	7.02	1,684.23	
2007	8,178,180	741	16	3,259	50,525	144,111	198,652	54,541	24.29	6.67	1,734.90	
2008	8,135,606	613	15	3,096	45,719	127,059	176,502	49,443	21.70	6.08	1,688.35	
2009	7,939,923	597	8	2,383	39,850	106,598	149,436	42,838	18.82	5.39	1,569.19	
2010	8,177,618	619	11	2,149	39,919	103,813	146,511	42,698	17.92	5.22	1,592.63	
2011	8,222,960	590	4	1,630	35,709	91,699	129,632	37,933	15.76	4.61	1,616.52	

Figure 1 Occupational Accident Rate per 1,000 Workers (All Cases and Severe Cases) and Workmen's Compensation during 2001 – 2011



Figure 2 Number of Occupational Accidents (All Cases and Severe Cases) During 2002 - 2011



1.3 Top 10 Causes of Occupational Accidents during 2003 - 2011

Table 2 shows Top 10 causes of occupational accidents during 2003 – 2011. The first cause of occupational accident is cut or stabbed by materials or objects, the second cause is materials/objects collapsed/felt on top, and the third cause is materials or objects or chemical substances splashed into eyes. In 2011, the first cause of occupational accident, cut or stabbed by materials or objects, was 10 times higher than that of the tenth occupational accident, results of extreme heat/exposed to heat.

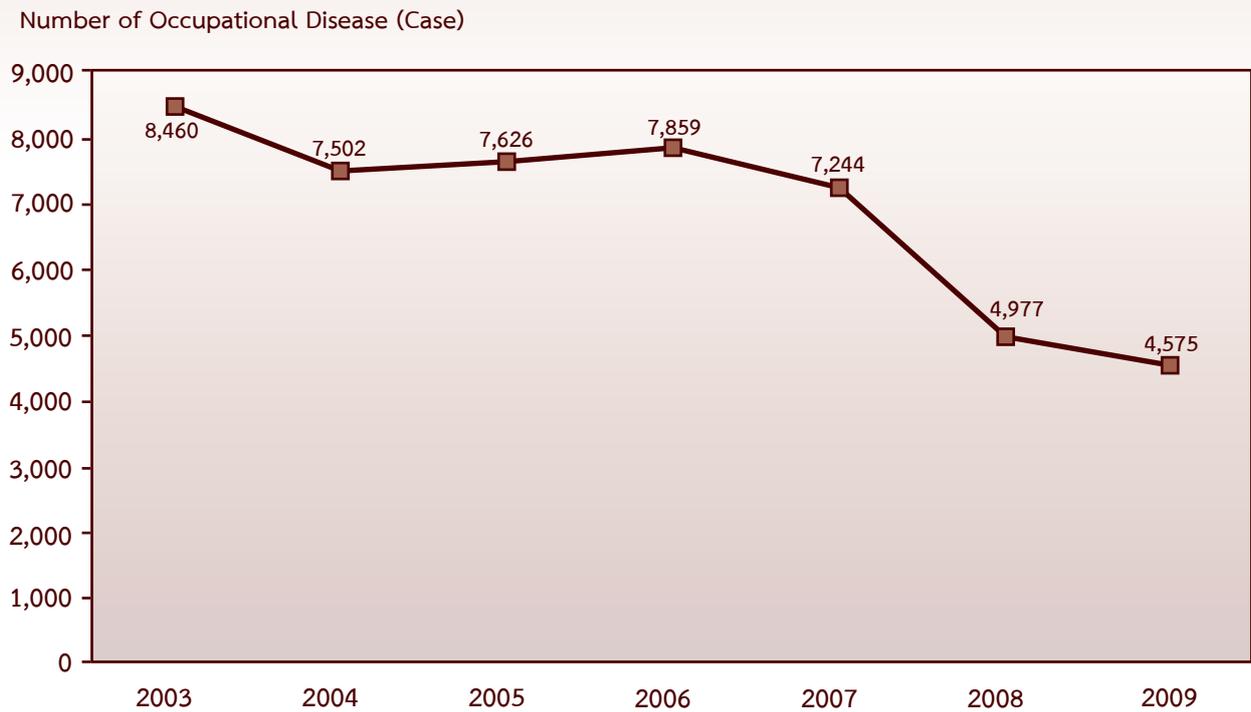
Table 2 Occupational Accident or Diseases Statistics (All Cases) during 2003 – 2011
Classified by Top 10 Causes of Accidents

Causes of Accident	Year								
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
1. Cut/stabbed by materials/objects	52,249	53,198	51,834	49,655	47,385	41,502	34,485	33,648	29,382
2. Materials/objects collapsed/felt on top	28,318	27,970	28,737	27,265	26,285	22,506	19,376	20,049	20,537
3. Materials/objects/chemicals splashed into eyes	35,987	37,215	36,107	33,664	32,649	29,518	23,697	22,732	19,471
4. Hit/crashed by materials/objects	36,340	38,074	36,415	35,217	33,425	29,884	25,021	24,186	18,863
5. Pinched/pulled by materials/objects	13,783	14,214	14,085	13,242	12,963	11,961	9,948	10,300	9,158
6. Fall from height level	7,923	8,976	9,299	9,362	9,540	8,874	8,112	7,478	7,113
7. Fall, slip	5,265	5,905	6,523	6,140	6,423	6,591	6,501	6,438	5,879
8. Vehicle accident	6,729	6,082	6,249	6,045	6,448	5,691	5,288	4,979	4,423
9. Diseases related with work's nature of conditions	8,460	7,502	7,626	7,859	7,244	4,977	4,575	5,047	4,340
10. Results of extreme heat/exposed to heat	5,194	5,538	5,064	4,753	4,634	4,104	3,257	3,240	2,780

1.4 Occupational Disease Cases during 2003 - 2009

Figure 3 displays trend of occupational disease cases during 2003 – 2009. Number of occupational disease cases has decreased but slightly increased during 2005 – 2006.

Figure 3 Occupational Disease Cases during 2003 - 2009



1.5 Size of Establishment and Number of Occupational Accident Cases

Table 3 shows occupational accidents or diseases statistics (all cases) during 2003 – 2011 classified by size of establishment. In 2011, the highest occupational accident cases is establishment having 200-499 workers follow by 20-49 workers, and >1,000 workers, respectively.

**Table 3 Occupational Accident or Diseases Statistics (All Cases) during 2003 – 2011
Classified by Size of Establishments**

Size of Establishments (No. of workers)	Year								
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
1-4	4,349	5,256	5,758	5,404	5,568	5,009	5,035	4,469	-
5-9	9,431	9,925	10,226	9,625	9,893	8,740	8,028	7,570	22,437
10-19	15,653	15,936	16,278	16,177	15,334	13,904	12,759	12,038	11,002
20-49	31,536	31,998	32,742	30,179	29,282	26,477	23,114	22,610	20,388
50-99	26,707	27,683	27,606	26,765	25,153	23,195	19,182	18,258	15,158
100-199	33,702	35,150	33,317	30,157	29,666	26,127	23,103	22,134	17,562
200-499	41,996	42,283	41,944	41,482	38,642	33,113	25,884	26,448	22,134
500-999	22,360	22,917	21,735	20,489	19,992	18,075	14,290	14,349	12,727
> 1,000	23,939	24,386	24,629	23,979	25,122	21,862	18,041	18,635	19,226
Total	210,673	215,534	214,235	204,257	198,652	176,502	149,436	146,511	129,632

1.6 Occupational Accident Classified by Age

Table 4 shows occupational accident classified by age (all cases) during 2003 – 2011. In 2011, the highest occupational accident cases are age between 25-29 years old follow by 30-34 years old, and 20-24 years old, respectively.

