

2008 Newsletter

HOME > > In Focus > Newsletter > 2008 Newsletter



- **Topics**

- Everything about World Congress on Safety and Health at Work summed up in a book

Published a document of presentations from 121 countries and provided online and offline by KOSHA. A document was published which summed up the papers on the latest safety and health at work, the presentations on its trends over the world and a variety of technical materials by the distinguished scholars at XVIII World Congress on Safety and Health at Work.

KOSHA announced on 24 Sep. that it would provide 'the latest document on policies and technology of World Congress on Safety and Health at Work (hereinafter referred to as WCSHW)' via both online and offline which were presented in WCSHW held for four days starting from June 29 in Seoul.

This document summed up the presentations on a total of 297 themes by their contents from 121 countries which participated in WCSHW in Seoul this year.

It includes six themes on 'Effects of Changes of Working Environment on Health of Workers' presented at the plenary meeting, 41 themes on 'Migrant Construction Workers in the United States' at the technical sessions, and 250 themes including 'Safety Management System of Skyscrapers in Dubai' at the symposiums.

Also, to make people easily understand the intentions and significances of WCSHW, it provides the pictures on some major events with the entire contents on 'Seoul Declaration on Safety and Health at Work', a charter of occupational safety and health at work for global village which is adopted by 46 representatives of labor, management and government from the world during this world congress.

'The latest document on policies and technology of World Congress on Safety and Health at Work' is available at the web site of KOSHA (<http://www.kosha.or.kr>), and you can also download this document in Korean and the entire contents in English from 'The Materials of Presentations at WCSHW' in the section of 'Service & Information'.

The staff from KOSHA said, "This document will give you a chance to meet the newest technology of safety and health at work from the industry concerned and find out its strategies and methods for

each country so that it can help you make your working environment safer and healthier in the domestic industry."

- Creating a Safe Working Environment till the second half of 2012

Ministry of Labor revealing the detailed action plans for each government agenda.

On October 27, the Ministry of Labor announced the detail action plans for new government agenda.

This is based on '5 government guidelines, 20 government strategies, 100 government agendas' which were confirmed and revealed at the recent Cabinet council.

Among them, the agenda regarding the Ministry of Labor consists of 14 projects including 'creating a safe working environment', 'creating a win-win culture between labor and management' and 'protecting the non-regular workers and developing their skills'

Particularly, four detailed action plans on 'creating a safe working environment' were settled which were suggested by the president Lee, Myung Bak in his Liberation Day address.

First of all, it aims at 50% decrease of three major accidents such as nips, slips and falling down until the second half of 2012 to 'drastically reduce the conventional occupational accidents'.

In addition, other plans were settled to prevent disastrous accidents such as fires, explosions and collapses, protect vulnerable workers non-regular, foreign, senior and female from occupational accidents, and strengthen the protection of workers from the contractors through outsourcing company.

Secondly, to 'strengthen lifelong health care for workers', the action plans were designed to establish the system of preventing serious health problems on workers due to asbestos to upgrade the levels of managing harmful substances and reinforce the health care of workers and the assistance in taking care of the health of workers. Thirdly, to 'enhance the way of labor and management of thinking on safety and health, the plans were made not only to advance the safety and health environment in the industrial sites and raise the efficiency of training and promotion on safety and health, but also to work for the rationalization of regulations for preventing occupational accidents and the establishment of safety index for occupational safety areas.

Finally, to 'allow the medical treatment of victims and their return-to-work', another action plan was designed to extend the coverage of occupational accident compensation insurance for vulnerable workers and facilitate rapid and accurate compensation and rehabilitation toward the victims.

All of these actions will be in operation by the second half of 2012. The Ministry of Labor will check

them each month to find out if they work properly, and on the quarterly basis, they will make a comprehensive inspection on them.

- **OSH Administration**

- Most of the policies on occupational safety and health completed successfully last year

The official target for stabilizing the finance of occupational accident compensation insurance achieved up to four times. According to the Ministry of Labor, most of its policies on occupational safety and health exceeded the target last year.

Specifically, the plan for stabilizing the finance of occupational accident compensation insurance passed its target level up to four times, yielding a profit of about 826.9 billion won.

The 2007 evaluation report from the Ministry of Labor which was made public recently showed that according to the reviews on its 23 targets for achievements and 87 action plans of major policies last year, 81 out of a total 87 action plans achieved its original target.

