

OSHNET REPORT FOR 2010

Agency: Occupational Safety and Health Center (OSHC)

with its main office in Quezon City and branches in Cebu and Cagayan De Oro

Promoting workers health and safety through the Zero Accident Program

I. Introduction:

The Zero Accident Program or ZAP is at the center of national efforts to bring OSH to more workplaces and workers, with the goal to ensure safe and healthy workplaces and workers. It is a flagship program of the DOLE implemented by the OSHC and part of the agenda of “Decent Work for All.” It is a long-term strategy to prevent work-related injuries and illness through advocacy, capability building, compliance, networking and linkages and productivity promotion.

II. Accomplishments

- **Creating Conditions Conducive to Economic Growth and Competitiveness**

- a) Promoting Public-Private Partnerships: OSH Advocacy through the Regional OSHNET (Occupational Safety and Health Networks)

The OSHC coordinates the implementation of ZAP nationwide through the OSHNET partnerships between the DOLE Regional offices, their respective safety and health organizations and practitioners. From July to December 2010, 21 OSH Networks in the 16 regions nationwide have established with additional OSHNETS set up in some provinces. In coordination with the DOLE Regional Offices and the OSHC, the regional OSHNETs provide the OSH trainings and services needed by the establishments such as Basic Occupational Safety and Health or BOSH, Construction Safety, Emergency Preparedness, safety and health audits, etc.

- b) The Gawad Kaligtasan and Kalusugan or GKK

The multiplier effect of “Best Practices” cannot be overestimated because it offers unique opportunities to adapt “lessons learned” in one work environment to other similar conditions. For that reason the high-profile national recognition of Best Establishments and Practitioners in Occupational Safety and Health through the Gawad Kaligtasan and Kalusugan Awards. (GKK) has become a central element on the promotion of preventive OSH. The GKK is a national award given by the DOLE in recognition of outstanding achievement of establishments and individuals in terms of responding to the

...eds of workers, of workplaces and community. It is a
...ero Accident Program (ZAP) and one of the flagship
programs of the DOLE. The awards include the Presidential Award and a
Labor Secretary's Award.

On October 14, 2010, the prestigious GKK Labor Secretary's Award was given to: Team Energy Sual, HEDCOR, Inc., and Energy Development Corporation, Dr. Onesimo M. Panaligan, Engr. Jose R. Tabanda, Jr., and Engr. Gretchen A. Fontejon; representing the best OSH practices in enterprises and among practitioners, respectively.

Started in 1997 and carried out every 2 years, 7 GKK awarding ceremonies have recognized the several establishments for their comprehensive program on OSH: Texas instruments Phils., National Steel Corporation, Shell Philippines Petroleum Corporation and Pilipinas Shell Tabangao Refinery, Destileria Bago, Del Monte Philippines, Team Energy (Mirant) Sual and Pagbilao, CP Kelco Philippines and National Power Corporation

- c) Department Advisory on: Guidelines for the Implementation of a Workplace Policy and Program on Hepatitis B

Hepatitis B continues to be a major public health concern in the Philippines. Because it is considered as a blood pathogen, Hepatitis B is not spread through ordinary workplace activities. The job of most workers does not confer the risk of transmission or of being infected. However, many are declared unfit to work without appropriate medical evaluation and counseling. Majority of these individuals are otherwise healthy and can be gainfully employed.

The workplace guidelines can be considered an important component to limit the spread and effects of Hepatitis B not only because the workers are affected but also because the workplace is part of the larger community of Filipinos fighting the Hepatitis B epidemic.

- **Social Program that Build Capacity and Create Opportunity**
 - OSH Training and Information Dissemination

The OSHC continues to conduct OSH trainings in all sectors, private, public, as well as for the informal sector and overseas workers. With 24 mandatory and specialized courses on OSH, the demand for training has increased exponentially through the years. BOSH, Construction Safety, Chemical Safety, Crane and Forklift Safety, Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS, TB, Drugs, and Lifestyle-related diseases etc.

In the 2nd semester, the OSHC conducted the following

- a) Basic Occupational Safety and Health (BOSH)- 9 courses were conducted in Quezon City, Cebu, Davao, La Union, Iloilo and Dumaguete with 425 participants in 300 companies nationwide.

Significant participation to this course came from:

- The Civil Service Commission which plans to develop OSH awareness courses for the public sector as well to provide policies and institute OSH standards for government offices to comply with.
- Airport officials in Mactan who requested for this course to ensure that their workers will not suffer from work-related problems such as lifting of heavy loads and stress at work.
- LGU officials in La Union who also requested for the course to enable their office to provide measures and approaches that will ensure the continuing productivity of their office as well as the establishments in their region.

- b) Construction Safety Training: 4 batches were conducted in Quezon City, Cebu, and Cagayan de Oro. A total of 200 safety practitioners in 120 companies from the construction industry participated in this 40-hour course.

The DPWH requested for this course specifically for their officers and engineers in order to harmonize the safety and health programs that should be implemented by contractors and builders in compliance with DOLE Department Order 13 (Guidelines governing OSH in the Construction Industry) on and DPWH Department Order 56.