**Table 4 Occupational Accident or Diseases Statistics (All Cases) During 2003 – 2011
Classified by Age**

Age	Year								
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
13-19	11,472	15,827	10,318	12,654	11,648	10,342	7,738	8,111	6,960
20-24	39,926	52,287	36,204	42,790	37,946	31,617	23,799	23,116	20,023
25-29	38,895	52,862	39,910	50,473	47,015	40,520	32,728	36,652	24,971
30-34	26,242	36,465	27,388	36,898	37,233	33,180	28,907	22,254	24,831
35-39	17,167	25,511	18,593	25,935	26,871	24,625	21,741	21,556	19,253
40-44	10,082	15,879	11,528	16,930	17,772	16,677	15,611	15,440	14,665
45-49	5,761	9,347	6,823	10,161	10,883	10,451	9,944	10,192	9,750
50-54	2,765	4,756	3,267	5,346	5,956	5,852	5,765	5,789	5,730
55-59	992	1,892	1,254	2,301	2,521	2,488	2,409	2,580	2,591
> 60	382	708	421	769	807	750	794	819	858

1.7 Occupational Accident or Disease Statistics (All Cases) Classified by Type of Establishment

Table 5 shows occupational accident or disease cases (all cases) during 2003 – 2011 classified by size of establishment. In 2011, the highest occupation accident cases are metal manufacture follow by commercial establishments, and other establishments, respectively.

Table 5 Occupational Accident or Diseases Statistics (All Cases) during 2003 – 2011
Classified by Type of Establishment

Type of Establishment	Year									
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	
1. Survey and Mining	1,171	1,240	1,072	1,073	978	1,255	722	723	602	
2. Food/beverage manufacture	17,845	16,518	15,882	15,226	14,931	10,107	12,880	12,571	10,888	
3. textile/ornament manufacture	17,485	16,147	14,386	13,676	11,895	8,207	8,326	7,583	6,313	
4. Forestry, wood products	13,983	13,403	11,501	10,008	8,706	4,978	5,838	5,637	4,471	
5. Paper products, printing	5,133	5,429	5,115	4,777	4,924	6,140	3,763	3,600	3,318	
6. Chemical/petroleum products	18,670	18,887	17,587	16,936	16,517	8,592	12,278	22,315	11,203	
7. Non-metal element products	5,338	5,726	5,673	5,207	4,912	3,908	3,530	3,625	3,093	
8. Basic metal manufacture	13,020	13,766	13,080	12,358	11,719	6,674	8,184	8,061	7,443	
9. Metal products	38,679	39,300	38,542	38,255	35,573	20,351	25,634	25,939	23,381	
10. Vehicle assembly	16,293	15,951	16,671	15,198	14,028	16,957	9,855	11,486	10,303	
11. Other manufacture	2,918	3,058	2,788	2,604	2,664	3,227	1,782	1,844	1,423	
12. Utilities	603	628	515	534	516	1,038	504	460	419	
13. Construction, machine installation, dig water-well	15,728	18,982	20,979	20,201	21,021	19,888	15,184	12,919	10,619	
14. Transportation	5,920	6,132	6,489	6,096	6,017	17,027	5,094	5,061	4,566	
15. Commercial	20,507	21,624	22,992	22,247	23,194	105,760	18,818	18,038	16,278	
16. Other	17,380	18,743	20,963	19,861	21,057	94,103	17,044	16,649	15,312	
Total	210,673	215,534	214,235	204,257	198,652	328,212	149,436	146,511	129,632	

1.8 Organ of Occupational Accidents

Table 6 shows occupational accident cases (all cases) during 2003-2011 classified by organ with total of 2 organs. In 2011, top 3 organs of occupation accidents are (1) fingers, (2) multiple organs, and (3) eyes.

**Table 6 Occupational Accident or Diseases Statistics (All Cases) during 2003 – 2011
Classified by Organ**

Organ of Occupational Accident	Year								
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
1. Head	7,190	7,463	7,434	7,350	7,005	5,467	4,693	4,536	4,070
2. Eyes	42,835	44,300	43,335	40,414	39,193	35,099	28,209	26,753	23,087
3. Nose	643	683	645	632	650	588	502	484	442
4. Ears	468	489	462	424	375	371	302	277	238
5. Mouth/teeth/jaw/and other oral organs	904	973	1,015	931	932	795	680	647	622
6. Face/cheek/eyebrow/chin/neck	4,600	4,731	4,864	4,571	4,842	4,936	4,429	3,741	3,095
7. Neck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	467	422
8. Back	5,101	4,627	4,878	5,039	4,976	4,309	4,381	4,242	3,855
9. Rib/costa border/body	1,204	1,309	1,329	1,374	1,338	1,122	995	962	842
10. Chest and thoracic organs	1,652	1,657	1,798	1,845	1,696	1,499	1,297	1,239	1,038
11. Pelvic/abdomen and abdominal organs	513	502	531	493	432	397	355	368	321
12. Sexual organ	107	118	88	88	90	93	81	72	61
13. Shoulder/scapular/arnpit	2,146	2,168	2,275	2,251	2,393	2,119	1,864	1,809	1,622
14. Arms/elbow	11,116	11,087	11,575	10,746	10,190	9,044	7,609	7,742	6,783
15. Wrists	4,826	5,047	5,087	4,950	4,858	4,401	3,761	3,929	3,512
16. Hands	14,908	14,924	14,534	13,688	13,517	12,296	10,169	10,046	8,812
17. Thumbs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,217	7,478
18. Fingers	62,250	63,333	61,347	58,376	55,516	49,244	41,078	32,612	29,157
19. Waist	304	380	393	399	363	274	273	232	191
20. Hip/buttock	732	826	858	902	874	796	705	669	582
21. Legs/shin/calf/knee	10,790	11,107	11,043	10,970	10,663	9,416	8,271	8,080	7,248
22. Ankles	3,856	4,198	4,182	4,121	4,234	3,866	3,499	3,465	2,930
23. Feet/heel/skin bridging toes	12,940	13,402	13,703	13,001	12,695	10,904	9,305	9,158	8,216
24. Toes	8,611	9,247	8,962	8,826	8,581	7,418	6,452	6,354	5,718
25. Multiple organs injury	12,302	12,201	13,154	12,058	12,451	11,246	10,120	9,856	8,851
26. Blood circulation system	49	33	113	60	155	101	112	61	79
27. Others	370	447	344	397	298	364	294	493	360

1.9 Provinces with High Occupational Accidents

Table 7 and 8 shows provinces with high occupational accident cases and occupational accident rate per 1,000 workers (all cases) in 2011 and 2010, respectively. In 2010 and 2011, provinces with the highest occupational accident cases and occupational accident rate per 1,000 workers (all cases) are Bangkok and Samut Prakan, respectively.

