

# Occupational Safety: An All-Out Commitment to Preventing Serious Accidents

- **MOEL and KOSHA concentrate resources on helping SMEs prevent industrial accidents**
  - The Ministry of Employment and Labor (MOEL, Minister Lee Jung-sik) and the Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency (KOSHA, President Ahn Jong-ju), convened the Resolution Conference on Comprehensive Response to Prevent Serious Accidents at SMEs at KOSHA's Southern Seoul Area Office on February 19.
  - The gathering was prompted by the recent expansion of the Serious Accidents Punishment Act to businesses with fewer than fifty employees, effective since January 27 this year. The government's increased focus on enhancing industrial accident prevention capabilities among small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) has increased recognition of the need for concerted efforts to yield results in the second year of the Serious Accident Reduction Roadmap.
  - The event was attended by Minister Lee, President Ahn, and senior officials and directors of regional offices from MOEL and KOSHA. This marked their inaugural collaborative endeavor, serving as a pivotal platform for reaffirming their dedication to concerted efforts to mitigate serious accidents amid challenging circumstances and wholeheartedly advancing in practical safety management at the ground level.

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- Minister Lee led the deliberations, reviewing the progress and future plans for the Nationwide Survey on Occupational Safety and fostering discussions on effective means of support moving forward.
- During the conference, participants made a national commitment through the Declaration of Support for SMEs' Serious Accident Prevention. They pledged to prioritize efforts in preventing serious accidents at SMEs, focusing on (1) successfully completing the Nationwide Survey on Occupational Safety, (2) establishing and implementing the self-regulated prevention program, and (3) fostering a safety culture and safety awareness.
- Minister Lee stressed: "The government's immediate priority is to concentrate all available resources and capabilities on reducing confusion at the sites of accidents and easing the challenges encountered by SMEs." He urged "swift responses to businesses seeking support through the Nationwide Survey on Occupational Safety" and highlighted the significance of "offering thorough guidance and assistance to SMEs via the support centers of KOSHA's 30 frontline agencies."
- In conclusion, the Minister appealed to everyone to "embrace the vital mission and responsibility of safeguarding lives and ensuring safety, urging unwavering commitment to ensuring the completion of the Nationwide Survey on Occupational Safety and the attainment of tangible outcomes through bold innovation in industrial accident prevention programs."