

DOLE GEARS FOR STRONGER EFFORTS ON OSH

Rosanna M. Tubelonia

"With the new strategic workforce framework in place, an accident-free working environment is necessary for the Filipino workforce to be more competitive and productive."

The theme of the 10th NOSH Congress was very timely as a "safe and healthy workforce" has recently been adopted as a component of the new strategic workforce framework by the Department of Labor and Employment. This was the gist of the keynote message by the Honorable Secretary Arturo D. Brion in the Opening Programme of the 10th NOSH Congress.

Furthermore, the theme "Wider OSH Coverage and Quality Programs" recognizes that more efforts are needed by various sectors, to "push for the consistent and full implementation of OSH quality programs" while reaching out to more and more workplaces.

The message, delivered by Undersecretary Romeo Lagman, also discussed the DOLE efforts on OSH and the challenges the Department faces in this significant area.

Current Thrusts and Programs on OSH

First and foremost is the adoption of a new strategic workforce framework with four strategic goals, one of which pertains to the attainment of a safe and healthy working environment. It uses advocacy, enforcement and capability-building as cornerstone strategies along with the compensation and rehabilitation efforts.

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EDITORIAL

Dr. Dulce P. Estrella-Gust



2006 witnessed major achievements in safety and health programs, setting a trend for further expansion in 2007 and beyond.

In cooperation with its clients and partners, OSHC stepped up the Zero Accident Program (ZAP) and extended its outreach to the regions. The First Mindanao Summit on OSH in in Davao brought together some 330 participants to strengthen OSH programs in region. Preparations got underway for a Summit in the Visayas and for the establishment of a small OSHC sub-unit in Cebu City to serve this dynamic region.

To widen the outreach, OSHC continued cooperating with other concerned agencies. A case in point is the partnership with the DAR involving technical assistance towards the implementation of OSH-WIND (Work Improvement for Neighborhood Development) for cooperatives of agrarian reform beneficiaries in sugarcane (Iloilo); banana(Davao) and coconut in Quezon.

Training and advocacy were attuned to changing needs. OSHC was reaching a wider clientele through courses in Basic OSH, Construction Safety, Learning sessions on Confined space, Globally Harmonized System (GHS) of Labelling Chemicals, TB, HIV, Drugs, Asbestos, Lifestyle-related Diseases, among others. To meet their special needs, OSH orientation was organized for OFWs bound for Korea, as well as for the rapidly growing numbers of workers in the contact centers. Stepping up OSH services to small enterprises and microenterprises involved basic OSH training program for livelihood programs in Marinduque and for workers in highly hazardous small enterprises in Albay to name a few.

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DOLE GEARS FOR MORE *(from page 1)*

The Department also has a policy where provisions on workplace safety and health are non-negotiable since there are OSH standards to be followed. There is also the new Labor Standards Enforcement framework adopted since 2004 where self-regulation and voluntary compliance is encouraged.

Its Zero Accident Program (ZAP) promotes OSH practices through education and technical trainings, massive information dissemination, research and advocacy and an award system for individuals with outstanding achievements on OSH.

There is also the compensation program to lessen the costs of accidents and illnesses for injured workers and their families.

At the same time, the regional offices have intensified compliance assistance through technical assistance visits aimed at educating workers and employers in small establishments on the importance of OSH to their productivity and competitiveness.

But while strides are being achieved, the Department faces challenges which can only be overcome in strong partnership with employers, workers, industry leaders and other professionals.

OSH Challenges

The first is to close the OSH protection gap. There is a large gap between protection of workers in around 8,000 large establishments and the 750,000 small and micro enterprises. While large companies may be at par with international standards on OSH, small and micro enterprises as well as those in the informal economy have hardly heard of OSH at all.

The second is to address the fragmentation of OSH responses. The network of safety professionals are not sufficient to deliver the OSH services required by the 35 million Filipino workers locally and 8 million overseas.

A third challenge is the gap on reliable statistics on occupational accidents and illnesses due to the difficulty of generating them stemming from the lack of awareness and fear of administrative sanctions to report such incidences.

Finally, the potential beneficiaries of preventive measures often lack the necessary information and motivation. OSH is rarely covered by CBAs and CNAs and Labor Management Councils (LMCs).

DOLE's Plans to Address Such Challenges

The Secretary declared that the DOLE will continue with its advocacy and awareness-raising efforts in partnership with various sectors, especially in the areas of policy development, OSH planning and implementation.

He would like to prioritize the review of OSH standards particularly on Rule 1020 (Registration) and Rule 1030 (Training and Accreditation) and would like it to be a joint effort of BWC, OSHC and the ECC in the planning, prescribing and conduct of advanced OSH technical courses.

The OSHC will conduct joint researches on new and emerging workplace issues arising from new work arrangements and technology innovations including the development of industrial hygiene program.

More preventive programs at the regional levels will be encouraged. The recognition program of the ZAP will also be continued where the GKK winners are to share their experiences through the Big Brother-Small Brother concept starting with educating and training their sub-contractors and others in their supply chain.

The DOLE also encourages the adoption of the ILO's framework on OSH management system where employers and workers participate in bringing solutions to their OSH problems as well as promote voluntary compliance and self-regulation in large establishments.

Efforts for massive OSH education especially in highly-hazardous workplaces like mines and construction, must be consolidated. Documentation and information exchange on best practices and innovations on accident prevention are most welcome.

Lastly, the DOLE will work with Congress, on the review and passage of laws on administrative sanctions and penal provisions for violators of OSH rules and regulations.

Parting Words

The Secretary ended his message with the statement that, "human lives are too precious to be lost or maimed" and a call to "help us prevent accidents and illnesses from happening so that we can truly say that ..we have made the quality of their worklife better"...

cont...EDITORIAL *(from page 1)*

Positive results do allow us to rest on our laurels. We are confident to make further progress in achieving DOLE's strategic goal of a "safe and healthy workforce". Here, we are encouraged by the strong support of Secretary Brion for "a single agency approach" whereby all stakeholders join efforts in achieving OSH objectives in a most efficient manner. A concrete example is the formulation of a comprehensive medium-Term Plan, 2006-2010. Following extensive consultations, the National Plan reflects the OSH needs, ambitions and commitments of all stakeholders in the public and private sectors.

Generally, the National Plan makes a strong case for developing the technical capability of OSH providers for the delivery of effective OSH services at national, regional and establishment levels. In short, we must join efforts to equip institutions, organizations and establishments with state-of-the-art technology, to professionalize a larger pool of OSH practitioners, to reach out to yet underserved workers in the informal sector and in the regions. This is a tall order, but it must and can be done.

Now, that the direction is clear, stakeholders in government, employers' and workers' organizations, professional organizations, NGO and academe are expected to attune their respective programs to the broad objectives agreed to under the Plan. We in the OSHC stand ready to provide guidance and technical support. This is what synergy is all about.

MABUHAY !!!

