

Regional Meeting

Asia-Pacific I [AP01] Challenges in Occupational Safety and Health in Asia - Experiences of ASEAN- OSHNET

July 1, 13:30 – 15:45
Room: 103, COEX

Co-Chairperson:

Thongdeng Singthilath, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare,
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Ho Siong Hin, Ministry of Manpower,
Singapore

[AP01-01] ASEAN-OSHNET – Embracing Differences, Pooling Resources, Sharing Experiences

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ASEAN-OSHNET Secretariat, Malaysia

The active and effective promotion of regional cooperation as a means of improving the working conditions in ASEAN countries became one of the priorities in the Hanoi Plan of Action adopted at the 6th ASEAN Summit in Hanoi in 1998, which highlighted the need to establish and strengthen networks in education and training, particularly in those aspects promoting OSH, especially considering the relevance and importance of OSH to the protection of both human and material resources and thereby to sustainable socioeconomic development. As the predominant, united voice of South East Asia in OSH, ASEAN-OSHNET is essentially an integrated regional platform – linked to the broader ASEAN platform – for Member Countries to jointly face globalised OSH challenges and threats while facilitating the convergence of ideas, information and knowledge; and the pooling of experiences, expertise and resources; which will hopefully elevate OSH in the South East Asian region to a higher plane in the long term. ASEAN-OSHNET's main vision is to become an effective regional institution for fostering a safe and healthy working environment to bring about a productive and competitive workforce as one of the means to a better quality of life. The overall implementation of ASEAN-OSHNET's programmes, activities and projects is in general guided by its 4-year Plans of Action. To date, 6 priority OSH areas, called Programme Areas, have been identified, namely: (1)

Research; (2) Standards; (3) Training; (4) Information; (5) Inspection; and (6) National OSH Frameworks. In order to streamline efforts in these 6 Programme Areas, 6 ASEAN-OSHNET Member Countries have been assigned with the main responsibility for coordinating each of the areas, namely Indonesia (Research), Malaysia (Standards), Philippines (Training), Singapore (Inspection), Thailand (Information) and Vietnam (National OSH Frameworks). These coordinator countries are called Programme Area Coordinators. In fulfilling their OSH duties and responsibilities, both the national OSH enforcement authorities and the national OSH training & education centres of ASEAN-OSHNET Member Countries are faced with several major challenges. In general, the most daunting of these is that related to funding. Other major challenges include: (1) the development and maintenance of sufficient and competent manpower; (2) the acquisition and maintenance of adequate and up-to-date equipment; (3) the establishment and upkeep of adequate physical facilities, i.e. premises, training facilities, R&D facilities etc.; and (4) the establishment and maintenance of adequate information management systems, especially ICT systems, including both hardware and software. Nevertheless, the funding component is generally paramount, mainly because the availability of funds also critically affects a Member Country's ability to cope with the other challenges. These challenges represent constraints which limit the ability of both the national OSH enforcement authority as well as the national OSH training & education centre to fulfil the tasks, duties and functions expected of them. For instance, some ASEAN-OSHNET Member Countries, despite their quite apparent zeal and commitment, are still heavily dependent on foreign and international assistance in implementing major national OSH programmes, projects and activities.

[AP01-02] Developing and Effective Implementation of National Programme on OSH in Line with ILO Convention No 187

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Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, Vietnam

Basing on draft of ILO convention No 187 in 2003, and technical support of ILO specialists, The Vietnam OSH programme has been developed, and approved in 2006 by Government

The programme has been formulated and reviewed because of analysis of the national situation regarding OSH, including analysis of the national PROFILE for OSH. Specific targets to 2010 are to reduce by 5% the



annual occupational accident frequency rate in particularly hazardous sectors (mining, construction, and use of electricity); to reduce by 10% the number of newly contracted cases of occupational disease; to train more than 80% of OSH officers and workers in jobs with strict OSH requirements...

The programme has seven Projects from 2006 - 2010 with state budget of VND 242 billion (USD 15 millions), embraces capacity building of OSH State administration and Disseminating, educating, training to enhance awareness of different levels, sectors, organizations and individuals. The programme has been implemented in collaboration with other national programme. The activities of the Projects are integrated into other related activities, to contribute to the protection of workers by eliminating or minimizing, so far as is reasonably practicable, work-related hazards and risks, to promote the development of a national preventative safety and health culture.