Specifically, on the results on the field of occupational safety and health, the profit from stabilization of the finance of industrial accident compensation insurance increased 386.6% from 213.9 billion won, its target level, bringing in a profit of 826.9 billion won. Furthermore, policy reserve requirements exceeded its target 42.1%, amounting to 49.1%.

The rate of technology support for safety and health management to solve the safety divide in the small businesses accomplished 134% from its target level, and the satisfaction of the businesses on 'CLEAN' project assistance reached 94.4 points, though 88 points was its original target level, showing the result of 107.3%.

In addition, the number of the parent company to reinforce the safety and health support system between the parent company and the contractors was found to be 45, achieving its target 100% fully, and after the inspection on the contractors to find out if they complied with the measures of safety and health, 146 of them were found to comply with the measures, which exceeded its target number of 100.

As a countermeasure of occupational accident-vulnerable workers, they distributed 186,000 copies of guidelines of safety and health and materials for preventing occupational accidents for foreign workers to the companies, trained 247,000 workers, published 26 kinds of manuals and guidelines on how to manage safety and health problem.

They completed the inspections on 785 factories subject to process safety management (PSM) as a part of countermeasures against accidental deaths, which was 148.3% higher from its target number of 530 factories.

Rates of death in occupational accidents in the field of shipbuilding industry decreased 7.9%, exceeding its target level of 5%.

- A fine of 10 million won to be imposed for careless management of dangerous chemical materials

Strengthening management of harmful materials against vocational diseases like carcinogenic substances.

From next year, if you exceed the permitted level of the concentrations of 13 hazardous substances such as formaldehyde and normal hexane at the workplaces, you will be fined for it immediately.

The Ministry of Labor announced on 27 Sep. that by enforcing the regulation on 'the permitted level' of the hazardous substances such as carcinogenic substances, it would reinforce its control over those substances, which are particularly harmful to human body.

'The permitted level' is different from 'the exposure limit' in that it is possible for you to impose a fine for it immediately if the fixed concentrations exceed at the workplace, while 'the exposure limit' gives you a chance to correct them.

The Ministry of Labor amended the Ordinance of occupational Safety and Health Law and its Regulations that provide the kinds of substance subject to the permitted level and their permitted level, and announced them on 18 Sep. They will come into effect starting from Jan. 1 of the next year.

Therefore, the employers should control those substances below the permitted level of the concentrations at the workplace. If they violate it, they shall be fined less than 10 million won for it.

The substances selected as the hazardous factors which need to be controlled below the permitted level are a total of 13 kinds of them including six carcinogenic substances such as formaldehyde and cadmium and seven substances of malfunctions to human body such as lead and normal hexane.

However, if it is impossible to improve the facilities and system with the existing technology, or if it needs just a temporary or short-time operation, they will be exempted from compliance of the permitted level.

The temporary operation means what is conducted for less than 24 hours, and the short-time operation means what is conducted for less than 1 hour.

The regulation of the permitted level was designed to protect workers from toxications to hazardous substances which break out continuously every year. This regulation was introduced after they were told that it is beyond control to avoid the toxications from very harmful substances like those leading to vocational diseases.

With these damages from these fatal substances, 8 foreign workers from a factory of electronic parts at Hwasung-shi Gyeonggi-do fell victims to waist-down paralysis due to toxication to normal hexane in 2005, four dead workers and four poisoned workers from TCE were found, and two dead workers and three poisoned workers from DMF were found in 2006 and 2007.

- From the second half of the next year, checkup fees to be provided to the workers at the factories which treat the hazardous substances
- The rate of occupational accident compensation insurance expected to decrease 7.7% on the average for the next year

The Ministry of Labor giving an administrative notice of occupational accident compensation insurance for each business for the year of 2009

The rate of average occupational accident compensation insurance for the next year is set to be 1.8%, which is 7.7% lowered, compared to 1.95% at present.

The Ministry gave an administrative notice of 'occupational accident compensation insurance for each business for the year of 2009' including this result on 24 Nov..

Therefore, the insurance rate of 54 types of businesses out of 62 will be reduced for the next year. Four types of businesses such as financial institutions and insurance shows no change for it, and the rate of the three types of businesses such as quarry are increased.

The industry whose rate of occupational accident compensation insurance is the highest is the coal mine business. Its rate amounts to 55.3% against the wages this year, but it will be drastically decreased to 36%.

The industries that have the lowest rate are financial institutions and insurance, health and social welfare service, etc. The rate is 0.7% against the wages.