National OSH Plan

Dr. Dulce P. Estrella-Gust

In line with the principles in the new ILO Convention and Recommendation on a promotional framework for OSH, the present National OSH Profile provides an up-date on OSH conditions in the Philippines and highlights progress towards achieving a healthy and safe working environment. Accordingly the National OSH Profile makes a strong case for a strengthening of the existing national OSH system and network through concerted efforts at capacity and capability building. This would involve the formulation of a national policy and its implementation through a comprehensive national Plan or program.

Part 1 highlights OSH trends against the background of available statistics and the national and international debate and action to strengthen OSH services. OSH is being generally accepted as a basic workers' right that calls for concerted action by all stakeholders, including governments, employers' and workers' organizations and civil society at large.

Survey findings provide the bare minimum of data because many injuries and illnesses escape reporting. Moreover, time-based comparison has so far been inconclusive, not the least because of occasional changes in reporting criteria. The present National OSH Profile makes proposals to fill gaps in data collection on existing hazards as well as on emerging hazards and risks related to new technologies and chemicals.

Part 2 deals with the legal framework. Under the Philippine Constitution of 1987, workers' safety and health is an integral part of "just and humane terms and conditions of work" and thus part and parcel of the national agenda on Decent Work for All. The Philippine Labor Code devotes an entire book to prevention, enforcement of OSH standards and compensation of work-related injuries and illnesses. Over the past three decades a body of national OSH Standards has been developed including policies, hazard-specific laws and programs.

Available data show the current coverage by OSH services of the Philippine Labor force. At present some 2.2 million workers in the formal sector of medium and large enterprises enjoy effective OSH protection and services. This is less than 10% of total employment. The other 90% of the Philippine workforce, mostly located in the small enterprises, the informal economy and agriculture are yet to be reached to enjoy such favorable working conditions.

Since 1948, the Philippines has ratified 31 ILO Conventions, including OSH-related Conventions, such as ILO Conventions

(138 and 182) on the Elimination of Child Labor. Discussions are under way to work on the ILO Convention 155 on Occupational Safety and Health and Working Environment and ILO Convention 161 on Occupational Health Services under the Decent Work Agenda.



Part 3 describes the Philippine OSH system and network. Over time the Philippines has developed a wide range of responses to OSH challenges in the private and public sectors. This includes extensive legislation and practices combined with mechanisms and systems by different stakeholders for prevention, enforcement, compensation and rehabilitation to protect workers from work-related injuries, illnesses and death. With DOLE taking the lead, a wide range of OSH providers make up the national system and network including various government agencies, LGUs, employers' and workers' organizations and civil society at large.

The creation of the Occupational Safety and Health Center (OSHC) in 1987 reflects a consensus of the social partners to join efforts in making the workplaces safer, healthier and more productive. Thus, Executive Order 307 mandates it as an attached DOLE agency within the Employees' Compensation Commission (ECC) with primary responsibilities for initiating and coordinating nationwide preventive action through training, research, technical advisory services, information dissemination and networking, and to act as clearing house of information on all OSH matters.

OSHC cooperates closely with other key players in the OSH field in the implementation of the Zero Accident program (ZAP). The DOLE-BWC formulates policies, standards, rules and guidelines on OSH, hours of work and general work conditions. The Employees' Compensation and State Insurance Fund (ECSIF), administered by the ECC provides for medical, disability, death and income benefits. DOLE Regional Offices, in addition to their traditional responsibilities for inspection, are closely involved in the implementation of the Zero Accident Program and the National Labor Standards Enforcement Framework. To meet the challenges of the future, the OSH system is undergoing rationalization or considering streamlining of functions and procedures and adjustments in resource allocation.

Part 4 reviews progress under the OSHC Strategic Plan of 1998 to 2004 implemented through the activities of OSHC, other government agencies and partners in the public and private sectors. A five-fold increase in programs, activities and coverage of clients was recorded for the period under review. Wider coverage was matched with greater relevance and efficiency of activities and programs in the areas of training, information dissemination, technical services and policy formulation.

The Gawad Kaligtasan and Kalusugan Awards (GKK) has evolved as a high-profile national award to promote and achieve ZERO ACCIDENT in all workplaces. It recognizes outstanding achievements of establishments and individuals in terms of responding to the safety and health needs of workers, workplaces and community. The GKK framework of DOLE includes polices and programs on occupational safety, industrial hygiene and safety; establishments must give evidence of real OSH improvements beneficial to both workers and workplaces. The National Congresses on Occupational Safety and Health, organized and held biennially by OSHC, present and review the latest research, interventions and technical developments in the field of OSH.

Part 5 discusses emerging and re-emerging illnesses; these tend to go hand in hand with rapidly changing technologies and work processes, with the international movement of labor,

the rise in female employment and the flexibilization of work. Details are given on exposure to toxic substances and materials and the national and international response to the group of chemicals known as Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPS) and to the Globally Harmonized System (GHS) of labeling chemicals. Also addressed are biological hazards, like TB; ergonomic hazards are being associated with frequent OSH problems and complaints in manufacturing and agriculture. Emerging OSH hazards in new service industries, like contact centers are also discussed.

Part 6 discusses OSH concerns of special vulnerable groups of workers and the gaps in policies and program coverage. This includes in particular young workers, women and older workers, migrants, the disabled and, generally, workers in the informal sector.

The scope for extending OSH services to about 20 million underserved workers in micro-businesses and livelihood activities in the informal sector is regarded a matter of urgency. Based on pilot initiatives, the Occupational Safety and Health Center (OSHC) should promote the replication of best practices in cooperation with LGUs, SSS, PhilHealth, informal sector associations and other stakeholders. Accordingly, the proposed medium-term National OSH plan for 2006-2010 should make provision for expanding services to the informal sector.

Part 7 discusses the medium-term challenges to the formulation and implementation of an integrated and comprehensive OSH Plan such as:

- ✧ Intensifying the capability building on OSH through training, advocacy, networking and resource mobilization;
- ✧ Improving data collection, analysis and dissemination;
- ✧ Putting in place a strong chemical safety management;
- ✧ including the perennially excluded groups of workers;
- ✧ addressing OSH concerns of migrant workers;
- ✧ establishing unequivocal linkages between OSH, productivity and economic growth through research and practice;
- ✧ improving the governance of OSH at national, regional and establishment levels;
- ✧ monitoring and evaluation and
- ✧ strengthening the national policy on "Decent Work and OSH for All".

Part 8 makes a strong case for a Medium-Term OSH Plan 2006-2010. A graph gives an overview of the goals, strategies and proposed programs of the Plan and highlights a coherent system and network of implementation. Details on the Plan are given in a separate document, the National OSH Medium-Term Plan.



Rosanna M. Tubelonia

Almost everyday, we get to hear or read of a story or two of a bus or jeepney collision or fall, accident, death or injuries. As readers or listeners of said accounts, we can only feel saddened by such. This is the subject of a paper entitled, "OSH in the Transportation Sector" by Mr. Victorino Balais, president of the Philippine Transport and General Workers Organization (PTGWO).

An Overview of the Road Transport Sector in the Philippines

Latest figures (Y2003) indicated a total of 28,710 kilometers of national roads of which 70% are paved. Local roads on the other hand are at least 173,290 kilometers where 62% are paved.