The programme has been publicized, to the extent possible, endorsed, and launched by Government. The Programme has been developed and implemented in consultation with the representative organizations of employees (Vietnam General Confederation of Labour General Confederation of Labour, Vietnam Farmers Association), representative organizations of employers (The Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Vietnam Cooperatives Alliance a), and other social organizations (Vietnam Occupational Health Association, Vietnam Occupational Safety and Health Association). In the end of 2007, executing ministries has developed the yearly plan; 64 regions across Vietnam has the OSH target in local area to 2010, with some preliminary results.

**[AP01-03]
Practical Application of OSHMS in Indonesia**

Nasrul Sjarief

Ministry of Manpower and Transmigration, Indonesia

**[AP01-04]
Helping Small Enterprises Improve OSH and Productivity**

Chaiyuth Chavalitnitikul, Sudthida Krungkraiwoong

Ministry of Labour, Thailand

In Thailand, most of the enterprises are SMEs and they play an important role to develop of the Thai country due to

large quantities. In spite of their importance, many SMEs fail to grow and facing with OSH problems. Their working conditions need to be improved.

The Department of Labour Protection and Welfare, Ministry of Labour recognizes the problems so the National Institute for the Improvement of Working Conditions and Environment (NICE) started a project to develop OSH in SMEs in 2006 to help SMEs to improve safety and health in their work places.

The activities of the project are: selection of SMEs, organize meeting with SMEs, organize workshop in SMEs, future action plan for OSH improvement and follow-up visit. During the workshop, participants will conduct the WISE Checklist and discuss their future action plan for improvement. From the follow-up, we found that SMEs that join the Project can make various OSH improvements in their workplaces. Most of their OSH improvements were simple, practical and low cost. Some improvements could reduce number of occupational injuries or increase number of work quality or quantity. In 2007, there were 276 SMEs that joined the Project and among those SMEs, there were 222 SMEs or 80.43 percent that made OSH improvement in their workplaces. Our target in 2008, we will try to convince at least 250 SMEs to join the Project and 80 percent will make OSH improvement.

**[AP01-05]
Promoting OSH for OFWs, Philippine Experience**

Brenda Villafuerte

Department of Labor and Employment/Bureau of Working Conditions, Philippines

There are about 19.1 million Filipino workers of which 19.8 % or about 3.8 million are documented contract workers or commonly called as OFWs (Overseas Filipino Workers) either land based or sea based who are mostly deployed in Saudi, UAE, Hongkong, Kuwait, Qatar, Taiwan, Singapore, Italy, United Kingdom and Korea.

OFWs are being tagged as the country's new heroes for providing support to the Philippine economy through their remittances. Thus, the government has strengthened its policy, programs and services on contract migration in order to provide appropriate and relevant social and economic protection measures for the OFWs.

In keeping with the thrusts of the DOLE for the OFWs, a full cycle protection which include pre-deployment, deployment/onsite and post deployment/upon return is being provided to ensure fair, just and humane conditions of work thereby upholding the human dignity of OFWs

through sustained income, health and social security benefits and access to productive opportunities.

At present, the effort to achieve the goal of making the OFWs secure, safe, empowered and productive are collectively being done by the different DOLE agencies spearheaded by POEA and OWWA. A single agency approach and cross-cluster activities and services within DOLE have been intensified as a key to generate great impact on the protection and welfare of OFWs.

The DOLE Roadmap for 2008-2010 with its over-all objective of "Attaining full, decent and productive employment for the Filipino Workforce" has included strategic actions and targets towards ensuring protection of OFWs before deployment, while on site and upon return.