Table 7 Top 10 Provinces with high occupational accident cases and occupational accident rate per 1,000 workers (all cases) in 2011

No.	Province	Number	No.	Province	Rate
1	Bangkok	37,229	1	Samut Prakan	34.90
2	Samut Prakan	25,754	2	Samut Sakhon	25.31
3	Chonburi	10,475	3	Chachoengsao	23.30
4	Samut Sakhon	9,369	4	Phetchabun	22.68
5	Pathumthani	7,024	5	Nakhon Pathom	21.09
6	Rayong	6,219	6	Nakhon Sawan	20.73
7	Chachoengsao	4,500	7	Trang	19.39
8	Nonthaburi	3,794	8	Satun	18.87
9	Nakhon Pathom	4,009	9	Udonthani	18.74
10	Ayutthaya	4,038	10	Singburi	18.43

Table 8 Top 10 Provinces with high occupational accident cases and occupational accident rate per 1,000 workers (all cases) in 2010

No.	Province	Number	No.	Province	Rate
1	Bangkok	39,229	1	Samut Prakan	38.91
2	Samut Prakan	25,754	2	Samut Sakhon	29.75
3	Chonburi	10,475	3	Chachoengsao	26.29
4	Samut Sakhon	9,369	4	Trang	24.84
5	Pathumthani	7,024	5	Singburi	24.70
6	Rayong	6,219	6	Nakhon Sawan	24.37
7	Chachoengsao	4,500	7	Nakhon Pathom	21.06
8	Nonthaburi	4,038	8	Nakhon Nayok	21.06
9	Nakhon Pathom	4,009	9	Rayong	20.94
10	Ayutthaya	3,794	10	Udonthani	20.58

2. OSH Policy, Guidelines and Work Plans

2.1 Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand

The Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand, B.E. 2550 (A.D. 2007) as proclaimed in the Government Gazette on 24 August A.D. 2007, Part 6, Rights and Liberties in Occupation, Section 44 maintains that “A person has the right to security in respect of safety and welfare at work, including security in the living both during the working life and upon leaving the state of employment.”

2.2 Government Policy

On Tuesday, 11 December A.D.2007 the government cabinet had adopted the resolution to announce the policy on “Decent Safety and Health for Workers” as the national agenda proposed by the Ministry of Labour (MOL). It is recognized that “labour” is the main factor to strengthen the economic system and ensure active trade liberalization with security by A.D. 2016. Collaboration from all relevant sectors is considered necessary to achieve the following 7 objectives, namely:

- 1) Labour’s work security has been promoted under the National Master Plan on Occupational Safety, Health and Environment
- 2) Labour in all sectors work under safe environment
- 3) Workers’ awareness and knowledge on OSH are improved
- 4) Occupational accident and injury rates are continuously reduced
- 5) OSH information is fully accessible by the workers
- 6) Workers are protected under effective health and safety surveillance system
- 7) Safety culture is built-up among workers

There has been inter-ministerial collaboration in the development and implementation of this National Master Plan. Various sub-committees have been established under the Administrative Committee of the National OSH Agenda, which comprises of representative from over 20 agencies.

The current government cabinet led by Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra announced the national administration policy at the National Assembly on Tuesday, 23 August A.D. 2011, encompassing 8 topics for which the 7 issues on labour are included in Topic 4 - Social and Quality of Life Policy. This government has considered labour as a main factor to promote the industrial growth, along with labour market, labour skill, and labour relation. In addition, labour both in the formal and informal sectors shall be protected under the Thai labour standards, with special emphasis on occupational safety and health, as well as employment conditions and welfare.

2.3 National Economic and Social Development Plan

The 11th National Economic and Social Development Plan (A.D. 2012-2016) is considered strategic plan to provide roadmap for the country development. This national plan maintains the vision of “People are living with harmony, social equality, fare, and are immunized to respond to changes”. Mission, objectives, goals, strategies and directions for the country development have been established. For labour protection and welfare, the guidelines and strategies for development are emphasized on the promotion of basic labour rights at work, especially on occupational safety and health, number of working hours, non-discrimination, more opportunity for female and elderly workers as well as workers with disabilities. Regional and inter-regional collaborations for the promotion on these issues are also encouraged. Necessary standards on labour management shall be developed or improved to ensure worker’s rights and protection in compliance with the international labour standards.

2.4 National Master Plan on Occupational Safety, Health and Environment

The Ministry of Labour of Thailand, by the Department of Labour Protection and Welfare, has issued the Master Plans on Occupational Safety, Health and Environment to provide directions for the development of OSH in Thailand. The 1st ever OSH Master Plan was launched in 2001 and was effective for 2002-2006. This first plan consisted of 9 main topics; OSH standards development, implementation, OSH administration structure, expansion of the scope of OSH protection, OSH personnel development, OSH information system, OSH research/study, prevention of occupational accidents and injuries, and promotion of OSH activities. Following the 1st plan, the 2nd OSH Master Plan was developed for 2007-2011. Under this 2nd plan, 5 main strategies and 33 sub-projects were established with special emphasis on the enhancement of skill and performance among OSH personnel, improvement of efficiency in OSH management, encouragement and promotion of OSH collaboration among relevant sectors, development of OSH information system and dissemination. At the end of this 2nd plan period, the 3rd OSH Master Plan was developed as the National Master Plan on Occupational Safety, Health and Environment (2012-2016), by integrating the OSH Master Plan of the Ministry of Labour with the Action Plan for the National Agenda “Decent Safety and Health for Workers”. This 3rd Master Plan has been approved by the government cabinet, and is currently effective.

The concept and principles in administration of the plan has been based on the continuously review of the action plans and results. The National Agenda “Decent Safety and Health for Workers” has been placed as the main target to achieve, with the following missions:

- 1) Establish or develop OSH standards
- 2) Monitor, control and follow-up OSH issues those are problematic
- 3) Develop and promote OSH activities
- 4) Develop OSH management system

The 3rd Master Plan covers 5 strategic issues as follows:

Strategy 1 Promoting labour protection with effective OSH standards

Goals

- 1) Employers, employees and relevant parties follow the OSH standards/laws.
- 2) OSH standards/laws are developed in consistent to economic and social factors and applicable for current OSH situation.

Strategic Approaches

- 1) Develop OSH standards/laws those are consistent to the international levels
- 2) Monitor, follow-up, and develop effective OSH inspection system
- 3) Conduct researches/studies to develop innovations on OSH
- 4) Promote and encourage the establishments to implement sustainable OSH management system

Strategy 2 Promoting and strengthening the capacity of OSH networks

Goals

Existing OSH networks are strengthened and all relevant sectors get involve or actively participate in OSH activities.

Strategic Approaches

- 1) Encourage and support the establishment of effective OSH network to cover all relevant sectors
- 2) Develop and strengthen OSH network
- 3) Expand the coverage and enhance the capacity by seeking the collaboration with international OSH networks

Strategy 3 Developing and managing OSH knowledge

Goals

- 1) Effective system for managing body of knowledge on OSH has been developed and fully functional.
- 2) OSH learning center for people at all ages has been established.
- 3) OSH knowledge shall be accessible to all groups of population.

Strategic Approaches

- 1) Conduct researches/studies to develop body of knowledge on OSH that covers all sectors (including students at each educational level, both registered and unregistered workers, etc.)
- 2) Promote and build-up technical capacity on OSH among relevant personnel in all sectors
- 3) Create network among relevant organizations, both local and international, for OSH information and knowledge sharing
- 4) Establish OSH learning center

Strategy 4 Developing OSH information system

Goals

Developing information technology system to facilitate OSH administration and OSH services effectively

Strategic Approaches

- 1) Establish, develop, and integrate OSH databases and networks
- 2) Built-up or develop skill and capacity in information technology of OSH personnel in all sectors
- 3) Develop and promote OSH information system and services
- 4) Use of computer and communication technology for OSH information dissemination and public relation

Strategy 5 Developing effective mechanism for OSH administration

Goals

Establish policy, administrative structure, plans, measures, work processes, procedures, tools and necessary resources for the development of effective OSH administration

Strategic Approaches

- 1) Develop effective mechanisms to facilitate OSH administration and to integrate OSH activities
- 2) Encourage all relevant sectors to get involve or actively participate in OSH administration and activities
- 3) Develop proactive public relation system for OSH
- 4) Establish an autonomous agency to responsible for OSH administration and activities, with unity.