There were also 4.3 million registered motor vehicles which includes 1.6 million motorcycles and tricycles and are growing leaps and bounds as evidenced by the heavy traffic we experience almost everyday. There are also 13,205 registered trucking companies; 16,335 bus and mini bus companies and about 257,574 vehicles in jeepney companies, cooperatives and owners and operators.

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NOSH Plan... (from page3)

A product of close consultations among the social partners, the draft Plan has been designed as an integral part of national development policies embodied in the Medium Term Philippine Development Plan for 2005-1010 and the National Program of Action for Decent Work. At the same time, it reflects the principles of ILO's Global Strategy on OSH that puts emphasis on preventive approaches and a safety culture covering all workers in both the formal and informal sectors.

More specifically the Medium-Term OSH Plan is meant to achieve tangible results through improved multi-sectoral cooperation in the areas of prevention, compliance with occupational safety and health standards (OSHS); through data collection, of compensation and rehabilitation as well as continuous updating of OSHS and related policies.

In Conclusions and Outlook, a strong case is being made for capacity and capability building to expand the coverage of workers and establishments and to strengthen the network. This would mean mapping out all preventive programs, harmonizing them, strengthening concerned institutions and organizations and thus creating a strong and integrated network and system of OSH action.

OSH in The Transport Sector...(from page5)

In terms of the labor force, there are about 2.4 million workers in 2005 as compared to only 2.1 million five years ago. This may be an underestimation considering that light rail trains and buses have been gaining ground in recent years while the most common modes of land transport are still the iconic Philippine jeepney, tricycles and pedicabs.

Accident data submitted by the industry to the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) revealed that fatal accidents are a regular fare in the sector. It was also noted that there has been an increasing trend in the number of work accident cases in the industry, from only 45 cases in 1997 to about 18 cases in the year 2000.

Profile of the Road Transport Worker

In a study conducted by the International Transport Federation (ITF), the transport workers were reported to be relatively young; educational attainment is usually low and they usually belong to the poorest of the working poor. Their work is characterized by long hours, and a six to seven days a week is the norm. Worse, there is absence of social protection measures such as social security coverage, health insurance and pension. In addition, rapid growth in the number of vehicles has resulted in declining earnings, forcing drivers to extend the day's working hours to 24 in order to earn enough for sustenance.

Key OSH Issues

In December last year, the media had reported deaths of a large number of bus passengers in Zamboanga as it passed a chemical-carrying truck which lost its brakes and as a result, exploded. Such an incident underscores the need for international safety standards for transport enterprises especially those carrying hazardous materials. It also merits a look into the living and working conditions of transport workers, in particular, hours of work, compensation and the right to organize. Although anecdotal, fatigue as a result of the extended working hours, can lead to accidents. There have also been alarming reports of violence against drivers. HIV/AIDS is also posing a threat due to the risky sexual behaviors and practices of drivers particularly those involved in trucking.

Possible Interventions and the ILO Convention 153

The above issues shows a need for a comprehensive package to address the working and living conditions of transport workers. Mr. Balais cited an example of an intervention from the worker sector such as a road transport safety campaign one core component of which was, "Fatigue Kills" highlighting the need to ratify ILO Convention 153.

Said convention adopted in 1979 concerns hours of work and rest periods in road transport. The main clauses of the Convention states that:



1. every driver is entitled to a break after 4 hours continuous driving or after 5 hours of work;
2. the maximum daily total driving time should not exceed 9 hours;
3. the maximum weekly driving time should not exceed 48 hours; and
4. the daily rest period must never be less than 8 consecutive hours.

So far, eight countries have ratified said Convention. Sad to say however, most have not taken any measures to implement provisions of the Convention. In the absence of such, Mr.

Balais pointed out that trade unions and OSH practitioners have a responsibility to lobby for the implementation of the Convention and its ratification.

SINGAPORE SETS NEW OSH TARGETS!

Rosanna M. Tubelonia

Within the ASEAN grouping, Singapore is looked upon as one of the models with which to pattern their own systems of governance. Its safety and health record is looked upon with admiration as the average frequency rate had remained at 2.2 from the 1990's to the early 2000. But given their government's 'anticipatory' mindset, the accident rates was regarded as having "stagnated" thus requiring needed reforms. This need was given higher impetus because in 2004, Singapore experienced high profile accidents which shook the public's confidence in workplace safety and health and raised the expectations for higher standards of safety. This was the gist of the paper presented by Mr. Chan Yew Kwong, Deputy Director of the Occupational Safety and Health Division of Singapore's Ministry of Manpower.

Reform came with the Workplace Safety and Health Act of 2006 as well as a new framework and roadmap to improve the safety culture and achieve a quantum leap in safety standards. As further stated by Dr. Ng Eng Hen, Minister

of Manpower on March 10, 2005, "... While our ultimate goal must be to have zero fatalities, through this new framework, we aim to first reduce deaths at workplaces by a third in five years, and by half within a decade or sooner."

The New OSH Framework

The new framework has two targets: 1) to halve the current occupational fatality rate by 2015 (it was 4.9 in 2002); and 2) to attain standards of the current top 10 developed countries with good safety records. In 2002, Singapore ranked 7th among the top 10 countries with good safety records.

It is anchored in 3 principles. The 1st Principle is, "**Reduce risks at source**". Accordingly, those who create risks must be responsible and held accountable to reduce, or eliminate the risks to prevent accidents. It also means that these responsibilities will involve persons along the whole process chain including top management. There is a shift from "managing risks" to "identifying and eliminating risks before they are created".

The 2nd Principle is, "**Industry must take greater ownership of safety outcomes.**" Management and workers should not merely follow the "letter of the law" but, also address safety aspects outside prescribed legislation.

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THE NEW OSH FRAMEWORK

(Singapore)

Major workplace accidents in 2004 had shaken public's confidence in workplace safety and health.

To restore confidence Government formulated the New OSH framework

Target

To halve our current occupational fatality rate by 2015

To attain standards of the current top 10 developed countries with good safety records.

Comparison of Occupational Death Rates, 2002

Country / Region	Occupational Fatality Rate #
Sweden	1.2
United Kingdom	1.3
Australia	2.0
USA (2000)	2.2
EU15 Average	2.5
Japan	2.6
Singapore (2004)	4.9
Taiwan (2001)	6.9
Hong Kong SAR	8.6
Malaysia	10.8

Occupational Death per 100,000 workers

OSH is truly alive and kicking in Mindanao

Joyce Ann O. Dela Cruz

Fresh from the knowledge gained from the First Mindanao Summit on Occupational Safety and Health last 24-25 May 2006 in Davao City, DOLE Region X promoted the establishment of an OSH Network in Mindanao.

In his paper presentation, Director Ponciano Ligutom related the process of the development of OSH Network of Region X. Why pursue such a network? He stressed that effective and affective OSH Network will maximize the "big brother concept" and help advance the mainstreaming of companies which are not adept of the occupational health and safety standards.

The DOLE Regional Office adopted the *community organization* (CO) approach in facilitating the formation of the OSH Network and initiated the pooling of resources and expertise of the companies and other stakeholders to pursue higher OSH consciousness. As such, the OSH Network also aims to share OSH experiences among all members and other stakeholders and improve benchmarking.