According to the rate of occupational accident compensation insurance for major businesses, that of the construction is lowered to 3.4% from 3.6% of this year, and that of machine tools & manufacture is lowered to 2.6% from 3% of last year.

This rate is based on the total amount of insurance payment from the number of occupational accidents against the total amount of the wages by the types of industry for the past three years, and it is decided by dividing them into the types of industry after taking into account the overhead expenses such as insurance payment of the closed businesses and the working expenses for preventing occupational accidents. In other words, it can be said that the increase and decrease of this rate reflects the number of the recent accidents from each industry.

- Construction noise restricted to 5dB more

The Ministry of Environment accepting 3dB correction values at the factories which use machines and tools with high noise

Starting from January of the next year, the construction noise will be restricted 5dB more than it is at present, and the factories which inevitably create a lot of noises using machines and tools with high noise will get 3dB correction values for the next two years.

On 24 Nov., the Ministry of Environment announced a revision to 'The Enforcement Regulation of Noise and Vibration Control Act' as the gist of this point.

According to this revision, it will come into effect from Jan. 1 2009 by reinforcing the standard of the construction noise with 5dB more to create a living environment of a fixed temperature, and the factories which inevitably create a lot of noises due to blasts, pile drives and breakers will get 3dB correction values for the next two years.

Also, as the complex permitted level for making noises and vibrations at the factory leads to confusions among the stakeholders, the Ministry of Environment rearranged it into tables for you to easily understand by dividing it into the areas and times as the standard of community noise control. And if a factory creates more than one offense, it does levy additional punishment on it based on heavy offenses and it makes it clear the standard of reducing the punishment level by means of the situations and methods of offenses.

- The Ministry of Labor holding a meeting for employers to guarantee the sitting rights

The government is eager to persuade employers to care for their workers who work standing up. The Ministry of Labor will hold a meeting with the employers of department stores and large supermarket centers at the Hotel Palace on 30 Nov. to discuss how to protect 'their workers who have to work standing up'.

With this plan, this meeting will be held to help the cashiers and shop assistants at the stores keep their health, and the Ministry will give the employers a chance to reconsider the problems in the working environment and ask them to make proactive and voluntary efforts to follow the plans of the government regarding this matter.

In addition, they will have an exhibition showing the health care devices for 'workers who work standing up' such as foldaway chairs, foot stools and worker safety mat, etc. as well as the pictures on the best practices of the foreign countries in order to draw their attentions.

In the meantime, the Ministry of Labor has given a variety of information on the worker who work standing up to the employers and the public to make them better understand the situations of the workers by using a media named 'Getting Out of Crisis, No. 1' from KBS, some radio campaigns from KBS and CBS and a big electrical signboard showing occupational safety campaign.

In the last September, they had some presentations on their plans at the primary labor and management organizations of FKTU (Federation of Korean Trade Unions), KCTU (Korean Confederation of Trade Unions) and KEF (Korea Employers Federation), and they published a manual of 'A Guide to Keep A Worker Who Works Stand Up in Good Health' and the other material like 'Let's Give Chairs to Workers Who Work Stand Up', utilized them when KOSHA support some technology to the factories, and gave them to the training courses and meetings for distributors. Particularly, the Ministry found out that some businesses like Daewoo Department Store in Masan, Hyundai Department Store in Gwangju and Shinsegae Department Store provided chairs to their workers, and Home Plus had a plan to provide them to the cashiers at their new stores.

They said that they would continuously hold the training courses and meetings for distributors in each local government offices and try to find out how to support the cost for improving the working environments for small and medium companies.

- The construction sites to be inspected against the freezing cold season

The Ministry of Labor announced the measures on occupational accidents after taking into account the seasonal considerations such as supporting the recovery from heavy snow and inspecting the construction sites during the winter.

The government-ruling party held 'the 12th government and ruling party session' at the official residence of the prime minister on 20 Nov. and agreed to put 'Living Stability Measures for Low-to-Mid Income Houses during the Winter' into practice.

Among them, the Ministry of Labor has arranged 'A Plan of Employment Security and Prevention of occupational Accidents for Vulnerable Workers' to prepare for any possibilities of job insecurity from recent economic crisis, overdue wage during the winter and growing occupational accidents.

In particular, they announced the measures on emergency preparedness and response to occupational accidents during the winter and support the recovery of damaged factories from heavy snow. Accordingly, they will start inspecting 900 construction sites from 24 Nov. to 19 Dec. to check if they follow the actions for preventing occupational accidents.