[AP01-06] Extending OSH Protection to Informal Economy Workplaces in Cambodia

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Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training¹,
ILO Informal Economy, Employment, and Poverty
Reduction Project², Cambodia, ILO Subregional Office for
East Asia³, Thailand

Cambodia places a high priority on improving safety, health and working conditions of informal economy workplaces. Home workers, workers in small construction sites, and workers in rural farms are typical informal economy workers who receive little safety and health protection. The Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training of Cambodia, in cooperation with the ILO, has assisted these informal economy workers in improving working conditions and productivity by using participatory training methodologies. The following steps were taken for promoting training: (1) to build collaborative networks with government agencies, workers' and employers' organizations and NGOs; (2) to visit informal economy workplaces and collect good examples in safety and health; (3) to develop participatory training programmes for informal economy workplaces by adapting the ILO's WISE (Work Improvements in Small Enterprises) training programme, and (4) to train representatives of the government, workers, employers and NGOs as safety and health trainers for extending training coverage. Participatory training programmes developed consisted of 30-item action-checklists, good example illustrations and texts explaining practical, low-cost improvement measures. The trained safety and health trainers visited and trained many informal economy

workers by using the developed participatory training programmes. The trainers, after conducting the initial training, made follow-up visits to the trained workers and assisted them in sustaining improvements. The Ministry carried out achievement workshops for the trainers and trained workers to exchange experiences. The trained Cambodia trainers reached many informal workers through their own networks. Participatory training methodologies focusing on good practice approaches and low-cost improvement measures were useful for supporting informal economy workers' improvement actions. These programmes will be incorporated into the OSH Master Plan of Cambodia and be increasingly applied as practical measures to improve safety, health and working conditions of informal economy workplaces.

[AP01-07] ILO Cooperation with ASEAN-OSHNET

Tsuyoshi Kawakami

ILO Subregional Office for East Asia

ILO and ASEAN-OSHNET (ASEAN Occupational Safety and Health Network) have been taking collaborative actions in policy, training, research and information in occupational safety and health (OSH). These collaborative actions have supported OSH good practices at workplace level and promoted functioning national policy for wider impacts. ILO Promotional Framework for OSH Convention (No 187, 2006) has provided practical guidance for ASEAN countries in developing and implementing their strategic national OSH programmes. Tripartite and inter-ministerial cooperation was promoted in the course of national OSH programme developments. This effort has ensured looking at broad national OSH needs in legislation, enforcement, injury reporting systems, or industry-specific OSH support programmes. ILO and ASEAN-OSHNET have been jointly addressing emerging OSH issues. The recent joint actions include: developing the nation's first OSH Master Plan in Cambodia, training tripartite OSH trainers for small enterprises in Lao PDR, promoting public awareness of the future Pandemic Human Influenza as a workplace issue in Thailand, and strengthening training programmes in the national OSH training centre in Vietnam. Singapore in cooperation with ILO is collecting national OSH good practices in ASEAN countries for dissemination. The ILO will continue to work together with ASEAN-OSHNET for supporting its effort in providing adequate OSH protection for all workers.



Asia-Pacific II
[AP02] Occupational Safety and Health
Systems for Asia-Pacific Region

July 1, 13:30 – 15:45
Room: 336, COEX

Chairperson:

Tom Fisher,
Australian Safety and Compensation
Council, Australia

on business. To this end work is under way to introduce reforms to the legislative framework.

There are, however, some challenges faced by Australia that will be briefly discussed in the presentation.

Expected outcome

The presentation “Recent Development in Occupational Health and Safety Strategies in Australia” will provide international delegates with an understanding of Australia’s OHS current policies and programs and future directions set in the context of its current OHS performance and regulatory framework. It is aimed to provide a strong foundation for a productive discussion at the meeting.

[AP02-01]
Recent Developments in OHS in Australia

Tom Fisher

Australian Safety and Compensation Council, Australia

Brief description

The presentation provides an overview of the current status of OHS in Australia and recent achievements including the National OHS Strategy and outlines recent changes and some of the challenges faced by Australia.

Objectives

The ASCC leads and coordinates Australia’s national effort to:

- promote best practice in occupational health and safety (OHS)
- improve workers’ compensation arrangements
- improve rehabilitation and return to work of injured workers

Its role is set in the context of Australia’s regulatory environment which involves a federation, with six states and two internal territories and a federal government. The presentation will briefly outline Australia’s legal framework and its underlying principles.

A significant achievement for the ASCC has been the development and implementation of the National OHS Strategy 2002-2012. The presentation will outline the key priorities for the Strategy and the achievements to date against those priorities.