Formation of the OSH Network

The Network was jumpstarted by the spearheading of DOLE Region 10 in the participation to the First Mindanao Summit on OSH in Davao City. Potential leaders for the Northern Mindanao were identified from the participants and a consultation immediately followed to assess the acceptability of the OSH Network concept paper drafted by the DOLE regional office. From July to August 2006, a Core Group was organized and interim officers were elected. A committee was also tasked to draft the OSH Network Constitution and By-Laws (CBL).

The OSH Network First General Assembly was held in 12 September 2006. The Constitution and By-Laws were presented and ratified by the participants. No less than the Executive Director of the OSHC, Dr. Dulce P. Estrella-Gust inducted into office the Board of Directors.

The formulation of the Network's Vision, Mission, Goals and Action Plan, according to Director Ligutom is second week of November.

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SINGAPORE SETS NEW... (from page 7)

Again, there is a shift in paradigm, from "compliance with the letter of the law" to "proactive planning and action to achieve a safe workplace".

The 3rd Principle on the other hand, says that, "We should prevent accidents through higher penalties for poor safety management". The current mindset according to Mr. Chan, is that only safety lapses resulting in mishaps are punished. The new law says that penalties must be sufficient to reflect the cost of poor safety management and to deter risk-taking behaviour.

Key Features of the Law and the Framework

The new framework also calls for the mandatory conduct of risk assessment before commencing any work activity to reduce risks at source and to make RA a way of life at every workplace. It also comes with an enhanced enforcement powers to deal with systemic weaknesses. The law currently limits the scope of coverage to include the most hazardous workplaces of construction sites; shipyards; and manufacturing facilities such as metalworking, chemical plants and engineering workshops. However, all workplaces are to be eventually covered under the Act over the next 3 to 5 years.

Penalties under the Act include: 1) S\$200,000 and/or 24 months' jail for individuals; 2) S\$500,000 fine for corporations and 3) Double the maximum fine for repeat offenders where a fatality occurs during a previous offence and a 2nd fatality is caused.

Government and Industry Acting Together on OSH

The new law foresees government and industry acting together. In the words of Minister Dr. Ng Eng Heng in his Keynote Address at the 2005 Annual Safety Performance Award (ASPA), "...Safety is a shared responsibility of all - so setting standards, training of workers and outreach must be a joint enterprise. Government will continue to provide the infrastructure and impetus for these activities...But industry must play a bigger role in deciding how to achieve those outcomes, what standards to set based on considerations of practicality and cost to achieve those outcomes."

Singapore's WSH Act and the Philippines' National OSH Plan - a Wish and an Observation

In terms of direction, Philippines and Singapore are moving in parallel directions, according to Mr. Chan. The Philippines NOSH Plan has a framework and calls for greater spread of responsibility, with the government continuing on its role of catalyzing activities to enrich/enhance OSH programs across the whole of the Philippines! With the cooperation and the enthusiasm of all social partners and other stakeholders, the Philippines can very well duplicate Singapore's achievements in this area!

OSH is Truly alive... (from page8)

Initial Gains and Pains

The OSH Network, though an independent body functions *interdependently* with DOLE. And since its inception constant meetings among members and DOLE staff developed good working relationship among them and fostered camaraderie of all these stakeholders.

In working together, the OSH Network, says Director Ligutom, has drawn voluntary interest from its members. The manifestation of concern in the promotion of OSH is not confined to their own respective gains but with awareness of the need to reach out to other establishments.

The recognition given by the OSHC and the public also empowered the member establishments of the OSH Network to further the safety and health advocacy in Region 10, but time and scheduling of activities remain to be ironed out. The organizing aspect is hindered by schedule conflicts among members.

Learnings and Future Prospects

True to its goal, the OSH Network has opened collaborations among the OSH stakeholders in the region. Members manifested willingness to share best practices in their respective companies. Though the CO process has been slow, it proved to be effective in improving the "ownership" of the Network as it was a developmental and empowering approach.

Among others, the Network is pursuing to strengthen its prospects to:

- serve as venue for OSH information exchange;
- be a resource center for companies, GOs and NGOs, OSH practitioners and institutions in and out of Northern Mindanao;
- link up with other similar institutions not only in Mindanao but in Luzon and Visayas as well as for cooperation and complementation;
- open / gain access to technical or financial support from local and foreign institutions for organizational / professional development and continuous learning.

PERSONAL ESSAYS (from page11)

- ✍ For the OSHC validation team, it is equally important to work with and help each other to be efficient in the validation process. We should also be prepared and armed with the proper orientation before the scheduled validation of companies;
- **OSH is for all!**
- ✍ I learned that companies who prioritizes occupational safety and health cares not only for increased productivity but for an efficient, effective and healthy workforce;
- ✍ Seeing that the preventive work of the OSHC reaches more people through our regional campaigns, the GKK and ZAP programs highlights our pursuit for safer workplaces and non-renegotiability of OSH for all.

After hurdling the rigorous GKK selection process I feel confident that this year's batch of GKK winners will continue to be the best advocates for occupational. It has truly been an honor to be part of the OSH Validation team.

SAFETY and HEALTH in SCHOOLS (from page10)

The OSHC and the Private School Health Officers' Association (PSHOA), Incorporated have worked in partnership for the promotion of safe and healthy schools. PSHOA is an organization of physicians, dentists, nurses and allied professionals in private schools nationwide, duly recognized by the Department Education (DepEd) and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED).

In a paper presented in the 10th NOSH by PSHOA's Immediate Past President and school physician of St. Paul's College Quezon City, Dr. Ma. Consuelo Z. Garcia entitled "Safety and Health in Schools, A Fresh Start!", she stressed that, all stakeholders: school administrators, teachers, staff, students, parents should also have to be equally committed to OSH. As an example of a OSH policy in schools, the PSHOA developed the FRESH (Focusing Resource on Effective School Health) programmatic approach – geared towards the health and safety of the whole school populace which includes the students, administrators, faculty and staff.

Injuries data reported by PSHOA showed that the common injuries in schools include: falls, burns, traffic/vehicle related: getting on/off, inside vehicle. This data was collected from self administered questionnaires to MDs and nurses of 232 private schools from 2000 to 2001.

Continuous development and implementation of safety programs should address campus safety, laboratory safety, fire and earthquake preparedness, food safety, first aid and overall school security, among others.

Developing a mindset of safety and health through skills based health education is of utmost importance for an effective OSH in schools.

S A F E T Y and Health in SCHOOLS

Joyce Ann O. Dela Cruz

Implementing a Comprehensive Safety and Health Program in Schools

The school is a workplace – it is a workplace for the school officials, teachers, staff and the students. As such, schools need to have comprehensive policies that would address and promote safety and health concerns.

According to the Department of Education, for school year 2006-2007, 17.8 million students enrolled in government-run elementary and high schools, and about 2.2 million going to private schools. These students spend an average of six to eight hours in schools. With this number, schools must have the proper programs to ensure a safe and healthy educational environment.

School officials have to deal with incidences like falls, cuts even hazing of students, incidences of violence and electrocution. Recent news items have shown chemical exposures in local high school laboratories. All school stakeholders share the responsibility of working towards proactive prevention of accidents and injuries in their respective schools.