Also, they will operate an emergency call (1588-3088) for 24 hours during New Year holidays. They will assist the snow-damaged sites with loans of 3% annual rate on the condition of repayment in seven years with a three-year grace period within 500 million won per site, and they will also grant them delays of premium of workers' compensation insurance and unemployment insurance. They will support them with technology of 2nd accident preventions such as collapses and falling-downs happening when they recover the damages from heavy snow.

In addition, to give support to employment of young people and construction workers who are facing one of the worst job markets during the winter, they will recruit additional 2,000 people who will participate in 'Adolescence Internship Program', and if any employers continue employing the construction workers in spite of heavy snow, the government will support them with 2/3 of wages in the name of 'Continuous Employment Funds for Construction Workers'.

Huh, Seohyuk, an administrative official of Department of Safety and Health Guidance from Ministry of Labor, said that "the plans of 2009 construction safety by Ministry of Labor are in principle based on autonomy to large-scale construction sites and technical support and inspection to small and medium sites, but the inspection of this winter will include large-scale sites which have a great significance in Korea.

On the other hand, the Ministry of Public Administration and Security will set a period of accident prevention during the winter, operate the disaster emergency control center for 24 hours from 1 Dec. of this year to Mar. 15 of the next year, and prepare for safety control for each disaster such as heavy snow and cold wave.

- **Statistics**

- 60% of falling-downs happen at a height of less than three meters.

Mortality in Korea 4 ? 24 times higher than that of advanced countries

Our mortality from falling-downs at the industrial sites shows 4 ? 24 times higher than that of advanced countries.

According to the results of analyzing the falling-downs between domestic industrial sites and foreign sites, the Ministry of Labor and KOSHA found out that mortality per 100,000 workers is 3.65, which is 24.3 times higher than 0.15 in England, 6.5 times higher than 0.56 in USA and 4.3 times higher than 0.84 in Japan.

KOSHA said that the domestic workers who had been afflicted with falling-downs for recent three years were collected as a total of 34,335, which shows a continuous increase from 10,814 in 2005, 11,687 in 2006 and 11,834 in 2007.

According to the results of analyzing the falling-downs at the construction sites by original cause materials, heights and construction types, regarding the materials, temporary structures such as casts and scaffolds, and ladders have caused a lot of accidents, and regarding the heights, most of falling-downs happened at a height of less than three meters.

In particular, KOSHA explained that these accidents happening at a relatively low height of less than three meters accounts for almost 60%, so the workers should pay good attention to them.

Regarding the construction type, the accidents happened mostly at the renovation sites, and the death accidents happened most at the building construction sites.

The Ministry of Labor revealed that starting from November, it will exercise judicial power immediately on the employers who neglect the actions to prevent the accidents of falling-downs at the sites, and KOSHA gives technical support to them for free, and prepares and distributes the lists of safety inspection and the materials for safety courses against falling-downs in order to prevent the accidents.

Ryu, Bohyuk, the head of occupational Safety & Health Research Institute under KOSHA, asked people at the construction sites to pay more attention to safety control, saying that "the accidents of falling-downs can be avoided by complying with safety standards on how to use temporary structures and ladders and wearing personal protective equipments like safety helmets and belts."

- **Violations of occupational accidents at the sites uncovered grows every year**

Data from inspections of the Ministry of Labor conducted by the National Assembly recorded 93.7% violations of this year

It appears that more and more businesses have been found to violate the act at the inspection and supervision of occupational accident-related businesses for several years.

According to the results of inspection and supervision of businesses managed for recent three years, submitted regarding the inspections of the Ministry of Labor conducted by the National Assembly at the request of Kim, Jaeyoon, a member of the National Assembly belonging to Environment and Labor Committee, it shows that the number of the businesses violating the standards grew as the years went by.

44,912 out of 54,629 businesses which the Ministry of Labor inspected and supervised in 2006 were found to violate the occupational Safety Act, recording 82.2% rate of violations, and in 2007 45,299 out of 50,713 businesses were uncovered to violate the Act, recording 89.3%. It shows that the number of the businesses which violated the Act against the number of those which were inspected increased more than in the previous year.

Furthermore, out of 21,108 businesses which were inspected by the end of August of this year, 19,799 businesses have been found to violate the Act, recording 93.7% rate of violations.

In particular, the businesses which were brought to justice in violation of the occupational Safety Act were four in 2006 and 2007 respectively and only one at the end of August of this year. It seems that most of them were just simple corrective warnings.