While significant progress has been made in OHS in Australia, improvements can still be made in the area of consistency across jurisdictions and good regulation. The Australian government has a strong commitment to bringing national consistency to all regulation that impact

[AP02-02]
The Eleventh Five-year Plan of Work Safety in China

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This paper introduces the Eleventh Five-year Plan of Work Safety in China, including the back ground, objectives, major tasks, the measures to realize the objectives, and the key projects. Compared with the year 2005, the general objectives are the accident resulted death per 100 million GDP decrease 35%, industrial accidents caused death per 100,000 workers decrease 25%, major accidents that is more than 10 deaths in one accident decrease 20%, the occupational hazards serious situations is under effective control. To achieve those objectives, legislative, economical, and technical measures are introduced also. And the key matching projects such as coal mine accidents prevention, major potential hazards correction,

Key words: work safety, China, five-year plan

[AP02-03]
An Overview of Occupational Safety and Health Management by Government in Factories, Ports and Docks of India

S.K. Saxena

Factory Advice Service and Labour Institutes (DGFASLI), India

In the context of Globalisation, growth is destined to gallop at an enviable rate by the end of the current decade resulting in the OSH issues becoming highly significant in

factories, ports and docks of India. The Government of India through its nodal department Directorate General Factory Advice and Labour Institute (DGFASLI) looks into the administration of OSH in the factories, ports and docks. The Indian industry is becoming a force to reckon with in the present context and has registered factories spread over thirty two States and Seven Union territories. There is a variation in the density and type of Industries across the country. Globalization has lead to growth in diversity and complexity of technologies in the Factories. The country is served by sea routes on all the three peripheral sides and has developed twelve major ports for ships to call and discharge the cargo of all types at these ports. DGFASLI manages OSH in Factories by administration of The Factories Act 1948, enforcing The Dock Safety, Health and Welfare Act, 1986 and the regulations 1990 in ports and docks and by imparting training to all stake holders. DGFASLI also carries out academic, technical activities apart from conducting field studies on OSH matters. This paper deliberates on ensuring occupational safety and health by Government in Factories, Ports and Docks of India with the strategies towards achieving Vision 2020 apart from detailing on achievements in OSH.

KEY WORDS

Occupational Safety and Health, Government, Factories, Ports and Docks

**[AP02-04]
Standards Developers' Drive for International Harmonization**

Robert Williams

Underwriters Laboratories, United States

The presentation will address the process of standards harmonization, that is, when the technical requirements of various standards are made equivalent or identical. Although the actual words comprising the harmonized standards may be different, the performance or safety requirements embedded in the standards have been addressed equally. In the global economy, standards harmonization means that manufacturers can be assured that any product tested to a harmonized standard will meet the requirements of multiple markets relying on it. International standards harmonization is becoming more common in the United States, although it is virtually impossible to publish a US standard that is identical to an International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) standard. Deviations are usually necessary. Mr. Williams' presentation will describe some of the processes in place

for US standards developers to harmonize with international standards, the levels of harmonization that may be possible, and the challenges inherent in the process of arriving at a harmonized "global standard."

**[AP02-05]
CLEAN Workplace Program for Financial Assistance for Small-sized Enterprises in Korea**

Yong Kuk Kim

KOSHA, Korea

It is estimated that an annual average of 80,000 workers are involved in occupational accidents in Korea. Roughly 40% of the accidents occur in manufacturing industries, and 70% of these accidents are occurred in small-sized workplaces with less than 50 employees. It is because those small-sized workplaces are so financially weak that can't invest in safety facilities and improve the poor working conditions where the so-called 3Ds (Danger, Dirtiness, and Difficulty) are prevalent.

To solve these problems, KOSHA introduced a "CLEAN Workplace Program" in October, 2001, which helps workplaces eliminate all the hazardous and dangerous factors by offering financial assistance.

Through online application procedures, KOSHA quantifies risk scores for the facilities based on submitted information by applicants and provides selected workplaces with financial and technical assistance to improve their poor working environment. From 2002 to 2006, the program successfully contributed to a distinct decrease in the number of occupational accidents and of fatalities, an average of 27.2% and of 38.7% respectively.

