

PLAN OF ACTION ON NATIONAL OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH FRAMEWORKS FOR ASEAN

ASEAN Policy Dialogue on National Occupational Safety and Health Frameworks

23 - 25 January 2007, Singapore

INTRODUCTION

1. The 19th ASEAN Labour Ministers Meeting, held in Singapore in May 2006, agreed to include Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) as an additional priority area in the ASEAN Labour Ministers (ALM) work programme.
2. In line with this new priority area under the ALM work programme, the ASEAN Occupational Safety and Health Network (ASEAN-OSHNET) and Singapore jointly convened an ASEAN Policy Dialogue on National Occupational Safety and Health (APDNOSH) Frameworks on 23 to 25 January 2007. The ASEAN Policy Dialogue was attended by delegates from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam, as well as China, Japan and the Republic of Korea. Representatives of the ASEAN-OSHNET Secretariat, ASEAN Secretariat and experts from the International Labour Organisation (ILO) were also in attendance.
3. This Plan of Action was the outcome of the deliberation of the Policy Dialogue.

PLAN OF ACTION

4. This 5-year Plan of Action covers the period from 2007 to 2011. It is intended to serve as a guide in helping ASEAN Member Countries progress in the implementation and strengthening of national OSH frameworks and to enhance OSH standards, systems, strategies and programmes in the region, as well as other partner countries and international organisations in pursuing the same objectives.
5. Recognising the importance of having accurate information on OSH situations for the formulation of effective and relevant OSH programmes, the Plan of Action focuses on three priority areas:
 - a) Development of a national OSH Profile;
 - b) Development of a national OSH Strategy and Programme; and
 - c) Strengthening regional OSH cooperation within ASEAN, as well as collaboration between ASEAN and other partner countries or international organisations.

6 NATIONAL OSH PROFILE

6.1. Develop a national OSH Profile

- 6.1.1. Adopt ILO standards in the development of the national OSH Profile and align it with internationally accepted best practices, recommendations and guidelines where possible;
- 6.1.2. Establish a common ASEAN checklist, in line with ILO standards, and internationally accepted best practices, recommendations and guidelines,

of the broad categories of information that can be considered by ASEAN Member Countries in their development of national OSH Profiles to facilitate exchanges;

- 6.1.3. Regularly review the format of the national OSH Profile, with the intent of progressively aligning it towards the common ASEAN checklist (section 6.1.2) and other internationally accepted standards, best practices, recommendations and guidelines; and
- 6.1.4. Provide timely updates of the national OSH Profile to ensure its accuracy and relevance.

7 NATIONAL OSH STRATEGY AND PROGRAMME

7.1. Develop and launch a national OSH Strategy and Programme

- 7.1.1. Adopt ILO standards in the development of the national OSH Strategy and Programme, and align it with internationally accepted best practices, recommendations and guidelines where appropriate;
- 7.1.2. Encourage the involvement of all stakeholders in the development and implementation of the national OSH Strategy and Programme to address the OSH challenges and concerns that they face;
- 7.1.3. Enhance public education efforts on the national OSH Strategy and Programme;
- 7.1.4. Enhance capacity building efforts and knowledge support systems to assist stakeholders (such as companies and employees) in operationalising the national OSH Strategy and Programme; and
- 7.1.5. Conduct continuous review and monitoring of the national OSH Strategy and Programme to ensure its alignment with ILO standards, as well as its relevance to industry in line with market best practices and guidelines where appropriate.

8 REGIONAL COOPERATION

8.1. Develop an information sharing platform for National OSH Frameworks among ASEAN Member Countries.

- 8.1.1. Facilitate exchanges among ASEAN Member Countries through the sharing and publishing of OSH information, including national OSH Profiles, Strategies and Programmes, best practices and relevant OSH reports on ASEAN-OSHNET's website; and
- 8.1.2. Coordinate the activities under this section through ASEAN-OSHNET under the "Information" Programme Area.