The administrative mechanism, including monitoring, evaluation, and review of plan are conducted twice a year (once a year for the review of project planning). These will be done by the sub-committee or the working group that has been authorized by the National Committee on Occupational Safety, Health and Working Environment, or the Administrative Committee for the National OSH Agenda “Decent Safety and Health for Workers”. These sub-committees or working groups comprised of representatives from over 20 concerned authorities/organizations. Progress and outcomes derived from the implementation of this National Master Plan will be proposed to the National Committee for OSH Promotion, chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister, for further consideration.

3. Occupational Safety, Health and Working Environment Laws

3.1 Laws concerning OSH and working environment under the administration of Department of Labour Protection and Welfare, Ministry of Labour.

- **Occupational Safety, Health and Environment Act, B.E. 2554 (A.D. 2011)**

The main points of the OSH Act are as follows:

Chapter 1 : The OSH Act stipulates the duties of employer to provide employee safe and hygienic work conditions and work environment, and employer shall be responsible for the expenditure related to such provision.

Chapter 2 : The OSH Act stipulates that establishment provides OSH administration, management and implementation in accordance with OSH standards. In addition, employee shall have duties to comply with such standards.

Chapter 3 : The OSH Act stipulates that there shall be the Occupational Safety, Health and Environment committee, comprising of 8 representatives from each party of the government, the employer and the employee as well as 5 OSH experts; totaling 29 persons. The committee is authorized to present opinions to the Minister in the promulgation of ministerial regulations, notifications or regulations for the implementation of the OSH Act, as well as opinions concerning OSH policy, work plans and measures. In addition, the OSH committee is authorized to provide opinions to government agencies related to OSH promotion.

Chapter 4 : The OSH Act stipulates that employer shall conduct hazard assessment and study of work environment impact on employee, as well as prepare OSH work plan and employee control and supervisory plan. In addition, employer shall submit the results of hazard assessment and impact study, as well as work plan and employee control and supervisory plan to the Department of Labour Protection and Welfare.

Chapter 5 : The OSH Act stipulates that safety inspector is authorized to inspect, record image and sound of work environment concerning OSH issues, as well as to enquire the fact, investigate or request establishment to stop the action that violates the OSH laws, as well as request the establishment to correct, to improve or to conduct in accordance with the OSH laws.

Chapter 6 : The OSH Act stipulates that there shall be the Safety, Health and Environment Fund, directed by the OSH Fund Management Committee, comprising of 5 representatives from each party of the government, the employer and the employees as well as; totaling 15 persons. The OSH Fund shall be set up with grant from Thai government and further grants for operating from various sources such as fine/penalty, government subsidy, donation, and the return on investment. The OSH Fund shall serve as funding for OSH operations and activities such as OSH promotion campaigns/projects, OSH research and development, and loans for the OSH improvement of establishments.

Chapter 7 : The OSH Act stipulates that there shall be the Institute for the Promotion of Occupational Safety, Health and Environment, responsible for promoting, and supporting the development of measures concerning OSH, as well as conducting OSH research in Thailand.

Chapter 8 : The OSH Act stipulates that the employer who violates or fails to comply with the OSH laws shall be penalized with imprisonment of not more than 1 year or a fine not exceeding 400,000 baths or both.

- **Labour Protection Act, B.E. 2541 (A.D. 1998)**

The OSH Act has come into force since July 16th, 2011, resulting in abrogating of subordinate legislations by default. In addition, certain subordinate laws that are not effective prior to July 16th, 2011, are not be able to be enforced in principles. However, the transitory provision, section 74 of the OSH Act stipulates that “During the period where the Ministerial Regulation, Notification or rule for the execution of this Act has not been issued, the Ministerial Regulation issued under Chapter 8 of the provisions of the Labour Protection Act, B.E. 2541 (A.D. 1998) shall apply *mutatis mutandis*”. Therefore, the Ministerial Regulations issued under Chapter 8 of the Labour Protection Act, B.E. 2541 (A.D. 1998) still effective are as follows.

1. Ministerial Regulation, Ministry of Labour, on the prescribing of standard for administration and management of occupational safety, health and work environment in confined space, B.E. 2547 (A.D. 2004)
2. Ministerial Regulation, Ministry of Labour, on the prescribing of standard for administration and management of occupational safety, health and environment in relation to ionizing radiation, B.E. 2547 (A.D. 2004)
3. Ministerial Regulation, Ministry of Labour, on the prescribing of criteria and method of conducting health check up of employees and forwarding the results of health check up to labour inspectors, B.E. 2547 (A.D. 2004)

4. Ministerial Regulation, Ministry of Labour, on the prescribing of standard for administration and management of occupational safety, health and environment in relation to diving work, B.E. 2548 (A.D. 2005)
5. Ministerial Regulation, Ministry of Labour, on the prescribing of standard for administration and management of occupational safety, health and environment in relation to heat, light and noise, B.E. 2549 (A.D. 2006)
6. Ministerial Regulation, Ministry of Labour, on the prescribing of standard for administration and management of occupational safety, health and environment, B.E. 2549 (A.D. 2006)
7. Ministerial Regulation, Ministry of Labour, on the prescribing of standard for administration and management of occupational safety, health and environment in relation to construction work, B.E. 2551 (A.D. 2008)
8. Ministerial Regulation, Ministry of Labour, on the prescribing of standard for administration and management of occupational safety, health and environment in relation to machinery, crane and radiator, B.E. 2552 (A.D. 2009)
9. Ministerial Regulation, Ministry of Labour, on the prescribing of standard for administration and management of occupational safety, health and environment (No.2), B.E. 2553 (A.D. 2010)

Apart from the aforementioned laws, there are other OSH and working environment provisions prescribed under other Acts as follows:

- 1) The State Enterprise Relations Act, B.E. 2543 (A.D. 2000)
 - Notification by the State Enterprise Relations Committee on the minimum employment standards of state enterprises, B.E. 2549 (A.D. 2006)
- 2) The Home Worker Protection Act, B.E. 2553 (A.D. 2010)
- 3) The Labour Protection Act, B.E. 2541 (A.D. 1998), amended by (No.2) B.E.2551 (A.D. 2008):
 - Ministerial Regulations No. 2, B.E. 2541 (A.D. 1998) on the works that may be harmful to the health and safety of employees

- Ministerial Regulations No. 6, B.E. 2541 (A.D. 1998) on the works for which an employer is prohibited from requiring an employee under eighteen years of age to perform.
- Ministerial Regulations No. 11, B.E. 2541 (A.D. 1998) on protection of maritime transport and logistics worker
- Ministerial Regulations on allowed loading weights, B.E.2547 (A.D.2004)
- Ministerial Regulations on protection of agricultural workers, B.E. 2547 (A.D.2004)
- Ministerial Regulations on welfare facilities at workplaces, B.E. 2548 (A.D.2005).

3.2 OSH and working environment laws administered by the Social Security Office, Minister of Labour

The aforementioned laws include:

- 1) The Workmen's Compensation Fund Act, B.E. 2537 (A.D. 1994)
- 2) The Ministerial Notification by Minister of Labour on diseases classified by nature or working conditions or work related factors, B.E. 2550 (A.D. 2007)

3.3 OSH related laws administered by other agencies.

Those laws are of the following lists:

- 1) The Factory Act, B.E. 2535 (A.D. 1992) administered by the Ministry of Industry.
- 2) The Hazardous Substances Act, B.E. 2535 (A.D. 1992), amended by (No. 2), B.E. 2544 (A.D. 2001) and (No. 3) B.E. 2551 (A.D. 2008) administered by the Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Defense, and Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives.
- 3) The Public Health Act, B.E. 2535 (A.D. 1992), amended by (No. 2), B.E. 2550 (A.D. 2007) administered by the Ministry of Public Health.
- 4) The National Environment Conservation Act, B.E. 2535 administered by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.