In spite of this guidance and supervision of businesses by the Ministry of Labor, the number of occupational accidents for recent three years was 88,821 in 2006 with 0.77% rate of accidents and 89,106 in 2007 with 0.72%, which remains stagnant with no big decrease.

On the other hand, starting from November, the Ministry of Labor will bring to justice the businesses which violate serious safety standards without any corrective warnings if they don't make any efforts to improve the rate of occupational accidents on account of light punishments.

- **Update in KOSHA**

- WHO designated KOSHA for its Collaboration Center for Occupational Health

KOSHA extends the efforts of occupational health of the developing countries

KOSHA will extend its effort to the developing countries, joining hands with WHO (World Health Organization).

On 7 Nov., KOSHA said that it was designated by WHO for its Collaboration Center for Occupational Health.

From now on, KOSHA will provide WHO with new technology and R&D data developed in domestic industries to protect the health of workers, and WHO will utilize them to improve the standard of occupational health over the world.

This collaboration center is an international collaboration network which participates in the activities of occupational health, nursing, infectious diseases prevention, mental health, chronic diseases and health care technology performed by WHO, and there are 916 centers on 50 fields working around the world at present.

In particular, there are 54 WHO collaboration centers in the field of occupational health in 29 countries including NIOSH (the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health) of USA, the Japan National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (JNIOSH), FIOH (Finnish Institute of Occupational Health) and HSL (Health and Safety Laboratory) of England.

Designated as WHO Collaboration Center for Occupational Health, KOSHA will start a variety of collaboration activities for occupational health such as 1) operate the training programs for persons

concerned with occupational health towards Asian developing countries, 2) provide them with occupational health service for small businesses, 3) develop a management tool system for Korean-style chemicals, and 4) conduct R&D on stress at work and health improvement.

Kang, Seongkyu, the director of Occupational Health Department at KOSHA, said that "our designation as WHO Collaboration Center for Occupational Health would serve as a momentum to understand the current trend of technology developments of the developed countries and participate in their R&D through partnership with WHO, so it will contribute a lot to improving the standard of domestic occupational health."

- Making sure a sense of safety by walking with "non-damage" citizens

An event of Walking with Angelie nationwide ended up with great success by the Ministry of Labor (Angelie is a mascot of KOSHA)

A walking event was held to reduce nation wide occupational accidents to spread workers a sense of safety and health at the industrial fields.

An event of 'Walking with Angelie to maintain safe and healthy workplaces' sponsored by the Ministry of Labor and managed by KOSHA was held with 2,000 people from labor, management, government and people from safety and health related private organizations.

This event was held to create an environment to reduce nationwide occupational accidents by making them aware of seriousness and preventions of occupational accidents. Particularly, it focused on three major occupational accidents such as being-caughts, upside-downs, falls and collapses that accounts for half of overall occupational accidents to let people understand the importance of preventing the accidents.

After a performance of traditional music band, this event was going on for one and half hour with an opening ceremony, safety shouts and Walking with Angelie.

The walking course consists of A course named as a road to prevent falling-down accidents, B course as a road to prevent being-caught accidents, C course as a road to prevent upside-down accidents and D course as a road to do away with three major accidents to give people a time to mediate their sense of safety while walking on them.

After the event, the organizing committee issued them a Certificate of Successfully Finishing Walking and then proceeded with lucky draw.

There were the other programs including a display of safety picture, a zone of experiencing three major accidents, a balloon art at the photo zone, face-paintings and health improvement to make people aware of the importance of safety.

Lee, Younghee, Minister of Labor, said in the address that 'the new government raises the effectiveness of accident prevention programs and reinforces its efforts on the parts which have good results of accident reduction' and 'this event helps you understand the importance of three accident preventions and reduce the occupational accidents drastically'.

- KOSHA's Certification and OHSAS 18001 possible at the same time

KOSHA and OHSAS taking charge of five organizations

If domestic companies acquire KOSHA 18001 issued by KOSHA, they can also get OHSAS 18001 which is internationally accepted.

On Oct. 1, KOSHA concluded an agreement on the 5th floor of KOSHA building with the representatives of five certification organizations such as KSA (Korean Standards Association), KPCQA (Korea Productivity Center Quality Assurance), KQA (Korea Quality Assurance), KFQ (Korean Foundation for Quality) and KRS (Korean Register of Shipping) which are in charge of 'OHSAS 18001', a certificate of overseas safety and health management.

With this agreement, it is possible to get KOSHA 18001 and OHSAS 18001 issued together, so it will save more than 50 % of your time and cost caused by individual applications.

