



## Report of the 13<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-OSHNET Coordinating Board Meeting (CBM13)

Manila, Philippines  
April 18-19, 2012

### INTRODUCTION

1. The 13<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Occupational Safety and Health Network Coordinating Board Meeting (CBM13) was hosted and organised by Department of Labor and Employment of the Philippines, supported by the ASEAN-OSHNET Secretariat and the ASEAN Secretariat.
2. The Meeting was attended by delegates from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam. The Executive Director and representatives of the ASEAN-OSHNET Secretariat and the ASEAN Secretariat also attended. During the Open Session of the CBM13, representatives of Japan Ministry of Health Labor and Welfare (MLHW); Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency (KOSHA); ASEAN Services Employees Trade Union Council (ASETUC) were invited to make presentations on the possible areas of collaboration between ASEAN-OSHNET and the external collaborators. The list of delegates and invited guest speaker appears as **ANNEX 1**.

### OPENING CEREMONY

3. The Meeting was officiated by the HON. Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz, Secretary, Department of Labor and Employment of the Philippines. In her keynote speech, the Secretary emphasized that there was no better occasion to strengthen our ASEAN's commitment to further intensity the advocacy of having a safe and healthy working environment for the working population. As the Secretary has always stressed, safety and health should always be non-negotiable. Any work-related fatality should always be one too many.
4. The Secretary expressed the gratitude for the support given by all members of the ASEAN-OSHNET, the ASEAN Secretariat, the International Labor Organization, Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare of Japan, Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency, and our union partners – ASEAN Services Employees Trade Unions Council towards ensuring the success of this CBM.

5. As ASEAN continues to implement its own policies and programs on safety and health, there continues to be ASEAN Regional Concerns on safety and health that are common among the ASEAN Member States and need to be addressed. The Secretary recommended that the ASEAN-OSHNET tackle the welfare of the migrant workers and the vulnerable workers in the respective countries; namely, agriculture workers and fisherfolks, miners, construction workers, young workers, women workers and those in the informal sector. The full keynote speech appeared as **ANNEX 2**.

## **OPEN SESSION**

### **AGENDA ITEM 7: PRESENTATION BY GUEST SPEAKERS OF THE ASEAN-OSHNET EXTERNAL COLLABORATORS**

#### **7.1 International Labour Organization (ILO)**

6. The meeting noted ILO's presentation as given by the Chair in the absence of the ILO, which appears as **ANNEX 7**, highlighting, among others, the following:
  - (a) The rate of ratification of Governance Conventions
  - (b) Plan of action (2010-2016) to achieve widespread ratification and effective implementation of the occupational safety and health instruments (Convention No. 155, its 2002 Protocol and Convention No. 187)
  - (c) Ratification of key OSH Conventions
  - (d) Monitoring, review and evaluation of national OSH policies and programme
  - (e) Key focus areas of ILO work in Asia and the Pacific 2012-13 including OSH Management systems; WISE, WIND, WARM etc. – including impact and sustainability review
  - (f) Mainstreaming of OSH
  - (g) Strengthening of data collection and analyses, including systems for occupational accidents and diseases

#### **7.2 Japan Ministry of Health Labor and Welfare (MHLW)**

7. The meeting noted MHLW's presentation, which appears as **ANNEX 8**, highlighting, among others, the following:
  - (a) It was highlighted the recognizing the importance of the ASEAN+3 cooperation on occupational safety and health a policy dialogue was initiated on occupational safety and health management system (OSHMS) for the period of 2007 –2012. Decreasing and preventing occupational accidents and diseases became a matter of concern among ASEAN+3 countries. OSHMS became one of important issues for ASEAN-OSHNET reflected in the convening of a governmental

dialogue on OSH policies and OSHMS in ASEAN+3 Labour Ministers Meeting held in May 2006.

- (b) The 1st ASEAN+3 Dialogue on OSHMS took place in 2007, Kuala Lumpur Malaysia. Digest of the Conclusions of the 1st ASEAN+3 Dialogue on OSHMS December, 2007, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia OSHMS affirmed that OSHMS can be an effective voluntary tool of enterprises to promote to set out OSH policy. The same Dialogue confirmed that ASEAN Plus Three countries need further cooperation to exchange views and share experiences and expertise of OSHMS periodically. Towards this end, another Dialogue was held at the 9th ASEAN OSHNET CBM. Since then, there have been altogether five ASEAN+3 Dialogues have taken place, annually. The last dialogue was held on 29 February – 1 March 1, 2012, in Singapore.
- (c) The priority areas highlighted during the past five policy dialogues were, among others : upgrading the level of occupational safety and health in enterprises including small and medium enterprises (SMEs); strengthening ASEAN-OSHNET Plus Three collaboration on implementation of OSH-MS focusing on risk management strategies in reducing hazard exposure and preventing work-related injuries and illnesses; and developing country-specific guidance notes on OSH-MS using as a reference the “ ASEAN Guidance Note on Occupational Safety and Health Management System for Small and Medium Enterprises.