- 5) The Building Control Act B.E. 2522 (A.D. 1979), amended by (No. 2), B.E. 2535 (A.D. 1992), (No. 3), B.E. 2543 (A.D. 2000) and (No. 4), B.E. 2550 (A.D. 2007) administered by the Ministry of Interior.
- 6) The Atomic Energy for Peace Act, B.E. 2504 (A.D. 1961), amended by (No. 2) B.E.2508 (A.D. 1965) administered by the Ministry of Science and Technology.
- 7) The Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Act, B.E. 2550 (A.D. 2007) administered by the ministry of Interior.
- 8) Relevant local laws.



4. Government Agencies Responsible for OSH Issues

The administration of occupational safety and health in Thailand has been mainly emphasized on the industrial sector although the scope of OSH regulations, projects and activities has recently been extended to cover agricultural and home-based workers. Three main ministries involving in OSH issues in the country are the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Public Health and the Ministry of Industry.

4.1 Ministry of Labour

The Ministry of Labour of Thailand (MOL) is a governmental organization that plays the important role on labour protection including OSH issues. It has functions and responsibilities in enactment, enforcement and administration of legal issues as well as in the promotion of labour safety, health, and welfare. Laws on OSH and relevant standards have been stipulated and enforced with monitoring and inspection to ensure the required compliances. Meanwhile, the improvement of working conditions and environment has been vigorously promoted to ensure safety and health at the workplace. In addition, recovery and rehabilitation programs have been developed to secure workers from occupational hazards. Under MOL, the responsible agencies for OSH works are the Department of Labour Protection and Welfare (DLPW) and the Social Security Office (SSO).

The Department of Labour Protection and Welfare has been authorized for OSH promotion, including research and study and capacity development in OSH. Under DLPW, the direct responsible agency is the Occupational Safety and Health Bureau (BOSH). BOSH was established under the reconstruction of the organization and an authority of Department of Labour Protection and Welfare by merging the previous 2 agencies; the Occupational Safety and Health Inspection Division (OSHID) and the National Institute for the Improvement of Working Conditions and Environment (NICE). The objectives of its establishment are to support the mission on OSH administration to be more systematic and effective, to facilitate its services by decentralizing to 12 Regional Occupational Safety and Health Centers, to decrease the redundancy of works, to emphasize on the network participation as well as to act as the host agency for the driving of national agenda on “Decent Safety and Health for Workers” to achieve the ultimate outcomes. The establishment of BOSH was declared in the Government Gazette and has been effective since 11 December 2009.

BOSH has the following authorities and functions:

- 1) Set up and develop OSH standards,
- 2) Monitor and supervise employers, workers, related individuals, juristic persons or relevant agencies to comply with the OSH laws or standards,

- 3) Provide services on authorization, registration and supervision of activities or services prescribed under the OSH laws or standards,
- 4) Develop a system for OSH protection, inspection and control measures,
- 5) Develop an OSH information technology system and network,
- 6) Conduct researches or studies to identify OSH problems and to develop appropriate measures for further adoption of OSH laws or standards,
- 7) Develop OSH network and promote for participation,
- 8) Coordinate or support the functions of relevant agencies, as been assigned.

OSH services have been provided through 12 Regional Occupational Safety and Health Centers established in the central and regional areas. In addition, there are 76 Provincial Labour Protection and Welfare Offices, taking care of OSH administration and legal issues at provincial level. In Bangkok Metropolitan Area (BMA), there are together 10 Labour Protection and Welfare Offices, taking care of such works in their responsible areas.

4.2 Ministry of Public Health

The Ministry of Public Health of Thailand (MOPH) is a main governmental organization responsible for all public health issues in the country. It also has roles and functions in occupational health and safety such as the provision of occupational health services in all sectors through its technical unit and health care network system. The major technical unit responsible for occupational health activities is the Bureau of Occupational and Environmental Diseases under the Department of Disease Control (formerly the Division of Occupational Health, Department of Health). Main functions of the Bureau of Occupational and Environmental Diseases, include:

- 1) Conduct researches or studies to develop policy, set up standards and guidelines for occupational health services and management,
- 2) Determine and develop occupational health and safety surveillance system as well as appropriate measures for the prevention and control of occupational diseases and work-related diseases,
- 3) Transfer occupational health knowledge and technology, and promote the surveillance system to public, private, local administration organizations and the general people,
- 4) Coordinate and support the development of mechanisms and networks for surveillance and prevention of occupational or work-related diseases,

- 5) Develop and transfer knowledge on medical diagnosis and treatment of occupational or work-related diseases,
- 6) Jointly carry out assigned projects or works, and support the functions of relevant agencies.

4.3 Ministry of Industry

The Ministry of Industry of Thailand issues permission for factory setting up and operation, administers laws on safety in industrial settings, conducts inspection to ensure legal compliance and to renew the permit. The concerned agency for OSH is the Department of Industrial Works (DIW).

Through inspection, DIW plays vital roles to ensure that industrial operations are safe for the workers and the environment. The responsible agencies for this affair are the Safety Technology Bureau, the Bureau of Hazardous Substances Control and the Industrial Cluster Bureau.

The Safety Technology Bureau is a technical agency with the following duties and responsibilities:

- 1) Conduct studies/analyses for development of industrial safety programs,
- 2) Supervise and coordinate industrial business operation activities for energy conservations,
- 3) Establish industrial safety policy, action plans and procedural standards,
- 4) Promote and support the capability and efficiency development of industrial safety,
- 5) Conduct industrial safety inspection, monitoring and follow-up,
- 6) Coordinate on preventive and control measures for factories with hazardous substances,
- 7) Monitor and supervise certified agencies involving in implementation of industrial safety activities,
- 8) Serve as the national focal point to coordinate action plans for the project on Awareness and Preparedness for Emergency at Local Level (APELL) according to the mandate of UNEP/IE,
- 9) Collaborate with various local and international OSH organizations,

- 10) Develop technical manuals/guidelines on industrial safety and disseminate to relevant parties for implementation,
- 11) Jointly carry out assigned works and support the relevant agencies.

The Bureau of Hazardous Substances Control is responsible for ensuring legal compliance on prevention and use of volatile substances, determine and develop various measures to prevent and control chemical hazards as well as further impacts. It also serves as the focal point for participation in developing international agreements on industrial businesses.

The Industrial Cluster Bureau is responsible for supervising and monitoring factory operation to ensure legal compliances for the use of hazardous substances and to prevent the use of volatile substances. It also has authority to enforce laws nationwide.



5. Other Related Occupational Safety and Health Offices, Associations, and Organizations

5.1 Safety and Health at Work Promotion Association (Thailand)

The first National Safety Week of Thailand was held during June 1st – 3rd, 1986. The organizing committee at that time also recommended to establish the OSH association and to annually conduct the National Safety Week. The OSH association to be established would participate in organizing the annual National Safety Week while the Department of Labour (at that time) would act as the national coordinator. The Safety and Health at Work Promotion Association (Thailand) was thus established with the following objectives:

- 1) To promote OSH at work
- 2) To publicize OSH knowledge and experiences
- 3) To coordinate with various public and private organizations in order to promote and execute OSH activities
- 4) To support coordination among various public and private organizations to enhance OSH at work
- 5) None political involvement

The Safety and Health at Work Promotion Association (Thailand) was registered on May 29th, 1987. Office is located at the Department of Labour Protection and Welfare Building, Talingchan, Bangkok.