【Industrial Accident Reduction in CLEAN Workplaces】

Category	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Average
Rate of Disaster	↓ 19.1%	↓ 18.2%	↓ 48.3%	↓ 23.6%	↓ 26.7%	↓ 27.2%
Ratio of Death per 10,000 Persons	↓ 36.3%	↓ 21.6%	↓ 57.6%	↓ 39.1%	↓ 38.7%	↓ 38.7%

* "↓" means decrease

The "CLEAN Workplace Program," mainly targeting small-sized manufacturing companies with less than 50 workers, was planned to reduce the occupational accident rate from 1.98% in 2001 to less than 1 % by 2013. According to the program, KOSHA will supports financially 10,000 accident-prone workplaces classified as hazard and dangerous industries this year.



And KOSHA is planning to increase the number of beneficiaries by 6% every year, and the program will be continued so as to create safer and more comfortable working environment until 40% of all workplaces and 70% of hazardous workplaces in Korea will be certified as "CLEAN Workplaces."

**[AP02-06]
The Changing World of Work and Occupational Health and Safety in New Zealand**

Mark Wagstaffe

National Occupational Health and Safety Advisory Committee, New Zealand

In summary, growing recognition of the risks posed by altered work arrangements has only partly found its way into the activities of OHS regulators and related agencies (like those responsible for research/standard setting and workers' compensation). New models of Occupational Health and Safety regulation may be required to address the pressures that the multiple changes in the work are imposing on Occupational Health and Safety.

**[AP02-07]
Financial Assistance for Small and Medium Enterprises**

Thomas Teo

Ministry of Manpower, Singapore

Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) often lack the resources of bigger companies to implement elaborate Workplace Safety and Health (WSH) management systems, thus requiring accessible and practical steps towards improving their Workplace Safety and Health practices and systems.

In Singapore, the government has committed a total of S\$13 million towards helping SMEs build capability in Risk Management. Termed Risk Management Assistance Fund (RMAF), the programme allows SMEs to receive funding for the engagement of WSH professional consultants and WSH training. A WSH programme that focuses on a recognition framework, bizSAFE was also introduced to motivate enterprises towards building capability and implementing Risk Management and Safety and Health Management. By banking on promotional and engagement efforts instead of regulatory and enforcement actions, the programme fosters a bizSAFE Community, which is akin to

a business ecosystem where enterprises, large companies, suppliers, service provider influence and depend on one another to develop better safety and health outcomes. The programme has five different levels of WSH management capability to achieve, each bringing a step closer in journey to deliver excellence in WSH Management System.

Through the two programmes, funding and recognition go hand-in-hand to motivate and assist SMEs towards capability building in RM and WSHMS. All these efforts are necessary in the implementation of Singapore's WSH Framework, firstly, in shifting industry mindset from following the letter of the law to taking responsibility of standards and outcomes and secondly, they emphasize the importance of good WSH management systems.

**[AP02-08]
Lessons from Asbestos-related Cancers in Japan**

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We have been investigating adverse health effects of asbestos exposure among construction workers since the mid 1980s. We are now encountering rapidly increasing asbestos-related cancers in our research cohort. We are afraid of that the current situation is merely an initial stage of asbestos-related cancers' explosion in construction industry. This report aims to share the lessons from asbestos issues in Japan with other countries. The report focuses on four topics shown below.

1. Asbestos load in environment and human lungs: Our international cooperative study showed that asbestos concentrations in urban and rural air and lung tissues of deceased people not due to asbestos-related diseases were higher in Japan than in Korea, respectively. The findings suggest the differences of environmental asbestos load between the two countries.

2. Workers compensated as asbestos-related cancers in Japan: From 2005 to 2006, the compensated mesothelioma and lung cancer amounted to 2078 and 1287, respectively. Of them, 872 and 515 were occupied by construction industry.

3. Asbestos exposure in construction industry: According to our survey, high asbestos exposure concentration, 100 fibers/ml and over, was often observed during cutting an

asbestos board by an electric circular saw from the mid 1980s to early 1990s. Measures suppressing dust exposure were insufficient then. Those heavy exposures will result in mass-outbreak of cancers in near future.

4. Ongoing asbestos exposure in demolition and rebuilding sites: Although the asbestos use was prohibited except specified limited ones in 2006, asbestos exposure in

demolition and rebuilding sites still remains. Workers in those sites are exposed to various hazards together with asbestos. Avoiding reproduction of asbestos-related diseases and other illnesses is an urgent task.

We suppose that similar situations would be common in the world. International exchange of lessons and good practices gained can facilitate resolution of the issues.