The Occupational Safety and Health Center helps school officials to either develop or further enhance current programs to deal with injuries and school-related illnesses and promote health in the school setting. It has been conducting Appreciation Courses on Occupational Safety and Health for schools since 2004. The course imparts 1) knowledge on the causes of and ways of preventing accidents/illnesses; 2) information on the situation in schools as they relate to OSH; 3) skills in identifying OSH hazards and the range of controls; and 4) helps participants develop OSH programs in schools.

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My GKK Validation Experience

Joyce Ann O. Dela Cruz

**GKK validation:
practical course
on everything OSH!**

Being part of the 5th Gawad Kaligtasan at Kalusugan Validation Team was a huge responsibility and one tough challenge! I have been with the OSHC close to four years now, and wearing the “GKKValidator hat” is a new learning experience for me.



On the one side, this job literally took me places since companies who joined GKK come from all over the country. But at the same time, I was aware of the big responsibility the team has in making sure that the on-site validation of the GKK participating companies is efficient and thorough. GKK on-site validation is one crash course on everything OSH! During the GKK, I have seen and experience the OSH programs of companies up close and personal and in action.

I am proud that the companies nationwide who have joined this year’s GKK have all showed exemplary performances in achieving zero accident in the workplace. Each of them have taken the lead with a comprehensive OSH Policy, and specific programs on safety control and emergency preparedness; industrial hygiene program; occupational health program; capacity building on OSH; environmental protection and community relations; and social accountability are in place and working effectively.

I was tasked to validate the social accountability programs of companies; their OSH community relations programs are, their continuing assistance to communities and other forms of corporate social responsibility and have personally seen how much effort was put into developing their OSH programs and specifically strengthening their social accountability to complement a sound OSH program.

Suffice to say that it was heartwarming to see how, safety and health is being extended outside the workplace to reach the communities that the companies belong to. Indeed, I have seen different strokes for different folks. Some companies are into volunteerism of employees, educational programs and scholarships, skills learning, environment protection and other programs implemented within their targeted beneficiaries and partners.

What lessons did I learn?

➤ **To be creative!**

- ✎ I learned that companies need to be creative in getting the message of OSH across their respective employees and workplaces.
- ✎ As validators, it is important to be creative in asking questions to elicit the suitable answers one needs to validate the information given.

➤ **To exercise teamwork!**

- ✎ Companies we have validated prove that no OSH programs would be successfully implemented without the full cooperation of employers and employees alike; OSH culture is cultivated with teamwork and collaboration of efforts;

➤ [GO BACK TO PAGE 9](#)

the 10th NATIONAL OCCUPATIONAL

“Wider OSH C”

25-27 OCTOBER 2006

Occupational Safety and Health Center



Registration Crew



Part of the 3



Cutting of Ribbon during the Opening Ceremony



On - the - Spot T.V. Coverage

NATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH CONGRESS

Coverage and Quality Programs



of the 300 plus participants



Usec. Romeo C. Lagman at the Opening Ceremony



Rosemary Sira of La Frutera, Inc. Discussing the Corporate Social Responsibility and OSH Program



Closing Ceremony. (From L to R: Dr. Gust, Atty. Montano of FFW, Atty. Varela of ECOP/OIC-Asec. Torres, Usec. Andanar of DILG, Att. Villaviza of TUCPRD Ursua of RO II and Mr. Rafer of Moog

PERSISTING NON-COMPLIANCE TO OSHS RULE 1960

Dr. Ronaldo Fajardo

The Occupational Safety and Health Standards Rule 1960 refers to Occupational Health Services that every employer, in cooperation with the workers and their representatives, should establish within the place of employment. This includes the provision of health personnel and medical facilities and programs depending on the size and nature of the company. However, issues have been raised on the inconsistent and incomplete implementation of this OSHS provision.

Gaps have been identified such as functions of occupational health services, manpower requirements, and scope of duties of health professionals. Dr. Marilou D. Renales, member of the National Board of Directors of the Philippine College of Occupational Medicine (PCOM), attributes this situation primarily to various interpretations of the said rule, sometimes contradicting. She added that this is mainly due to the traditional perception of health professionals as providers of curative services.

Dr. Renales recommended that awareness and education should be intensified to health professionals, health maintenance organizations (HMO) and management organizations. Acknowledging the limitations of enforcement personnel, she added that implementation should be strengthened with the assistance of professional organizations.

Many systems of labeling are currently being used. Examples would be the United Nations Recommendations on Transport of Dangerous Goods (UNRTG), European Union (EU) Directive on Substances and Preparations, US Requirements for Workplace, Consumers and Pesticides, Canadian Requirements for Workplace, Consumers and Pesticides and sometimes countries have their own system of labeling. Since there are a number of classification and labeling systems and while existing laws and regulations maybe similar, they are different enough to require multiple label and multiple safety data sheets.

The development of a globally harmonized hazard classification and compatible labeling system was included in the six programme areas talked about in the Earth Summit in 1992, (Agenda 21, Chapter 19). This development is an integration of three focal points: International Labour Organization (ILO), Organization for Economic Cooperation & Development (OECD) and United Nations Sub Committee of Experts for the Transport of Dangerous Goods (UNSCETDG). This was guided by a GHS Document called the "Purple Book," which provides explanatory information on how to apply the system.



Updates on GHS Implementation in the Philippines

Annabelle R. Andugo

The Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals is a common and coherent approach to defining and classifying hazards, and communicating information on labels and safety data sheets. It provides the underlying infrastructure for the establishment of national, comprehensive chemical safety programs.

GO TO NEXT PAGE

OSH NETWORK UPDATES

Joyce Ann Dela Cruz

OSHC convergence activities in Marinduque

With the Single Agency Approach in mind and the push for the Zero Accident Program, the OSHC and the Regional Coordinating Council (RCC) of DOLE Region IV-B launched the DOLE Programmes and Services through the implementation of short-term interventions in the Province of Marinduque from 22 to 24 February 2007.

The OSHC held orientations on Occupational Health in small industries and confined spaces as well as Construction Safety orientation for displaced workers of Marcopper since 1996. The orientation includes recognition of hazards, risks and risks elimination and control. More than 70 construction and displaced workers in Boac, Marinduque were present.

In cooperation with the Association of Barangay Captains (ABC) headed by its President, Mr. Franco Preclaro, the OSHC also conducted OSH orientation for the barangay captains and councilors of Sta. Cruz, Marinduque. This was implemented through the invitation of Mayor Percival Morales of the town. This was a follow-up of seminar on livelihood and OSH, in particular on soap-making carried out with OSHC last February 23-25, 2005 in partnership with PATAMABA and ABC.

TURN TO PAGE 23

Updates on GHS...(from page 14)

Philippines pledge to implement the GHS by year 2008. Countries were encouraged by the the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) and the Intergovernmental Forum for Chemical Safety (IFCS) to implement the new GHS as soon as possible with a view of having the system fully operational by year 2008.