5.2 Occupational Health and Safety at Work Association

Occupational Health and Safety at Work Association was established with the following objectives:

- 1) To promote OSH technical knowledge among members and the society at large
- 2) To promote advancement of OSH professional
- 3) To support and coordinate with workplaces and industrial communities in order to promote safety, health, and workers's quality of life
- 4) To enhance technical cooperation on OSH with various public and private organizations or associations, both locally and internationally

- 5) To promote cooperation and relationship among members
- 6) To provide OSH technical resources for members
- 7) None political involvement

The Occupational Health and Safety at Work Association is located at Department of Occupational Health and Safety, Faculty of Public Health, Mahidol University, Bangkok.

5.3 Ergonomics Society of Thailand

Ergonomics Society of Thailand was established with the following objectives:

- 1) To be a center for knowledge, opinions, and experiences exchanging as well as to produce and publish media, publications, and articles on Ergonomics
- 2) To support OSH programs related to Ergonomics for entrepreneurs and interested parties
- 3) To coordinate with other public and private organizations in order to execute Ergonomics activities
- 4) To promote and support studies and researches on Ergonomics development
- 5) To collaborate and seek for mutual benefits among public and private organizations both locally and internationally in order to promote Ergonomics program
- 6) To support Ergonomics issues of Thailand

The Ergonomics Society of Thailand was registered on August 6th, 2001. Office is located at Department of Occupational Health and Safety, Faculty of Public Health, Mahidol University, Bangkok.

5.4 Safety at Work Promotion Foundation

Department of Labour Protection and Welfare established the Safety at Work Promotion Foundation with the following objectives:

- 1) To promote and support activities for workers' safety, health, and welfare
- 2) To receive and provide financial, technical, and other asset support in order to promote OSH and welfare for workers
- 3) To coordinate with the public sectors and private organizations in order to enhance OSH and welfare for workers

- 4) To execute public charity programs or coordinate with other charity organizations for public at large
- 5) None political involvement

The Safety at Work Promotion Foundation was registered on October 4th, 1993. Office is located at the Department of Labour Protection and Welfare Building, Talingchan, Bangkok.

5.5 Occupational and Environmental Diseases Association of Thailand

Occupational and Environmental Diseases Association of Thailand was established with the following objectives:

- 1) To be a technical and information center on occupational and environmental medicine and other related fields
- 2) To support and organize educational activities and trainings on occupational and environmental medicine and other related fields
- 3) To support technical services and knowledge and information dissemination on occupational and environmental medicine and other related fields
- 4) To support and develop research on occupational and environmental medicine and other related fields
- 5) To establish technical cooperation and coordination on occupational and environmental medicine and other related fields with several public and private organizations both nationally and internationally.
- 6) To promote unity, collaboration, understanding, and strengthen relationship among members in order to generate benefits from occupational and environmental medicines and other related fields for the public at large and the nation as a whole
- 7) To promote quality, moral, and professional ethics among occupational and environmental medicine practitioners and those in other related fields, especially among members

The Occupational and Environmental Diseases Association of Thailand was registered on November 6th, 2003. Office is located at the Occupational and Environmental Medicines Center, Nopparat Rachathani Hospital, Bangkok.

5.6 Occupational Health Nursing Association of Thailand

Occupational Health Nursing Association of Thailand was established with the following objectives:

- 1) To serve as a focal organization in order to promote education, research, technical services on occupational nursing as well as coordination among OSH nursing members both locally and internationally
- 2) To coordinate for the development and upgrade professional practices among OSH nursing groups or related OSH associations both locally and internationally
- 3) Technical coordination as well as to provide recommendation in order to solve OSH nursing issues together with public and private organizations both nationally and internationally

The Occupational Health Nursing Association of Thailand was registered on September 3rd, 2007. Office is located at the Department of Public Health Nursing, Faculty of Public Health, Mahidol University, Bangkok.

6. Occupational Safety and Health Personnel

6.1 Occupational Safety and Health Programs and Number of Graduates (As of March 31st, 2012)

No.	Institutions	Name of Program	Year Program Started	Type of Program		Number of Graduates	
				Regular	Special	Cumulative	Academic Year 2011
1	Mahidol University Faculty of Public Health, Department of Occupational Health and Safety, Bangkok	Bachelor of Science (Occupational Health and Safety) Master of Science (Industrial Hygiene and Safety) Master of Science (Industrial Hygiene and Safety) Master of Science (Occupational Health and Safety) Master of Science (Occupational Health and Safety)	1969 1982 2000 2012	✓ ✓ - ✓	- - ✓ -	1,194 223 71 0	57 10 10 0
2	Burapha University Faculty of Public Health, Department of Industrial Hygiene, Chonburi Province	Bachelor of Science Program in Industrial Hygiene and Safety Master of Science Program in Occupational Health and Safety	1993 2008	✓ ✓	✓ ✓	469 0	40 10
3	Chandrakasem Rajabhat University Faculty of Science, Bangkok	Bachelor of Science (Safety Science)	1995	✓	-	273	24

No.	Institutions	Name of Program	Year Program Started	Type of Program		Number of Graduates	
				Regular	Special	Cumulative	Academic Year 2011
5	Huachiew Chalermprakiet University Faculty of Public Health and Environment, Department of Occupational Health and Safety, Bangkok	Bachelor of Science (Occupational Health and Safety)	1996	✓	-	596	104
6	Khonkaen University Faculty of Public Health, Department of Environmental Health Science, Khonkaen Province	Bachelor of Science (Public Health) Program in Occupational Health and Safety	2002	✓	-	294	43
		Bachelor of Science (Public Health) Program in Environmental Health Science and Occupational Health and Safety	2010	✓	-	14	4
7	Valaya Alongkorn Rajabhat University Faculty of Science and Technology, Pathumthani Province	Bachelor of Science, Program in Safety Science	2004	✓	-	9	13
		Bachelor of Science, Program in Safety Science	2004	-	✓	0	13
8	South-East Asia University Faculty of Engineering, Department of Safety Engineering, Bangkok	Bachelor of Engineering (Safety Management Engineering)	2005-2011	✓	-	170	50
		Bachelor of Engineering (Safety Engineering)	2012	✓	-	0	0
9	Thammasat University, Faculty of Public Health, Pathumthani Province	Bachelor of Science (Public Health) Major in Occupational Health and Safety	2006	✓	-	59	30

No.	Institutions	Name of Program	Year Program Started	Type of Program		Number of Graduates	
				Regular	Special	Cumulative	Academic Year 2011
10	Ubon Ratchathani University, College of Medicine and Public Health, Ubon Ratchathani Province	Bachelor of Science Program in Public Health, Major in Occupational Health and Safety	2006*	✓	-	50	0
11	Suan Dusit Rajabhat University Faculty of Science and Technology, Bangkok	Bachelor of Science (Safety Science)	2008	✓	-	0	16
12	Naresuan University Faculty of Public Health, School of Environmental and Occupational Health, Pitsanulok Province	Bachelor of Science Program in Occupational Health and Safety	2008	✓	-	0	40
13	Nakhonratchasima College Faculty of Public Health and Health Technology, Nakhonratchasima Province	Bachelor of Public Health Program in Occupational Health and Safety	2008	✓	-	0	14
14	Vongchavalitkul University, Nakhonratchasima Province	Bachelor of Science (Occupational Health and Safety)	2009	✓	-	0	0
15	Eastern Asia University Faculty of Public Health, Pathumthani Province	Bachelor of Science Program in Public Health	2010	✓	-	0	**

