

Plenary Session

[PL] Plenary Session

June 30, 09:00 - 12:00
Room: Convention Hall 11, COEX

Chairperson:
President, KOSHA

[PL-01] **Strategies and Programmes of Safety and Health for the Future**

Sudha Pillai

Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment, India

[PL-02] **Impact of Changing Working Conditions on Workers' Protection**

Joachim Breuer

German Social Accident Insurance, Germany

Globalisation is dramatically changing economies and societies in industrialised as well as emerging countries. The process of globalisation is itself a combination of economic, technological, socio-cultural and political forces. Especially the changing economic and socio-cultural aspects are influencing working conditions, around the world. The impact differs concerning the consequences for industrialised and for emerging countries but strongly influences both. Concerning occupational safety and health (OSH) the main differences are in the varying starting positions: In industrialised countries the workforce is presently confronted with increasing pressure of competition, new technologies, new work forms and an increase of growing virtualisation of work. This is furthermore accompanied by demographic change with the consequence of longer working life and a growing general fear of job loss, accompanied by a dramatic increase of precarious and temporary work.

It is a great challenge for enterprises and supporting institutions dealing with OSH (such as labour inspections

and other OSH advisers) to manage new emerging OSH risks associated with the described transformations. The situation of emerging countries is further complicated by non- or rudimentary existing OSH institutions and structures and, as an aggravating factor, by limited financial resources.

Due to the fast developing globalisation there is a worldwide tendency to strengthen strategic approaches in OSH. This applies to the EU and its member states as well as to other developed regions of the world, such as Southeast Asia. It is strongly enforced by strategic approaches, e.g. by the International Labour Organisation (ILO Promotional Framework for OSH) and the World Health Organisation (WHO Global Plan of Action on Workers' Health 2008-2017). Presently, various strategic approaches and measures of different EU member states are recognised, monitored and associated with the EU Community Strategy 2007-2012. OSH strategies have to be adapted to the individual needs of national or regional societies and economies.

Additionally, there is a strong need for specifically adapted prevention measures dealing with the mentioned new and emerging risks on an operational and an individual level. The German Social Accident Insurance (DGUV) is following both approaches, supporting and executing common strategic measures on the one hand and developing and supporting individual and prevention measures to tackle new and emerging risks on the other hand. Some examples of new problems and possible good practice approaches will be presented.

[PL-03] **New Challenges and Opportunities in Occupational Safety and Health**

John Howard

NIOSH (National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health), United States

Introduction In the early 1900s, the following classified ad appeared in the London Times: "Men wanted for hazardous journey. Low wages, bitter cold, long hours of complete darkness. Safe return doubtful. Honour and recognition in the event of success. Signed E. Shackleton."

The next morning 5,000 men were lined up outside the Times' offices ready to sign on for the dangerous mission, whatever it might be. Ernest Shackleton was seeking crew members for an expedition to reach the South Pole on a ship called the Endurance.

As safety and health professionals, our mission for the 21st Century is not to lead men and women into hazardous territory on an once-in-a-lifetime journey to achieve a moment of glory. Rather, we want to sustain every day a quality of life for workers that brings them home whole and healthy every night. Our mission doesn't draw huge crowds overnight. But our numbers are expanding and public support for our efforts is strong and growing.

Though Shackleton never reached the South Pole, he achieved fame for his explorations because he responded to the challenge by seizing opportunities as they arose and executed so well his carefully thought out plan. He proved himself exceptionally adept in finding creative, life-saving solutions for impossible situations.

As we work in the third millennium, do we have a plan, a strategic plan, to guide us? Like Shackleton, we should be prepared to modify that plan as we move forward to achieve our objectives. Our goals are simple: We want to reduce injuries and illnesses, create safety-conscious workplace cultures in our nations and workplaces and secure public confidence in our efforts.

Ladies and gentlemen take a moment and look around; everyone in this auditorium today shares these goals, as we consider our joint mission of safe work for the 21st Century. In the next few minutes I want to talk briefly about just a few of the challenges and opportunities we face in our global efforts. . . .

[PL-04] Safety and Health Management Systems

Daniel Podgorski

Central Institute for Labour Protection - National Research Institute, Poland

In some countries specifications for OSH management systems (OSH-MS) are laid down in voluntary standards

while in others are established by legal regulations. On the international level, the most important document on OSH-MS is ILO-OSH 2001. The ILO Guidelines are intended for application at a national and an enterprise levels, which constitutes their principal advantage as compared with other OSH-MS standards. Furthermore, the document reflects fundamental ILO values, such as tripartism and relevant ILO conventions (e.g. Convention on OSH no. 155).

The assessment/management of risks is regarded as a core element of OSH-MS. Enterprises should establish procedures comprising identification of all possible hazards and estimation of their risk level. The risk estimation should be based on the information on the probability of occurrence and the severity of potential harm of the hazardous event.

Another important issue related to OSH-MS effectiveness is workers' participation. The scientific evidence as well as ILO Guidelines indicate that workers and their OSH representatives should be involved in OSH-MS. However some studies revealed that the level of workers' participation in OSH-MS is fairly low and should be increased.

Research concerning economic benefits of OSH show that cost effectiveness should be considered in the promotion of OSH-MS. One of the economic incentives could be the system of a differentiated premium rate of work accident insurance.

The OSH-MS do not function well in SMEs. ILO-OSH 2001 foresee elaboration of OSH-MS guidelines tailored to the SMEs' needs, but no good model for such a system exists. A number of enterprises implementing OSH-MS will significantly grow if a specific OSH-MS model for SMEs is developed and disseminated.

Additionally, it is important to guarantee that the promotion of OSH-MS is addressed in the international and national strategies, and that the national promotional programmes are in line with the ILO-OSH 2001 Guidelines.