8.2. Incorporate an additional Programme Area on "National OSH Frameworks" under ASEAN-OSHNET.

- 8.2.1. Facilitate and coordinate the development and enhancement of national OSH frameworks (including national OSH Profiles, Strategies and Programmes) through exchange of relevant standards, guidelines, promotion and training materials, best practices and learning experiences;
 - 8.2.2. Identify the OSH needs of ASEAN Member Countries and address them through existing ASEAN-OSHNET Programme Areas such as Information, Standards, Inspection, Training and Research;
 - 8.2.3. Optimise the use of OSH expertise identified by ASEAN-OSHNET (including the assembly and deployment of the expert team stated under section 8.3) by coordinating their engagement with ASEAN Member Countries; and
 - 8.2.4. Coordinate and optimise the engagement of partner organisations and countries, as well as international OSH experts in assisting ASEAN Member Countries to develop, implement and review their national OSH frameworks.
- 8.3. **Form an expert team to provide technical assistance/advice to ASEAN Member Countries.**
- 8.3.1. Provide technical assistance/advice to ASEAN Member Countries in the development and enhancement of national OSH frameworks (including national OSH Profiles, Strategies and Programmes) among ASEAN Member Countries through the exchange of relevant standards, guidelines, research, best practices and learning experiences.

9 INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

- 9.1 **Strengthen cooperation between ASEAN and the Plus Three Countries (i.e. China, Japan and Korea), the ILO and other international organisations**
 - 9.1.1 Welcome the renewed commitment from the Plus Three Countries and the ILO to assist ASEAN in improving its national OSH frameworks and standards;
 - 9.1.2 Encourage the Plus Three Countries and the ILO to explore areas for closer collaboration, including the sharing of experiences and expertise in support of the Plan of Action, particularly the formation of the expert team (section 8.3);
 - 9.1.3 Facilitate the development and enhancement of national OSH frameworks in ASEAN through exchange of relevant standards, guidelines, research, best practices and learning experiences with the Plus Three Countries, the ILO and other international organisations;
 - 9.1.4 Acknowledge that the objectives and principles of prevention and protection embodied in the ILO's C187 "Promotional Framework For Occupational Safety and Health" provide a useful basis for national OSH policies; and
 - 9.1.5 Recall and welcome the ILO's commitment under the ILO's Recommendation 197 to facilitate international technical cooperation on

OSH, and urge the ILO to assist ASEAN Member Countries, under the terms of the Recommendation, to:

S15a(i) strengthen their capacity for the establishment and maintenance of a national preventative safety and health culture; and

S15a(ii) promote a management systems approach to occupational safety and health.

10 Implementation and Monitoring of Progress

- 10.1. Recognising the importance of an accurate national OSH Profile and a robust national OSH Strategy and Programme to the progress of OSH standards in ASEAN, the meeting declares its commitment towards the implementation of the Plan of Action set out in this document.
- 10.2. Recognising that the new proposed Programme Area on “National OSH Frameworks” set out in section 8.2 would bring about an improvement in OSH standards and practices, the meeting agreed to appoint a country coordinator to lead and facilitate the development of this proposed Programme Area at the next ASEAN-OSHNET Coordinating Board Meeting (CBM).
- 10.3. Recognising the importance of the work of ASEAN-OSHNET in enhancing the OSH standards, systems, strategies and programmes in ASEAN, the meeting urged all ASEAN Member Countries to set aside a sufficient specific budget to facilitate the OSH implementation and continued participation of ASEAN-OSHNET Coordinating Board members.
- 10.4. Recognising the relevance of the current five Programme Areas of ASEAN-OSHNET towards achieving the Plan of Action set out in this document, the respective Programme Area coordinators (i.e. Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand) reiterated their commitments to lead and strengthen collaborative activities on Information, Standards, Inspection, Training and Research among ASEAN Member Countries.
- 10.5. Reaffirming the leadership of ASEAN-OSHNET in raising OSH standards in ASEAN and its importance as the regional platform to drive the implementation of the Plan of Action, the meeting entrusted the ASEAN-OSHNET Secretariat to:
 - Coordinate the establishment of a common format for the national OSH Profile set out in section 6.1.2;
 - Continue to pursue and strengthen the cooperation and collaboration between ASEAN-OSHNET and the Plus Three Countries, the ILO and international organisations as set out in section 9;
 - Review the progress of the Plan of Action annually to coincide with the annual ASEAN-OSHNET CBM; and
 - Apprise the ASEAN Labour Ministers on the overall progress of the Plan of Action.