No.	Institutions	Name of Program	Year Program Started	Type of Program		Number of Graduates	
				Regular	Special	Cumulative	Academic Year 2011
16	Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University School of Health Science, Nonthaburi Province	Bachelor of Public Health, Major in Occupational Health and Safety (2 years Continual Program and Certificate Program)	***				
17	Suranaree University of Technology Institute of Medicine, School of Occupa- tional Health and Safety, Nakhonratchasima Province	Bachelor of Science Program in Occupational Health and Safety	***				
18	Bansomdejchaopraya Rajabhat University Faculty of Science and Technology, Department of Safety Science, Bangkok	Bachelor of Science Program in Safety Science	***				
19	Rajabhat Rajanagarindra University Faculty of Science and Technology, Department of Safety Science, Chachoengsao Province	Bachelor of Science Program in Safety Science	***				
20	Thaksin University Phatthalung Campus Faculty of Health and Sports Science, Department of Industrial Hygiene and Safety, Phatthalung Province	Bachelor of Science Program in Occupational Health and Safety	***				

No.	Institutions	Name of Program	Year Program Started	Type of Program		Number of Graduates	
				Regular	Special	Cumulative	Academic Year 2011
21	Phayao University, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Occupational Health and Safety, Phayao Province	Bachelor of Science (Occupational Health and Safety)	2008	✓	-	0	44
22	Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University Faculty of Industrial Technology, Department of Safety Technology and Occupational Health, Bangkok	Bachelor of Science Program in Safety Technology and Occupational Health	***				

* Stop enrolling students since academic year 2008 in order to minimize program duplication within the University. Thus, there are only 2 classes of student.

** The first class graduation is expected in academic year 2013. Currently, there are 64 and 88 of freshman and sophomore students, respectively.

*** Not yet received information

6.2 Numbers of Occupational Health Doctor and Nurse

6.2.1 Board of Occupational Medicine (Preventive Medicine): 129 doctors

6.2.2 Occupational Medicine (2 months training program): 625 doctors

6.2.3 Occupational Nurse (10 days short-course training program): 896 nurses

(As of March 31st, 2012. Information from Occupational Medicine Center, Nopparatratchathani Hospital)

6.3 Numbers of several levels of Safety Officer

Total Safety Officer of all levels is 534,300 and classified as follows;

6.3.1 Safety Officer in supervising level: 358,708 persons

6.3.2 Safety Officer in executive level: 132, 981 persons

6.3.3 Safety Officer in technical level: 12,033 persons

6.3.4 Safety Officer in advanced technical level: 794 persons

6.3.5 Safety officers in professional level: 29,784 persons

(As of February 29th, 2012. Information from Registration Group, Occupational Safety and Health Bureau, Department of Labour Protection and Welfare, Ministry of Labour)



7. OSH Inspection and Law Enforcement

7.1 The OSH inspection system

The 3 criteria of OSH inspection system are the law enforcement: to ensure legal compliances by the employer with appropriate enforcement in the case of regulation violation; the support: to enhance understanding of objectives prescribed by the OSH laws for proper implementation and the facts studying: to collect information on OSH problems impeding compliances with laws, regulations, orders, rules and labour standards to enhance required improvement.

Safety inspection in the workplaces consisted of 5 types as follows:

7.1.1 The regular inspection is the very first or the repeated OSH inspection at workplaces where the actions of the safety officer has been concluded, to ensure the workplace compliance with regulation. It is not the requested inspection, follow-up, accident inspection, or special inspection.

7.1.2 The requested inspection is the OSH inspection at certain workplaces where complaints have been lodged on non-compliance or violation against OSH laws.

7.1.3 The follow-up inspection is the continual inspection after the regular inspection, requested inspection, or special inspection. It is to ensure that the manufactures implement the workplace conditions as required by the OSH laws or the suggestions of the Labour inspector. At each workplace, the follow up inspection may be taken more than one time.

7.1.4 The accidental inspection is the OSH inspection at workplaces where and when unusual incidents or accidents occurred.

7.1.5 The special inspection is the specific OSH inspection as required for certain cases or projects to enhance OSH practices at the workplace.

Presentation of inspection results is conducted by the Labour inspector after completion of inspection to identify the 3 areas of:

1. Compliance; meaning that certain workplaces or employers observed the related notifications or ministerial regulations.
2. Non-compliance; meaning that certain workplaces or employers failed to observe the related notifications or ministerial regulations.
3. Not obligated; meaning that certain workplaces or employers were not required to observe or implement the related notifications or ministerial regulations.

OSH Inspection Statistics

In 2011, the Department of Labour Protection and Welfare conducted total of 18,946 OSH inspections in 17,039 establishments throughout the country. The total number of employees covered by these inspections was 1,526,448. Of this number, 223,503 were in production units. The inspection results revealed that 15,230 establishments (89.39%, covered 1,316,677 employees) complied to the OSH laws, while 1,809 establishments violated the OSH laws.

From these results, the labour inspectors conducted the following actions:

- Provide advices: 2,097 establishments
- Order of document submission: 7 establishments
- Order of presentation: 22 establishments
- Order of compliance: 37 establishments
- Stop machine operation: none
- Collect evidence for legal action: 75 establishments

7.2 Responsible agencies for safety inspection and laws enforcement

The Department of Labour Protection and Welfare comprises of the following agencies, responsible for inspection and OSH laws enforcement namely:

7.2.1 The central agency (Bangkok Metropolitan)

7.2.1.1 The Occupational Safety and Health Bureau has authority to stipulate and develop standards concerning occupational safety, health and environment, as well as stipulate directive measures and procedures for OSH and working environment inspection, including patterns and methodology to be exercised by Provincial Labour Protection and Welfare Offices, Local Labour Protection and Welfare Working Groups and Occupational Safety and Health Centers. It also has the duty to ensure legal compliances by the employer and employees as required by OSH laws, the State Enterprise Relations Act in the part of OSH and working environment and other related laws in technical aspects. In addition, the OSH Bureau provides working coordination with and support for Provincial Labour Protection and Welfare Offices, Local Labour Protection and Welfare Working Groups and Occupational Safety and Health Centers concerning occupational safety, health and environment issues.

7.2.1.2 The Local Labour Protection and Welfare Working Groups of 10 localities in Bangkok are authorized to inspect and enforce implementation of OSH laws at the primary levels according to the regulated formality and indicators.

7.2.2 The regional agencies

7.2.2.1 Occupational Safety and Health Center of 10 areas over the country are authorized to perform technical OSH inspection and to inspect and enforce implementation of OSH laws, as well as to investigate accidents and diseases related to work and support the establishment to conduct health and working environment surveillance.

7.2.2.2 The Provincial Labour Protection and Welfare Offices hold authorization to enforce implementation of OSH laws in the respective constituency at the same primary level. There are altogether 76 provincial Labour protection and welfare offices.

7.3 Numbers of OSH inspectors

There are totally 486 OSH inspectors, qualified under the OSH Act, B.E. 2554 (A.D. 2011) and authorized to inspect compliances of the establishment with OSH laws (data available on 31st March 2012).

7.4 OSH inspectors trainings programs

Basic training programs are organized to enhance required technical knowledge for central and regional Labour inspectors. This is to ensure that OSH inspectors are able to provide proper suggestions to related departments / workplaces. To build up good OSH attitudes among labour inspectors is also essential parts of the training. At present, the duration of OSH training course is 15 days. Two courses of 20 participants each has been conducted annually.

The training course comprises of theory of technical presentation, inspection practices at the workplaces and assessment. Qualified trainees will receive the certificate of training completion. Accordingly, there are 501 trained labour inspectors from 33 courses (the data available on 31st July 2012).

7.5 Penalty

Violation against OSH laws is subject to the fine of not exceeding 400,000 bahts, or imprisonment of not more than 1 year, or both.