Up to the present, if the businesses below 300 workers apply for KOSHA 18001 and OHSAS 18001, it will take up to six months respectively, but from now on, they will be able to get two certificates issued in six months and reduce the cost to 5 million won from about 12 million won.

- S Mark for safety certification designated and registered in the good product system by the Public Procurement Service

- Prepared for a chance to build a market for products of safety certification -

'S Mark for safety certification' operated by KOSHA is designated and registered in the good product system of the government. Accordingly, it is expected that highly safe and reliable S Mark products will be distributed more over the country.

'Designation and registration of good products' is a system that PPS (Public Procurement Service) designates good products through inspections on the products applied for products for procurement by PPS to improve their quality.

- If they are registered as good products, they will be supplied to the demanding organizations after the private contracts and the contracts of unit prices or total amount in accordance with Ordinances of National Contracts, and they will also get the support of advertisements such as exhibitions and publications of PPS website.

S Mark for safety certification' designated and registered in the good product system of the government this time will be accepted for its high certification standard, so it will get additional points the same as certification marks of Europe (CE) and USA (UL) in the field of examining reliability for designation of good products.

- 'occupational Safety & Health Research Institute of KOSHA winning an official commendation from the Minister of Knowledge Economy'

- Recognized for contributions to improving safety and reliability at the industrial sites

occupational Safety & Health Research Institute of KOSHA won the official commendation from the Minister of Knowledge Economy at the event of "Day of 2008 Product Safety" held in the COEX, Seoul on 17 Nov..

On this day, with 400 people of businessmen and workers and from the academic world and NGOs participating in this event, the institute won the prize from the group section by the Minister, getting the recognition of its contributions to create safety culture and improve product safety.

The institute was highly recognized for its contribution of making the safety of products used in the industrial sites secure fundamentally. Particularly, it was recognized for enhancing product safety through activities of 'inspecting the performance of protective devices and equipments', operating S Mark certification system, give a technical support to improve product quality and performance at the industrial sites and cooperating with overseas certification organizations in terms of technology.

On the other hand, the 'Day of 2008 Product Safety' is an event where KATS (Korean Agency for Technology and Standards) encourages people into a sense of safety and grant awards to individuals and groups to prevent safety accidents and improve product safety. Only the institute was awarded with this Minister prize as a public organization, and eight companies were awarded as well.

Park, Dooyong, director-general of the institute, said that "our institute improved its system and supported R&D to have excellent products distributed to the industrial sites, and we made every effort to prevent occupational accidents by supporting the domestic manufacturers with overseas export through safety certifications. We will continue to enhance the safety and reliability of products at workplaces."

- 'CLEAN' project funding reduced from 110 billion won to 84 billion won

The Ministry of Labor leading to reduce direct financial support and prevent autonomous occupational accidents

It is expected that the expenses for supporting a CLEAN project of the next year will reduce to about 25%, compared to that of this year.

On Oct. 9, the Ministry revealed the budget and projects of its labor policies for 2009 including this fact.

The budget of its labor policies of the next year is set to be 1,143.7 billion won, 3.9% more than this year. It plans to reduce the direct financial support for preventing occupational accidents and reinforce the investment of technical support project which leads to autonomous activities against occupational accidents between labor and management.

As a result, the investment cost on technical support of health care in the factory such as

improvement of working environment and control of workers' health increases to 14 billion won from 840 million won, and that of CLEAN project reduces to 84 billion won from 110 billion won. A CLEAN project to support the cost for improving safety and health for the business below 50 workers is expected to expand the shares of employers with business above 10 workers from 30% under the present system to 40%.

Furthermore, it will investigate 120,000 domestic factories to examine the existing working environment in order to find out the number of dangerous machines and tools and chemicals and make them improve their working environment. And it will invest 14 billion won, significantly increased from 8.4 billion won of this year, in supporting the cost of special checkup to early find out occupational diseases from the workers who work for the businesses below 10 workers and reinforcing the technical support of health care in the factories such as the support of health care for the workers dealing with toxic chemicals.

On the other hand, Song, Youngjoong, the Manager of the Department of Planning & Coordination under the Ministry of Labor, said that 'the budget of the next year will be expanded for government projects, and we focus our investment on utilizing the autonomy of market and private sector as much as possible', and he added that 'from now on, we will do our best to make our government-initiated budget as it is in the process of the National Assembly deliberations.'

