World Day for Safety and Health at Work: 28 April 2015

The International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH) calls for joint actions for preventing occupational and work-related injuries and diseases and for building a culture of prevention by meeting the changing needs at the workplace around the world

Reinforced international collaboration is in progress to meet the changing needs for safety and health at work in globalizing economy. We fully support the international collaboration addressing both traditional and emerging work-related risks at the workplace in increasingly diversifying employment situations. It is very opportune that the World Day for Safety and Health at Work in 2015 focuses on collaboration for building a culture of prevention on occupational safety and health.

For promoting the workplace actions for building a culture of prevention, we need to strengthen coherent policies and their implementation in occupational safety and health. It is particularly urgent to emphasize through international collaboration the development of comprehensive, proactive risk assessment and control and the extension of occupational health services with the active support of legislation, policies and programmes.

ICOH actively joins in international collaboration for securing proactive measures at the initiative of workers and employers in various sectors and in developing regions. A clear emphasis is placed on the primary prevention of work-related injuries and diseases of workers exposed to a variety of occupational hazards particularly in dealing with new technologies and emerging risks. We need to promote good occupational safety and health practice that facilitates practical risk management procedures within an organized framework involving effective and basic occupational health services universally accessible for all workers. This practice must be based on principles of equity, relevant and sound from scientific, ethical and technical points of view and appropriate to occupational risks in each workplace. We hope the International Code of Ethics for Occupational Health Professionals of ICOH, updated in 2014, will serve as a practical guide in meeting the occupational safety and health needs of the working population. All ICOH members are committed to furthering international networking of coherent activities for this purpose.

ICOH expresses warm congratulations on the 96th Anniversary of the ILO and its leadership role in the improvement of safety and health at work throughout the world. We extend our sincere gratitude for our continued collaborative relations. We reiterate the call for sustained international effort in building a culture of prevention in every workplace and developing effective means of preventing work-related injuries and diseases.

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President of the International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH)