

**MISSION REPORT**  
**Regional Public Information Campaign and Training Activities**  
**of the Occupational Safety and Health Center in Region 7**  
**March 6-10, 2005**

**BACKGROUND**

To sustain the activities on OSH in Region 7 and as an output of the regional visit on January 24-28, 2005, the OSHC strengthened partnerships with organizations based in Bohol and Cebu resolved to sign MOAs with different organizations, and with partner agencies in work safety and health. Dr. Dulce Gust headed the OSHC team in Cebu.

**OUTPUT**

The activities in Cebu and Bohol from March 6-10, 2005, resulted in the following:

1. OSHC signed a MOA with the ALU-TUCP, Bohol Association of Hotels, Resorts and Restaurants (BAHRR), Bohol Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI).

2. The MOA cover joint undertakings in terms of information dissemination activities; training programs; implementation of the Zero Accident Program in the region, search for Gawad Kaligtasan at Kalusugan nominees; and sustainability of programs and projects that stresses on including OSH in the regular activities of the organization (annex 1, 2, 3).

3. In an effort to assist the safety organizations in Cebu that would eventually expand the base of OSH trainers and advocates in the region, OSHC held a meeting with SOPI-Cebu which has around 100 members to date. Among the issues raised by SOPI-Cebu and responses or agreements reached during the meeting were:



ALU-TUCP National President Atty. Democrito Mendoza signing the MOA with OSHC Exec. Dir. Dulce Gust last March 7, 2005. Witnessing the signing were (from left-right) DOLE ARD Ely Cayanong and Director Rodolfo Sabulao and Dr. Raul Alcaarez of ALU-TUCP. OSHC and DOLE -7 Personnel as well as TUCP members were also present during the MOA signing.

Issues	Responses/Agreements
a. need for a more permanent presence of OSHC's prevention programs in Region VII	a. Dr. Gust informed them that the OSHC Governing Board has allowed the conduct of a study on establishing an OSHC office in Cebu
b. centralized accreditation of safety officers which is a disadvantage to them given the high costs of airfare and accommodation in Manila	b. informed the group that the accreditation function of BWC have been devolved to the regional offices
c. need for basic OSH training among their members	c. to be implemented in May or June with a combination of speakers from OSHC and the accredited safety practitioners of SOPI-Cebu
d. need for training on basic OSH of service contractors of cement plants which number about 32 and employs some 800 workers	d. they will be invited to the planned Basic OSH training in June
e. need for increased awareness on Prevention of HIV/AIDS and Drugs in the Workplace	f. SOPI-Cebu will gather all its members for a one-day appreciation course on these subjects
f. support to the April 28 celebration of the World Day for OSH	g. SOPI-Cebu will assist OSHC and DOLE in mobilizing people to celebrate this.

4. OSHC also held a separate meeting with the Mactan Export Zone (MEZ) Safety and Security Council which has about 85 members to date. Established in 1997, it has yet to be accredited as a safety organization but has plans to do such in the near future. Among the issues raised by the MEPZ Council were:

Issues	Responses/Agreements
a. slow process of accreditation of safety practitioners. Out of the 85 members of the Council, only 37 are accredited	a. informed the group that the accreditation function of BWC has been devolved to the regional offices
b. need to review the 4-year period required for safety practitioners to be accredited	b. OSHC will discuss this concern with BWC
c. international trainings on OSH undertaken by those applying for accreditation as safety practitioner are not recognized by the Bureau of Working Conditions	c. OSHC will discuss this concern with BWC
d. need for an OSH office, probably not as a separate institution, but inside the DOLE Regional Office	d. Dr. Gust informed them that the OSHC Governing Board has allowed the conduct of a study on establishing an OSHC office in Cebu
e. inability of the Council to be accredited as a training organization for lack of a safety consultant among its members. Some of their members have been promoted to non-OSH jobs and have resigned from the Council	e. OSHC encouraged the existing safety practitioners to apply for accreditation as safety consultants. It was also suggested that those promoted to non-OSH jobs be retained as members as they could be tapped as trainers later on
f. need for training on special topic courses like Work Environment Measurement, Biological Monitoring	f. OSHC will conduct this training in May or June to be done simultaneously with the activities with SOPI-Cebu
g. need for sustained programs on OSH	g. OSHC submitted a draft MOA to the Council for consideration

4. Members of the mass media were very supportive of all the OSH activities DOLE-RO 7 and OSHC officials were invited to guest in seven radio programs like DYLA, DYAB, Bombo Radyo, DYRF, DYRM, among others.

6. Simultaneous with these activities were the trainings on work-relatedness of diseases by OSHC for ALU-TUCP doctors and workers. (Please refer to Annex 4 for the names of the participants, and Annex 5 for the outline of the syllabus)



Members of the Bohol Chamber of Commerce and Industry witness the signing of the MOA between OSHC and BCCI as represented by Mr. Loreto Palapos, BCCI President (in white, with eyeglasses), and Dr. Dulce Gust last March 7, 2005. Acting as witness for DOLE was ARD Ely Cayanong (seated, 2<sup>nd</sup> from left).

### RECOMMENDATIONS/CONCLUSION

We therefore recommend the following strategies and activities to sustain preventive OSH work in Region 7

- Conduct the trainings SOPI-Cebu and the MEZ Council requested, with specific focus on the training of trainers;
- To complete a feasibility study on establishing a mini-OSH Center or an OSH office within the DOLE Regional Office by October 2005 for program planning in 2006.

- Hold a forum during the celebration of the World Day for Safety and Health at Work on April 28, 2005 to capture a larger audience that could be future partners on OSH to sustain activities in the region;
- Meet partners in information matters;
- To have a MOA with SOPI-Cebu and the MEZ Council or other partners in Cebu



Mr. Mariano Uy, President of the Bohol Association of Hotels, Resorts and Restaurants, with OSHC Executive Director Dulce Gust, during the signing of MOA between BAHRR and OSHC last March 6, 2005 in Tagbilaran, Bohol.