- **Event**

- The 1st Academic Meeting of Occupational Health for the persons working for occupational health service **KIHA (Korean Industrial Health Association), symposium and academic research award**

An academic meeting of occupational health covering all the fields of domestic occupational health such as occupational medicine, occupational sanitation, occupational nursing practice was held by KIHA for the first time in Korea.

KIHA under the presidency of Choi, Byungsoo held the 1st academic meeting of occupational health at Sangrok Resort, Cheonan on 20 Nov. to find out the excellent academic researches, dissertations and field examples which can contribute to the development of our occupational health, and award them prizes.

On this day, the president Choi said that "he hopes this meeting will be the ground where every person working for occupational health service on all the fields get together to share their opinions and enjoy more meaningful time".

This meeting with 300 participants led to a symposium on the theme of 'Keeping Workers in Good Health, Responsibilities and Roles of Each Party', a presentation on academic research award distinguished service award on occupational health service, and a dinner party with the participants.

- Active honorary inspector system needs a proactive support from the government

A discussion on 'Policies and Measures for Active Honorary Inspector System'

A meeting of discussion took place to look back over the current situation after the system of honorary occupational safety inspector had been introduced 10 years before, and to prepare for the plan against occupational accidents.

Kim, Sanghee, a member of the National Assembly, and the regional council of honorary occupational safety inspectors (from Ansan, Daejeon, Cheongju and Yeosu) had a discussion on 'Policies and Measures for Active Honorary Inspector System' with people from labor, management and governmental societies together with honorary Inspector at the conference room of special committee in the Assembly Members' Office on 21 Nov.

Presided over by Lee, Youngsoon, professor of Seoul National University of Technology, the meeting started with the address of Kim, Sanghee of the National Assembly and went on to the presentation of research papers and discussion by Dr. Yoon, Jodeok, a member of Korea Labor Institute.

Kim, Sanghee said in her address that "the rate of occupational accidents for the first half of this year increased 5.78% from the last year, and the number of deaths was calculated 715 with 53 persons increased, but in spite of this result, the government cut the 2009 budget on occupational accident prevention. occupational accidents required long-term perspectives and plans, and above all, it is very important to go out to the sites and prepare for the measures for it."

Followed by it, Dr. Yoon made a presentation of 'Policies and Measures for Active Honorary Inspector System.'

Dr. Yoon said that "he conducted a survey on the honorary inspectors from manufacturing, constructing and transportation in 2006 to analyze the problems and find out the solutions after looking into how the honorary occupational safety inspector system works," and he suggested its problems, weaknesses, implications from this survey.

Also, he pointed out the facts that the factories with no representatives of the union or the workers have their honorary occupational safety inspectors recommended by their employers and the senior management work at the occupational Safety & Health Committee appointed to the honorary inspectors.

- A seminar held to discuss an effective usage of the budget of occupational accident prevention **CCS (Citizens' Coalition for Safety) and KSS (Korean Society of Safety) pointing out unsatisfactory effect though the budget was two times more than that of Japan**

This seminar was held to create a comfortable and safe working environment by protecting the workers and employers and find a solution to make the most of the budget of occupational accident prevention now in use.

CCS (joint representatives consisting of Song Ja, Choi Byungryul and Kim Chungang) and KSS (president Shin Changsup) had 'a Seminar to Find an Effective Usage of the Budget of occupational

Accident Prevention' with the persons interested at the conference room of the Assembly Members' Office on 20 Nov..

The joint representative of CCS said in the address that though it have been 50 years since the Korean War, the damages from occupational accidents are still happening, and about 2,500 workers die from accidents and occupational diseases at the workplaces every year and about 70,000 workers are injured."

Besides, though we spend the budget for occupational accident prevention two times more than that of Japan, the rate of occupational accidents accounts for nearly three times higher than in Japan. So its effectiveness doesn't satisfy our expectation.

Accordingly, CCS and KSS agreed to find a good solution to make the most of the budget and reduce these accidents through the presentations and discussions by inviting key experts in the field of occupational safety.

The presentations revealed that since 1964 when we started collecting the data of occupational accidents, the number of deaths went upwards sharply, and after our economic crisis in 1997, it seemed to go down a little and then it is on the increase again.

Particularly, the number reached its peak in 2003 with 2,923 deaths and then started decreasing a bit and finally the rates of deaths of the last year went down to 1.92 for the first time.