8. OSH Trainings as Required by the Laws

Department of Labour Protection and Welfare organizes the following training courses on OSH as required by the laws:

1. Safety officers course for supervising level
2. Safety officers course for executive level
3. Safety officers course for technical level
4. Safety officers course for advanced technical level
5. Safety officers course for professional level
6. OSH training course for the committee of occupational safety, health, and environment in the workplace
7. OSH training course for chiefs of safety department
8. Basic training on fire prevention and control
9. Training course on fire drills
10. OSH course on confined space for granting permission
11. OSH course on confined space for supervisors
12. OSH course on confined space for assistant
13. OSH course on confined space for operators working in confined space

9. Occupational Safety and Health Research

During the past 2-3 decades, research activities continue to play important role for the development of OSH in Thailand. Such research activities have been conducted by several government agencies as well as academic institutions offering OSH programs. Most of these researches or studies have been conducted with objective to identify OSH problems in Thailand and to develop appropriate measures or new technologies/innovations on OSH.

For government sector, the main agencies that involve in OSH research include the Bureau of Occupational and Environmental Diseases, Department of Disease Control (formerly the Division of Occupational Health, Department of Health) and the Occupational Safety and Health Bureau, Department of Labour Protection and Welfare (formerly, research unit was the National Institute for the Improvement of Working Conditions and Environment). A large number of research projects have been launched for the development of OSH in Thailand and many projects are still ongoing.

Unfortunately, OSH research activities conducted by the Department of Labour Protection and Welfare have less important role in the past 3-4 years. Obviously, this associated to the reconstruction of the organization and authority of the Department by merging the National Institute for the Improvement of Working Conditions and Environment with the Occupational Safety and Health Inspection Division, to establish the Occupational Safety and Health Bureau. Administrative policy and strategies have also been changed to focus on the development and implementation of OSH laws as well as the OSH promotion by means of conducting OSH activities and campaigns. In addition, the Bureau has been facing some limitations on budget and internal facilities those significantly affect its capacity to conduct OSH research during this period of difficulty.

However, under the Occupational Safety, Health and Environment Act, B.E. 2554 (A.D. 2011), the Institute for Promotion of Occupational Safety, Health and Environment shall be established to promote the OSH activities. The Institute shall also perform duties as stipulated in this Act, including researches and studies on OSH. Thus, it is largely expected that this Institute will become a center of excellence in OSH research in a long run.

10. OSH Promotion Campaigns

The promotion of occupational safety and health has been considered a key success factor for the OSH administration in Thailand. Currently, many OSH promotion campaigns or activities are under the responsibility of DLPW. Several important campaigns are summarized as follow:

10.1 National Safety Week

On 18th December 1985, the cabinet resolution eventually met an agreement to establish a National Safety Week Organizing Committee, which is a committee at national level. National Safety Week has been considered a center of technical OSH information. It is an important event for OSH seminars, exchange of OSH information, promotion of OSH campaigns and activities to raise OSH awareness among workers, employers, and relevant parties. The first National safety week was organized between 1st– 3rd June 1986 featuring OSH seminars and nationwide OSH campaigns. Since then, the National Safety Week has been organized annually until now.

In 2000, the National Safety Week Organizing Committee agreed to launch National Safety Week in 5 regions; the North, the Northeast, the East, the West and the South, in respect of extending OSH knowledge and technology from the central to regions. Since 2000, National Safety Week events have been continually taking places in various provinces.

10.2 Contest on Workplaces of Excellence in OSH

The first contest was launched in 1986, as an important part of the National Safety Week event, with following objectives:

- To promote better standards and system of OSH management among workplaces,
- To encourage and convince the workplaces to recognize the important of OSH program for the reduction of occupational accidents and injuries and for organization's image and reputations.

10.3 Zero Accident Campaign

DLPW launched the ongoing Zero Accident Campaign in 2001 to motivate the workplaces on improvement of OSH and working environment. The workplaces with continually reduction in occupational accidents or injuries and meet the following criteria will be awarded with the emblem of honour from the Minister of Labour:

- 1) Gold Award – for any workplace with 10,000,000 working hours or over without occupational accidents resulting in work leave.
- 2) Silver Award – for any workplace with 3,000,000 – 9,999,999 working hours without occupational accidents resulting in work leave.
- 3) Bronze Award – for any workplace with 1,000,000 – 2,999,999 working hours without occupational accidents resulting in work leave.
- 4) Primary Award – for any workplace with no occupational accidents resulting in work leave in the past year regardless of accumulated working hours.

From 2001-2011, there are over 1,000 workplaces awarded.



11. OSH Information System and Network

DLPW has recognized the capacity of computer and information technology and its applications for processing and publicizing OSH information by several approaches at various levels.

11.1 Publications and Printed Materials

Publications and printed materials produced by DLPW are accessible to target groups at various levels and of different forms, including:

- OSH Newsletter to report activities and news in the field of OSH
- OSH Factsheet, a one page publication to provide general OSH knowledge and suggestions through simplified languages
- OSH Manuals or Guidelines, which are technical documents providing detailed information on various OSH topics
- OSH Posters, many are also available with setup kits for exhibition

11.2 Website

An official website on occupational safety, health, and environment has been developed and maintained at www.oshthai.org to be an information pool on technical OSH knowledge and information including:

- OSH laws and standards issued by the Ministry of Labour, and other relevant legislations
- Technical information on OSH derived from study or research projects carried out by DLPW
- Case studies of OSH accidents and investigation in Thailand and overseas
- Lists of registered training units those conduct OSH training as prescribed by the law, e.g. safety officers training course, etc.
- ASEAN-OSHNET covers various activities carried out by the networks, meeting outcomes of the networks committee. Information is provided through connected OSH websites of the 10 ASEAN member countries.
- OSH statistics such as cases of occupational accidents and injuries, occupational or work-related diseases.

- Technical OSH documents, report forms, or OSH media those are available in electronic form and could be downloaded from the website.
- Web-board for general discussion on OSH issues and exchange of OSH information.

11.3 Other Forms of Media

Other forms of media include some video presentations as well as animations for the younger target groups of children and youth. These are aiming to create their OSH awareness so that they can further apply OSH concepts in their future working life.



12. International Collaboration (ASEAN Occupational Safety and Health Network; ASEAN-OSHNET)

1.1 Background

ASEAN member states, comprising of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Laos PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, together established ASEAN Occupational Safety and Health Network (ASEAN-OSHNET), in 1999, in accordance with the resolution of the Workshop on Preparation of 4-year Action Plan of ASEAN-OSHNET in Jakarta, Indonesia, between November 28th – 30th, 1999. The Coordinating Board of ASEAN-OSHNET comprises of delegates from ASEAN member states shall meet to coordinate the operation of ASEAN-OSHNET once a year. ASEAN member states shall alternate to host the Coordinating Board Meeting (CBM), as well as to take a position of ASEAN-OSHNET secretary, the coordinator of ASEAN-OSHNET, 3 year at a time.

The objectives of ASEAN-OSHNET

- 1) To enhance the cooperation and the integration of OSH centers/institutes across ASEAN countries
- 2) To develop capacities of OSH centers/institutes in OSH training and research across ASEAN countries
- 3) To promote the exchanges of OSH information, skill and training among ASEAN countries
- 4) To promote the development and to unite the OSH standards and practices across ASEAN countries

Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare at that time had approved on February 17th, 2000 that Department of Labour Protection and Welfare has become a member of ASEAN-OSHNET. The Director-General of the Department of Labour Protection and Welfare has been assigned to join in as a committee of the Coordinating Board of ASEAN-OSHNET, as well as the National Institute for the Improvement of Working and Environment at that time has been assigned to take responsibility as Thailand focal point.

1.2 Key Missions of ASEAN-OSHNET

Program Area	Coordinator
Information	Thailand
Training	The Philippines
Research	Indonesia
Standards	Malaysia
Inspection	Singapore
National OSH Framework	Vietnam
SMEs and Informal Economy	Cambodia

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