- c) Other OSH-related courses: The Center conducted OSH orientation courses for 7,169 participants in 2,953 companies. The following OSH courses were conducted: OSH in Call Centers, Hearing Conservation Fire Safety, Chemical Safety, Prevention of HIV/AIDS, TB, Drugs in the Workplace, Ergonomics etc.
- d) From November 6 to 26, the OSHC in cooperation with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) conducted the second batch of training for 10 labor officers in Myanmar. The purpose of the training was to increase the capacity of labor inspectors on industrial hygiene including the ability to use the sampling and analytical equipment.

s among workers in the informal economy, the OSHC in the Philippine Commission on Women and CIDA conducted 2 courses with 106 participants from the Metro Naga areas.

- f) 12th National Occupational Safety and Health (NOSH) Congress: On October 14-15, 2010, the OSHC held the 12th NOSH Congress with the theme: “ZAP Networks: Sustaining and Strengthening Safety and Health programs”. This year’s Congress convened safety and health practitioners from the Government, management and labor sectors, NGOs and the academe to share their researches and best practices. A total of 507 participants attended with 55 papers presented. A joint resolution endorsed at the end of the congress focused on strengthening the OSHNet. Among the paper presented were OSHNET organization, disaster and emergency preparedness, OSH capacity building, environmental management, OSH policies, hazards and risk management, chemicals and disaster management and safety and health issues in the different industries. Special attention was given to the concerns in the Business Process Outsourcing, informal sector and agricultural industries.

- **Foreign Policy that Promotes Investments and Workers Welfare**

- a) OSH for OFWs bound for Korea

In November 2010, 3 batches of 135 OFWs bound for Korea were provided safety and health training required through an agreement between the Government of the Philippines and Korea in complying with the Employment Permit System or EPS.

III. Moving Forward

- a) Program thrusts of ZAP for 2011

The Center will focus its mandate on the seven (7) Key Employment Generators (KEGs), namely, agribusiness; BPOs; creative industries; infrastructure; manufacturing and logistics; mining; and tourism, medical, travel and retirement. The OSHC will closely coordinate with the OSHNETs not only to provide data on the safety and health in the regions (e.g., number of safety and health committees and practitioners), but to increase the number of safety and health programs and advocates and create a mechanism for reporting work-related injuries and illnesses.

In cooperation with the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce, BPOs and the Civil Service Commission, the OSHC will continuously develop and disseminate training and information materials on OSH (posters, brochures, comics, newsletters, etc.).

nters/BPOs has been developed by the OSHC. This will
grams to be conducted in coordination with the ITCs for
of the OSHNETS in the NCR, and Regions VII, VIII and

CAR.

Researches on the control of hazards at work is a continuing program of the OSHC. Studies focusing on the profiles of the creative (entertainment, media, advertising, toys and visual arts), and the tourism, medical travel and retirement industries on their OSH concerns will be pioneered by the Center in collaboration with the OSHNETS in the Regions.

To strengthen the OSH advocacy in the construction industry, the Construction safety training will be held in the different regions as well as for government agencies like the Department of Public Works and Highways which was already started in 2010. Training of Trainors for BOSH seminars will be conducted in all regions to widen the base of qualified trainors.

b) Measuring the impact of ZAP

The goal of the zero accident program is to reduce the number of accidents and illness at work. The components of ZAP, i.e., advocacy, capability-building, compliance to OSH standards, networking and productivity promotion, are being implemented by the OSHC in an integrated manner to ensure that the program is sustained by all establishments and offices. The program carries an intrinsic monitoring and evaluation component, i.e., re-entry plans of participants and how these have affected their establishments.

However, in order to determine if accidents and illness have been reduced, surveys conducted by other agencies can be utilized. The BLES integrated survey or BITS on OSH is used to provide data on accidents in illnesses collected in different years, i.e., 2003 and 2007. The main objective of the survey is to generate integrated data sets on employment of specific group of workers, occupational shortages and surpluses, safety and health practices, occupational injuries and diseases and labor cost of employees and covers non-agricultural sample establishments employing 20 or more workers nationwide.

statistics for 2007 showed a decrease in the number of accidents, injuries and illness compared to the 2003 results. A total of 44,800 occupational accidents occurred in 4,600 non-agricultural establishments employing 20 or more workers in 2007. This is lower by 14.7% compared with the 52,515 accidents that affected 4,824 establishments in 2003. Occupational injuries that resulted from workplace accidents also declined by 20.7% from 58,720 in 2003 to 46,570 in 2007. Occurrences of



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non-agricultural establishments employing 20 or more from 55,413 in 2003 to 47,235 in 2007.

The same 2007 survey also showed that the OSHC was responsible for the training of at least 1 out of 3 workers who participated in a safety and health training nationwide.

It cannot be concluded that the decreases noted in 2007 was mainly the result of the zero accident program. However, it may be presumed that the efforts of the OSHC and its partners in strengthening and reaching out to all sectors nationwide contributed to the decrease in the statistics of work-related injuries, accidents and illness.

Other performance metrics need to be developed by the Center to provide a better measurement of the impact of the zero accident program for the provision of a safer and healthier workplace and workforce.