It was then in year 2004 when a National GHS Implementation Committee was created, having BOI as the coordinating agency of all sectoral committees involved. These committees include the DOLE (OSHC), DA (FPA), DTI (BPS) and DOTC. From these, sub-committees were formed and they will focus on the Legislation, Comprehensibility Testing, Awareness Testing, Technical Training and INternational Affairs. These committees set an Implementation Timetable to be achieved, which were divided into three Phases. Phase I includes Situation & Gap Analysis set in July 2005 - February 2006; Phase II includes the National GHS Workshop, Drafting of Legislation, Civil Society & Industry Directed Activities set in March 2006 - November 2006 and; Phase III includes the National Strategic Plan / road map set to be achieved in December 2006 - May 2007.

Currently, forum and national consultation workshops are continuing for the preparation of the draft legislation. There are also options being considered - to amend existing laws or develop a joint GHS undertaking / administrative order. Industry and civil society activities include awareness raising workshops conducted by Samahan sa Pilipinas ng mga Industriyang Kemikal (SPIK), Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP), Pesticide & Action Network (PAN).

Other strategies for the implementation of GHS includes the preparation of label standards and awareness raising by OSHC and its inclusion in the training modules for the chemical safety.



The Awarding Rites

The 5th Gawad Kaligtasan at Kalusugan (GKK) was successfully held last November 29, 2007, at the Auditorium of the OSHC. It drew a total of 200 guests and participants who included the individual winners and their respective families; officials of companies who either won or participated in the initial stages; the media; DOLE officials especially those from the Regional Offices; members of the validating teams; Board of Judges and representatives of social partners.

Messages of support were extended by the International Labor Organization (through Ms. Linda Wirth, Director for the Sub-Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific); the World Health Organization (through Dr. Jean Marc Olive, Country Representative); Comm. Vladimir Tupas –President of the Trade Union of the Philippines and Allied Services and Atty. Miguel Varela of the Employer's Confederation of the Philippines.

The Honorable Secretary Arturo Brion's keynote message was read by Undersecretary Romeo C. Lagman, for Social Protection and Labor Standards.

A total of twenty (20) awards were given out- 14 for the establishment categories and six for the individual categories. (See list of winners) In terms of regional distribution, Region IV-A had the most number of establishment winners followed by Region X with 2, and NCR, VII, XII and I each with one. Of the six individual winners, 2 each came from NCR and Region 4A, with 1 each from Region X and VII.

The winners took with them glass trophies made by world-renowned Ramon Orlina for the Labor Secretary awardees and by Professor El Farol of the UP-College of Fine Arts for the other winners.

Selection Process

Thirty one (31) establishments and twenty two (22) individuals had entered this year's GKK contest, competing for recognition of their excellent performance in occupational safety and health through the high-profile **Presidential Award, a Labor Secretary's Award and other specialized acknowledgements**. All entries went through several stages of a rigorous and objective selection process involving prominent experts and judges.

An initial Documents' Review was undertaken to determine whether the nominees met established criteria and requirements under the GKK guidelines. Areas under review by experts representing various OSH disciplines covered compliance with technical inspection, injury/illness records, the nature of OSH programs and the scope of in-house and external OSH services.

Short-listed establishments and individuals were visited by technical screening teams for on-site validations. For this purpose, OSHC technical staff joined their DOLE Regional counterparts where the establishment or individual were based. Based on a checklist using the GKK Framework as reference, this validation provided nominees with an opportunity to present details of their respective programs and accomplishments. Companies and individuals reaching established cut-off levels were admitted to the final selection phase.

The Board of Judges included representatives from the academe, professional safety and health organizations, private sector and from the government. In the process each finalist in the individual and establishment categories was given sufficient time to present their programs and achievements to be followed by an open forum for questions and answers. The judges then rated each finalist accordingly and established the final awardees.

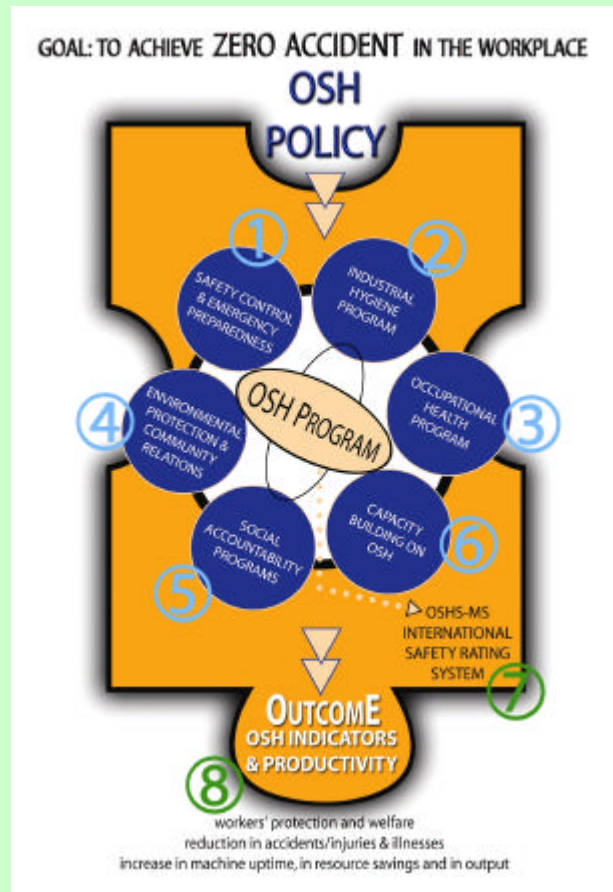
All the ratings were subsequently tabulated to determine who among the finalists in each category won which level of award based on a range of ratings earlier agreed upon by the judges.

GKK Framework as Basis for Evaluation

The Board of Judges as well as the members of the Validating Teams basically used the GKK Framework to evaluate nominations to the awards which uses a 6-point system (see Framework) plus OSH management systems and other productivity indicators.

After-Awarding Activities

Two of the winners-Engr. Don Orido and CP Kelco of Region VII, got the chance to talk- and advocate- on OSH through the media. CP Kelco representatives were interviewed live on November 30, 2006, over primetime radio (12:00-1:00pm.) at DZMM with no less than Ms. Tina Monzon-Palma as anchor. They discussed what made the company a top awardee of the GKK. In general, they cited the communal effort of the company and the surrounding community to be the best in OSH, with high returns in terms of profit and productivity. Engr. Orido also discussed his personal triumphs over UNTV on December 5, 2006 when he guested at the TV show, "Serbisyo Publiko". His experience not just in the public sector but also as a union officer and a safety engineer in a construction firm was thoroughly discussed.



The Following are brief write-ups of the six (6) Labor Secretary's Awardees - 4 for Establishments and 2 for Individual Categories; and Why they won.



At Mirant Pagbilao, everybody is a safety officer- literally and figuratively

Mirant Pagbilao Corporation

Pagbilao, Quezon
DOLE Secretary's Award
Establishment Category-First Place

A consistent GKK awardee, Mirant Pagbilao Power Station has a comprehensive occupational safety, health and environment program.

