



ICOH on World Day for Safety and Health at Work: 28 April 2007

In spite of the impressive progress made in the improvement of health, safety and social conditions of work, in the industrialized countries, and a number of good examples from developing countries, the need for occupational health and safety in the rapidly changing world of work is growing. In most countries the nature of the problems, hazards and risks has changed. The traditional hazards, accidents and occupational diseases still need great efforts to be prevented. New problems of work life need new expert knowledge, research, training and information in order to be effectively controlled and managed.

By improving the health, safety and conditions of work, we experts of ICOH with our allies, can support the healthy development of modern work life in both industrialized and developing countries and thus contribute to the health, well-being, productivity and sustainable development. On our part we can contribute to the breakage of the vicious circle of poverty and under-development, illness and inequity, and direct the development of work life towards a new phase aiming at decent working conditions, health and safety for each working individual in the world.

While supporting the WHO *Global Plan of Action on Workers' Health* and the ILO campaign *Safe and Healthy Workplaces - Making Decent Work a Reality*, the ICOH wants to emphasize the need for the following global actions:

1. Effective prevention and control, through legal and other appropriate means, of all types of hazards, risks and conditions affecting the health, safety and work ability of working people
2. Development of working conditions, which are conducive to health, safety, well-being and work ability of workers and productivity of their workplaces
3. Provision of competent occupational health services for every working individual and every workplace in the world, ensuring services for prevention and protection, as well as competent diagnosis, recognition and just compensation of occupational diseases and injuries. This needs a sufficient number of well-trained experts able to provide support for workers and enterprises in occupational health actions
4. Strengthening of research efforts on the relationship between work and health, and on the development of good occupational health practices as important prerequisites for the quality of work life
5. Adopting occupational health as a basic right of working people, as an important means for sustainable development and for social and economic productivity of people, companies, communities and nations.

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