- **New Materials**

- 'A Know-How to be a Highly Effective Company'

KOSHA distributing online materials of safety and health management for employers

KOSHA will provide the material of 'management and safety of a highly effective company' which explains the managerial loss of occupational accidents and the importance of safety and health system from the management.

This material has about 50 pages and explains the loss from not reflecting safety and health on the management for you to understand with great ease. It also suggests the employers how to establish the safety and health management system in their companies while introducing them to the best practices of advanced safety and health.

For example, it says that a company should bear 120 million won as an average annual indirect loss cost per victim from an occupational accident. It emphasized the loss from occupational accidents by saying that if a small and medium company has 4% operating profit, it should accomplish additional sales of 3.2 billion won to meet the cost.

In addition to them, it suggests basic principles of 5 steps to manage dangers at the workplace, and it provides a checklist for employer to take into account in order to compare the safety and health management system from the advanced countries and establish safety and health system at the workplace.

Particularly, it introduces you to the best practices of safety and health management system from

the advanced countries such as those of safety management program by 3M which is a multinational corporation of USA, those of 'Champion Committees' by Motorola which is a famous manufacturer of cell phones and operates six safety committees by department and those of safety and health management by Tenneco which manufactures the parts and components of vehicles in USA and reduces the cost of its direct insurance of 150,000 dollars through this system.

- Compiled all the data of occupational accident of the last year in a volume

A material on the results of deaths and occupational diseases of 2007 published by the Ministry of Labor

A booklet was published regarding the characteristics of industries, volumes, regions, dates and causes of the occupational accidents of 2007 and the details of genders, ages, service period and employment.

The Ministry produced 'the Results of occupational Accidents of 2007' in the various fields which took place in the last year.

It explains the results of occupational accidents of the last year by classifying them into death and occupational diseases, contains its index by expressing the rates of severity, frequency and incidence numerically by industry and year including the number of the workers and victims.

According to this booklet, the rate of accidents by industry in Korea for ten years shows that the rates of severity, frequency and incidence reached its peak in 2003 and went down a little again. Also, it analyzed the entire accident results by classifying them by business, gender, age, service period, accident level, accident period, region, regional labor administration office and occurrence type.

For example, the death accidents was analyzed into the causes of their occurrences and itemized into the occurrence types, the causes, the administrative causes, the direct causes such as unstable status or behaviors, the details and procedures of operations, the damage types, the damaged parts, the number of persons for simultaneous operation and the number of triggers of simultaneous accidents.

In the occupational diseases, the occurrences were subdivided into ten times: kinds of diseases, magnitude of diseases, gender and age.

Particularly, it covers the deaths as well as the medical treatment from muscle skeletal troubles, brain and cardiovascular diseases, overworks and stresses to contain the diseases and the analyzed results.

On the other hand, the rate of accidents of the last year was 0.72% with 90,147 victims who required more than four days' medical treatment out of 12,528,879 workers from 1,429,885 factories which apply the occupational accident compensation insurance under the law of occupational accident compensation insurance.

The dead were 2,406, the injured were 77,292 and the persons under medical treatment due to occupational disease were 10,449.

- Five tips to prevent a safety accident at the playground

KOSHA distributing an animation for safety education to young children "Nobody there?"

KOSHA produced and distributed an animation of "Nobody there?" to give an early safety education to the young children who are vulnerable to injuries and accidents at the playground.

This animation of five-minute running time shows you that a child walks on the ladder bridge to fall down, ride a slide from the back side to get injured, bump against a swing and then a seesaw. In this way, it shows how dangerous the rides are at the playground.

According the results of the safety accidents that children can encounter at the playground, more than 1 child (57.8%) out of two children gets injured. They get injured most at the swings (28.6%), the slides(20.2%), multiple-use amusement facility (17.1%) and the spins (7.6%).

They had their legs (35.8%) injured the most, and then head (16.5%), face (16.5%) and arms (14.7%). The injuries were scratches (50.5%) and then bruises (26.9%), lumps (7.5%), sprains (6.5%), cuts (4.3%) and fractures (3.2%).

This animation suggests the details of four types of safety accidents due to swings, slides, ladder bridges and seesaws and 'the Five Tips to Prevent a Safety Accident at the Playground' for teachers and parents.

The Five Tips for teachers and parents include ? Pay attention to your child at the playground ? Guide your child to play with the rides appropriate for his/her age ? Check if the materials of the floor at the playground are safe ? Check if the rides are safe ? Report any unsafe part at the playground.

This video made for safety education to kindergartens and elementary schools is available at the web site (www.kosha.or.kr) of KOSHA.