International Commission on Occupational Health - ICOH
Commission Internationale de la Santé au Travail - CIST
Founded in 1906 as Permanent Commission

World Day for Safety and Health at Work: 28 April 2011

The International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH) renews its call for joint actions for developing occupational health and safety programmes meeting the changing needs at the workplace in globalizing economy

In the globalizing economy, increased international collaboration is essential to meet the changing needs at the workplace for protecting health and safety of workers engaged in diversifying work situations. Coherent and comprehensive occupational health and safety programmes should be developed to address both traditional and emerging risks at work in these working situations. Particular attention is also drawn to disaster preparedness and relief.

In dealing with new technologies and chemicals, increasing work stress and the diversifying working situations including many non-regular employment and informal workplaces, the emphasis of occupational health and safety is increasingly placed on proactive risk assessment and control and the implementation of a broad range of improvements in workers' health and safety. ICOH calls for all stakeholders and relevant professionals to join efforts for continuously upgrading occupational health and safety programmes and promoting workers' health with the active participation of employers and workers.

It is encouraging that various new developments are in progress to improve work methods and the working environment and secure active participation of employers and workers in safety and health at work. A particular emphasis is placed internationally on the development of basic occupational health services and the application of participatory approaches particularly for improving small-scale workplaces. These developments give us useful insight into locally practicable interventions towards healthy and safe working conditions in line with the ILO's Global Strategy on Occupational Safety and Health and relevant international standards.

ICOH expresses warm congratulations on the 92nd Anniversary of the ILO and its leadership role in the improvement of conditions of work and social justice throughout the world. We extend our sincere gratitude for our excellent collaborative relations and call upon concerted efforts for furthering research and practice in safety and health at work by adequately meeting the changing needs at the workplace.

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