Mirant Pagbilao...*(continuation from page 17)*

Its safety programs include: the Safety & Health Awareness Reward Points (SHARP); Training Orientation Points on SHE (TOPS); the SHE Picture Contest; Safety for Non-Formal Labor Sector; and School Safety Projects.

A centerpiece program of Mirant is the Safety Officers Program (SOP), where each employee gets the chance to undergo training and serve as a safety officer for a period of time.

Another key initiative is the organization of the Contractors of Mirant into the SHECAP (Safety, Health, and Environment Contractors Association of Pagbilao) which ensures that all its contractors have programs on OSH that are aligned with Pagbilao's own safety, health, and environmental programs.

The health programs of Mirant are impressive. Among them are the Bloodborne Pathogen Program, Program on Pulmonary TB Prevention and Control, Smoking Cessation, Fat Screening Test, Bone Density Test, Drug and Alcohol Abuse Program coupled with continuous education about work-related diseases. These health programs are likewise extended to the community by the construction of Botika sa Isla Grande with medicine donations and the company's Bantay Kalusugan medical missions.

The Disaster and Emergency Response capability of Mirant Pagbilao was highlighted by its exemplary response to the widely-publicized train-derailment accident in Padre Burgos, Quezon in 2004 and a recent bus accident in Lower Zigzag Road, Pagbilao.

Mirant Pagbilao also engages in its Solid Waste Management Program, maintains an Ash Lagoon and is involved in organic farming. Its Environmental initiatives includes Combatting Pollution (HAZWOPER), Race to Clean the Earth, Coastal Clean-Up and Mangrove Planting.

Unselfish with its resources, it created the Mirant Pagbilao College Scholarship Program; and an OJT and Cadetship Training Program. It even established a Computer Learning Center; constructed a school building for Polo South Elementary School and launched several livelihood programs.



Never to rest on its laurels, CP Kelco has shown that it continuously aims to improve its OSH practices

CP Kelco Philippines, Inc.

**Sibonga, Cebu
DOLE Secretary's Award
Establishment Category-First Place**

CP KELCO Philippines Inc. is a global leader in manufacturing carageenan, a hydrocolloid used in food ingredients, pharmaceutical, personal/oral care, industrial processing aids, household/consumer products, even in the oil fields.

A two-time winner of GKK, CP Kelco showed this year that the best practices it showcased before could still be made better. Its Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) ensures that food and food additives are produced at controlled conditions, thus, making it safe and fit for human consumption.

CP Kelco's safety and health policy commits to the pursuit of a zero harm environment for its employees, communities, customers and contractors.

It has shown evidence that OSH translates to profits in terms of higher quality products, lesser machine downtime, healthy workforce and satisfied shareholders.

An advocate for continuous innovations, CP Kelco's recent programs on OSH include: launching the "Company-wide Injury Free Drive" as part of its Behavior-Based Safety Program, creating the "Hand Injury and Burn Elimination Team (HIBET)", Incident Response Team, Management Team, and Critical Task Analysis Team, and implementing a "Hazard and Critical Task Analysis".

CP Kelco...(continuation from page 18)

The Occupational Health Program covers eye care, hearing conservation, prevention of lifestyle-related diseases, tobacco cessation, family planning and welfare, "PTB in the Workplace", HIV/AIDS prevention, and drug prevention.

Part of its waste management program is the treatment facility, which utilizes activated sludge process to treat the wastewater generated in the production of carageenan.

Highlights of environmental activities include coastal clean-up, mangrove rehabilitation, reef check, building of Payao, Abugon, Cebu coastal site, tree-planting, and seaweed farming livelihood projects. Likewise the company has outreach programs such as adoption of school and financial assistance programs to adopted communities.



A commitment to duty is manifested in the various programs of Mirant Sual on OSH, environmental management, and corporate social responsibility

Mirant Sual Corporation

Sual, Pangasinan

**DOLE Secretary's Award
Establishment Category-First Place**

Mirant Sual is the country's largest coal-fired power station and largest contributor of power to the Luzon grid. The energy it provides plays a critical role in the development of the nation.

The Sual Power Station implements various SHE programs such as machine preventive maintenance and housekeeping for safety, chemical management and work environment measurement for Industrial Hygiene, and medical examinations and audiometry for Health, just to name a few.

The operability and efficacy of its firefighting and emergency equipment, medical and welfare facilities and pollution prevention systems are ensured through proper maintenance and regular inspection. Mirant Sual also maintains an efficient recordkeeping of documents. Training programs are constantly provided to its own workforce, its contractors and even its communities for capability and skills development.

A centerpiece program of Mirant Sual's SHE implementation is the creation of the Occupational Safety and Health Group or *OSH-G* which is a program designed to promote safety ownership and partnership among the members of the plant in accident prevention and emergency response.

A powerful testament to Mirant Sual's world-class performance and excellent OSH program is its ISO 14001 certification and five million safe manhours without lost time accident.

The power plant has also implemented the Volunteerism Initiatives of Mirant or *VIM* which enables direct employee involvement in the implementation of the company's community projects that include reading tutorials, classroom construction, book donation, gift-giving, coastal clean-up, and tree and mangrove planting.

Likewise, Mirant Sual makes an impact in the lives of its communities by forging partnerships on employment and livelihood opportunities. Trainings on values enhancement, food processing, iodized salt-making and farming are regularly conducted for the members of the communities. Representatives from the power plant also regularly convene local cooperatives' officers for meetings to thresh out concerns and to build capabilities.

Mirant Sual has truly shown remarkable commitment on OSH, environment management, and corporate social responsibility.



Self-directed teams within the departments of DMPI's cannery are where unique ideas on work safety and health emanate.

Del Monte Philippines, Inc.

**Bugo, Cagayan de Oro City
DOLE Secretary's Award
Establishment Category-First Place**

Del Monte's entry to the 5th GKK is a showcase of the company's 80 years of strong dedication to occupational safety and health.

Its DM SAFE policy forms the cornerstone of its OSH policy that stands for: **D** - Dedication to occupational safety and health; **M** - Maintenance of Standards; **S** - Safety as a line function; **A** - Accountability of employee and employer; **F** - Fire, emergency and disaster preparedness; **E** - Education and Empowerment for all.

It has 35 Safety and Health Committees which includes all its contractors. Its OSH program framework includes programs on prevention, continuous learning and improvement and preparedness for all health, chemical and safety emergencies.

A unique innovation of DMPI is the self-directed teams organized within the departments of the cannery. Teams are encouraged to conceptualize a project to improve their work condition and increase productivity. These projects are classified into five categories: safety, quality, continuous improvement, cost saving, and innovation. As of June 2006, more than a hundred projects have been submitted and implemented. These team projects continuously strengthen the proactive development of innovative work improvements by all employees.

It has improved and expanded its Labor Management Council (LMC) since 2001, which now has a wider representation from both labor and management. The LMC has emerged from a mere grievance forum to a productive venue of cooperation and open communication guided on the power of consensus. Safety and health concerns are always top priority during LMC meetings. In 2005, DMPI's LMC has in fact been awarded the Most Outstanding LMC in the Philippines.

The workers' families and the community benefit from some of DMPI's social accountability programs in coordination with the local government such as the Trisikad seminars and LTO deputation programs, setting up an organic allotment garden, community solid waste program and mangrove planting.