### **7.3 Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency (KOSHA)**

- 8. The meeting noted KOSHA’s presentation, which appears as **ANNEX 9**, highlighting, among others, the following:
  - (a) KOSHA has signed Memorandum of Understanding with ASEAN Member States namely Viet Nam, Indonesia, the Philippine, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Singapore;
  - (b) Various projects have been undertaken in collaboration with some ASEAN Member States, among others, asbestos analysis training programme, safety and health and risk assessment training, and quality control system research programme;
  - (c) KOSHA has also launched an English homepage, issued various materials in English, as well as published accident prevention guideline for migrant workers.

### **7.4 ASEAN Services Employees Trade Union Council (ASETUC)**

- 9. The meeting noted ASETUC’s presentation, which appears as **ANNEX 10**, highlighting, among others, the following:
  - (a) ASETUC’s activities in the area of OSH, to name a few: ASEAN – OSHNET Conference in 2007 which was jointly organised with the ASEAN-OSHNET; training programmes for trade union safety officers

at the workplace; and establishment of joint OSH committees at worksites as part of the collective bargaining agreement negotiation;

(b) ASETUC also presented proposed areas of cooperation with the ASEAN-OSHNET, as the following:

- i. Contributing to the training programmes on OSH in services sectors in ASEAN;
- ii. Jointly formulating regional OSH guidelines in the services sectors (initial recommended sectors include retail, media, construction and nursing) in ASEAN;
- iii. Taking pilot initiatives on joint OSH inspections in selected worksites to document best practices and inspection procedures;
- iv. Providing constructive support to revitalize ASEAN-OSHNET network and information channels;
- v. Jointly organizing the annual regional social dialogue in ASEAN on OSH in the services sectors in August 2012

### **7.5 United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)**

10. In the absence of UNITAR, the Meeting noted the plan of UNITAR to organise Globally Harmonised System (GHS) Conference in October 2012 in Malaysia, prior to that, they are willing to organise one day training or workshop with the ASEAN-OSHNET. The training outcomes will be reported to the GHS Conference in October 2012.

11. Indonesia asked possibility to collaborate with ROK on quality assurance (QA) for OSH laboratory. The Ministry of Manpower and Transmigration of Indonesia has an action plan to implement QA on OSH laboratory.

## **OPEN SESSION**

### **AGENDA ITEM 11: SPECIAL DIALOGUE WITH EXTERNAL COLLABORATION PARTNERS**

12. The Meeting shared the possible areas of collaboration of ASEAN-OSHNET with external collaboration partners. The possible areas appeared under the Agenda Item 8, paragraphs 22 to 29.

- Construction safety activity to be led by Malaysia
- Benchmarking to be led by Thailand
- Regional Conference to be led by the ASEAN –OSHNET Secretariat
- GHS Training for Labour Inspectors to be led by Indonesia. Indonesia will inform by the end of April on the willingness to be leader of this training to ASEAN-OSHNET Secretariat.

- The Meeting noted that in September 2012, the Philippines will organize APOSHA Conference. The GHS training could be organized in conjunction with the APOSHA. In this regards, the ASEAN-OSHNET Secretariat will further consult with the organisers of APOSHA to see if the conference could accommodate a GHS activity.
- Malaysia requested Japan to continue support on the OSHMS. There is Guidance notes for OSHMS, and the full implementation of the Guidance note is still needed. The ASEAN-OSHNET would appreciate Japan's continued support on this matter.
- The Philippines proposed that, in collaboration with the ASETUC, workers' safety training could be carried-out.
- Malaysia offered a training using Malaysia's facilities, but the topic must be proposed by the subject experts and from AMS (i.e. working at heights or in confined spaces.)
- Upon noting a series of proposals and ideas of collaboration, the ASEAN-OSHNET Secretariat would coordinate with the external collaborators in bringing forward these proposals towards realisation. The ASEAN-OSHNET members shall develop proposals for submission to the external collaborators.
- ASETUC raised a concern of greater workers' participation in any tripartite activity in collaborating with the ASEAN-OHSNET. ASETUC is no longer a single body as it has its membership spanning across from other global confederations and TUs, to name just a few, BWIC, under the services sector. FES is supportive of the work ASETUC. ASETUC wished to hold second OSH conference with a greater participation of workers. ASETUC also invited the ASEAN-OSHNET to participate in the annual regionals social dialogue in ASEAN on OSH in the services sectors in August 2012.
- Japan stressed that regarding the construction safety, this is a major area for reduction of work place related accidents. Japan has rich experiences in the reduction of workplace accidents. Thus, Japan is willing to contribute in terms of its expertise in this endeavour. For international cooperation, all initiatives have to go through JICA. Japan, thus, suggested the ASEAN-OHSNET go through JICA in seeking technical support.
- Japan stressed that Third Country OSHMS Training for SMEs will start 2012 in cooperation with JICA and Ministry of Human Resource of Malaysia. MHLW will find appropriate experts and will send them for the TCT. Regarding Viet Nam's request, the request shall be coursed through JICA channel.

- KOSHA has many on-going cooperative activities across AMS. KOSHA has a pool of experts in GHS and other areas. They will give technical supports and trainings, as and when ASEAN-OSHNET request.

**Action Lines: the ASEAN-OHSNET Secretariat**