In addition, the Del Monte Foundation devotes its resources to activities on scholarships, schools upgrading, home care and technical skills training for out-of-school youth, unemployed mothers and heads of families.



Don has shown that his heart truly belongs to work safety and health.

Don R. Orido
DOLE Secretary's Award
Individual Category-First Place

Don Orido is currently the president of the Philippine Society of Construction Safety Practitioners. But what makes Don unique from other safety professionals?

CP Kelco... (continuation from page 18)

Don's uniqueness on advocating work safety and health is anchored on his tripartite experiences- 1st, as an elective official in his hometown of Oas, Albay; 2nd, as a Safety engineer in three major construction projects; and 3rd, as a union representative in many OSH capability-building projects.

As Municipal Councilor in 1999, Don authored his hometown's Ordinance on Public Welfare and Safety.

As a safety engineer, he was the main actor in the development of the Comprehensive Safety and Health Plan of the Makati Development Corporation (MDC)-Bonifacio Triangle Project. In another project with the MDC, The Columns-Ayala Project, he gained a Certificate of Appreciation for being a major driving force in the project's achievement of 4.1 million manhours without lost-time accident from May 16, 2005 to March 15, 2006.

In addition to OSH, he was instrumental in organizing the Tiwi Geothermal Workers' Association at the MIESCOR PGI project in 2004. This resulted in an increase in the workers' daily wages and the up-to-date remittance of SSS contributions and withholding taxes.

Indeed, Don's outstanding achievements on OSH can be found in the labor front. He has been the National Coordinator of the Association of Construction and Informal Workers since October 2004. He also co-founded the Philippine Society of Construction Safety Practitioners in October 2005 and spearheaded the 1st National Conference on OSH in the Construction Sector last year. Don has organized a series of OSH trainings for safety officers in the construction industry and has been a resource person in many union-led and sponsored OSH capability-building activities. An institution in Bangkok granted Don with a series of training program on OSH from 2004-2005 given his outstanding track record in promoting work safety and health in the labor sector.

Don has shown that OSH is always a passion that he pursues wherever he is and whatever assignment he is tasked to do. His track record on work safety and health is an exceptional feat that is truly hard to defeat.



Only a solutions-oriented safety practitioner like Tito could analyze and solve the multitude of OSH concerns of their company's clients. .

Tito B. Lejero

DOLE Secretary's Award Individual Category-First Place

As part of the Management Team of Production Services Network in the Philippines, Tito leads the company in all aspects of Health, Safety & Environment. Under his leadership, PSN achieved its 10th consecutive year without Lost Time Incident, 6 Million safe personnel hours without Lost Time Incident and 2 Years free of Recordable Cases.

PSN's ability to maintain such excellence over a long period of time is one of the reasons why its Refinery maintenance contract with Shell was not subjected for bidding since 1998 and why PSN won the Institutional Award in the 3rd & 4th GKK.

Tito extends his expertise on work safety and health to his company's clients. In fact, he helped the Shell Batangas refinery to win several awards, to include: Best Business Improvement Team competition, Silver Award in the Quality Circle competition, Shell Oil Products East President's Award, ISO 14001 & OHSAS 18001 certifications and the Shell Global Solutions highest HSE audit rating - the first-ever rating awarded to a Shell facility in the world.

Tito Lejero... (continuation from page 21)

He is also involved in reviewing PSN clients' Hazard & Effect Management Procedures; formulating refinery Standard Operating Instructions; conceptualizing and building the SHELTER hands-on training facility; facilitating and conducting Authorized Engineer/Authorized Gas Safety Inspector courses for Shell Junior Executives.

As a past GKK awardee, the Philippines was included in the PSN and Halliburton global maps as a model on HSE programs.

To show his commitment to the community, Tito conducts HSE seminars to local universities in Batangas, a place in building a culture of work safety and health.

OSH NETWORK... (from page 15)

OSHC joins TWG on MLC 2006

The OSHC is a member of the Technical Working Group (TWG) for the review of the ILO Maritime Convention 2006. Deputy Administrator Hans Cacdac of the POEA heads the TWG. The group is currently in discussion on the Philippine laws applicable to the MLC which was adopted by the 94th International Labour Conference at a maritime session in Geneva in February 2006. The Maritime as it consolidates the subject matter of 66 maritime labour instruments relating to seafarers' conditions of work.

BOSH Online Update

The Occupational Safety and Health Center launched the On-line Basic Occupational Safety and Health Course (On-Line BOSH) last August 7, 2006. The BOSH Online Batch 1 produced seven (7) graduates. Enrolment for Batch 2 is still ongoing as classes would start 2nd week of May.

With the BOSH On-Line, the OSHC is using today's communication technology with the aim of reaching a wider number of participants from all over the country. The BOSH is one of the OSHC's more frequently requested training course.

Did You Know that?



Edelle P. Gallo

58,720 occupational injuries in non-agricultural establishments were recorded in year 2003.

Industries with the highest number of cases of occupational injuries:

1. Manufacturing -----40, 498
2. Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles, Motorcycles and Personal and Household goods ----- 6,637
3. Hotels & Restaurants ----- 2,757

Source: 2002/2003 BLES Integrated Survey (BITS)

2,719 HIV Ab seropositive cases were reported from January 1984 to December 2006. Twenty nine percent (29%) 753 of these were AIDS cases. More than half (59%) of the cases belongs from 25 - 39 years age group. Sixty four percent (64%) 1,748 were males.

Source: HIV and AIDS Registry December 2006

5,787 cases of drug abuse were recorded by the Dangerous Drugs Board for the year 2004. 4,680 (80.87%) new admissions, 887 (15.33%) readmissions, and 220 (380%) outpatient cases. NCR leads with 51. 46% most number cases for 2004 followed by the Regions IV-A (16.81%), Region III (16.54%), Region VII (4.94%), and Region XI (3.75%)

Source: DDB 2004 Annual Report

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5th GKK AWARDEES

DOLE SECRETARY'S AWARD FIRST PLACE

ESTABLISHMENT CATEGORY

Mirant Pagbilao Corporation
CP Kelco Philippines, Inc.
Mirant Sual Corporation
Del Monte Philippines, Inc. - Cannery

INDIVIDUAL CATEGORY

Don R. Orido
Tito B. Lejero

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD SECOND PLACE

ESTABLISHMENT CATEGORY

Fujitsu Computer Products Corp.
First Gas Power Corporation
First Philippine Industrial Corp.
Unilever Foods Phils., Cavite Factory
Production Services Network
(Philippines) Corp.

INDIVIDUAL CATEGORY

Rudy P. Brioso
James Jason Q. Ylanan

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD THIRD PLACE

ESTABLISHMENT CATEGORY

First Gas Holdings Corp.
Meralco Management & Leadership Dev't. Center
Foundation, Inc.
Cargill Phils., Inc. - Copra Crushing Plant
National Power Corp. - Pulangi IV Hydroelectric Plant
Monsanto Philippines, Inc.

INDIVIDUAL CATEGORY

Roberto C. Rubina
Edwin P. Forsuelo

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