



OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH IN THAILAND, 2018



Occupational Safety and Health Bureau
Department of Labour Protection and Welfare
Ministry of Labour

I. Occupational Safety, Health and Environment in Thailand

Thailand has been an active member states of the International Labour Organization (ILO) since its establishment in 1919, and has a long history of Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) development which can be tracked back to more than 5 decades. The key events and milestones of OSH in the country can be chronologically summarized as follow:

- 1964 An outbreak of 41 heavy manganese poisoning cases with various severity levels among workers in a battery manufacturing factory in Samutprakan province, bringing about the awareness on OSH.
- 1966 OSH issue and initiatives were raised and incorporated into the 2nd National Economic and Social Development Plan (1967–1971).
- 1969 The Faculty of Public Health, University of Medical Sciences (currently, Mahidol University) started the degree program (B.Sc.) in occupational health. The first batch of students graduated in 1970.
- 1972 “Division of Occupational Health” was established under the Department of Health, Ministry of Public Health (currently the “Bureau of Occupational and Environmental Diseases” under the Department of Diseases Control).
- 1972 The first OSH law came into force as provisions under the “Announcement of the Revolutionary Party No. 103 Re: Labour Protection”.
- 1974 “Occupational Safety Section” was established under the Division of Labour Protection, Department of Labour (later, was upgraded to be “Occupational Safety Inspection Division”).
- 1976 Ministry of Interior released the “Notification on Safety and Health Welfare of Employees” under the “Announcement of the Revolutionary Party No. 103”.
- 1983 “National Institute for the Improvement of Working Conditions and Environment (NICE)” was established under the collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO).
- 1987 A series of 17 Notifications of the Ministry of Interior on various OSH aspects was issued.
- 1993 An occurrence of fire at a doll factory in Nakhon Pathom province, resulting in 188 deaths and 481 injured workers. This tragic event is considered the worst industrial accident in the history of Thailand.
- 1998 “Labour Protection Act, B.E. 2541 (A.D. 1998)” was promulgated, replacing the “Announcement of the Revolutionary Party No. 103”.

- 2000 Thailand became a founding member of the ASEAN Occupational Safety and Health Network (ASEAN-OSHNET)
- 2002 The “1st Master Plan on Occupational Safety, Health and Environment” was developed and effective for 2002–2006.
- 2007 The government announced the policy on “Decent Safety and Health for Workers” as the National OSH Agenda applied for all relevant sectors.
- 2009 Occupational Safety and Health Bureau was established under the reconstruction of the organization and the authority of Department of Labour Protection and Welfare by merging the previous 2 agencies; the Occupational Safety and Health Inspection Division (OSHID) and the National Institute for the Improvement of Working Conditions and Environment (NICE).
- 2011 “Occupational Safety, Health and Environment Act, B.E. 2554 (A.D. 2011)” has become effective, as the main OSH law of Thailand.
- 2012 The “1st National Master Plan on Occupational Safety, Health and Environment” was developed and effective for 2012–2016.
- 2016 Thailand ratified the ILO Convention No. 187 “Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health, 2006”.
- 2016 The government announced the National Agenda “Decent Safety and Health for Workers – Phase II” as the National OSH Policy for 2017–2026, and the “2nd National Master Plan on Occupational Safety, Health and Environment” as the National OSH Programme for 2017–2021.

Thus, it could be concluded that the Government of Thailand has recognized the importance of OSH as many policies, programmes and relevant initiatives were introduced and are currently effective, as described in the following chapters.

II. Current Situation and Statistics on Occupational Safety, Health and Environment

According to the data from Registration Administration Bureau – Ministry of Interior, Social Security Office – Ministry of Labour, and the National Statistical Office, total population of Thailand at the end of December 2017 was 66.17 million where 56.13 million were over 15 years of age. Of this group of population, 37.79 million were in labour force or available for work and 37.07 million were employed. Among these employed persons, 11.38 million were in agricultural sector and 25.69 million were in non-agricultural sector (manufacturing, construction, transportation, retail trade, service industry, and other businesses). Meanwhile, 0.48 and 0.24 million were unemployed persons and seasonal workers, respectively. Unemployment rate at the time was 1.3%. There were 20.8 million of informal workers in agriculture, trading and service sectors (including home-based workers, industrial outworkers and own account workers).

A total of 14.64 million of employed persons registered with the Social Security Office - Department of Labor, and hence, be covered under the social security scheme. In addition, there were total of 435,303 establishments throughout the country.

Considering the statistics on occupational accidents and injuries in 2017 (based on unofficial report by Office of Workmen's Compensation Fund - WCF), it is shown that employees were still vulnerable to hazardous works and facing high risk of occupational injuries. Among the 9.77 million employees under the workmen's compensation coverage, there were 86,278 decided cases of occupational accidents and injuries, as classified by severity below:

- Leave work \leq 3 days	58,671 cases
- Leave work $>$ 3 days	25,820 cases
- Lost of organ	1,200 cases
- Disability	17 cases
- Death	570 cases

The total amount of compensation paid was approximately 1,650 million THB (not include the cases that claiming was in progress and not decided by the end of December 2017).

The comparison of occupational accident and injury cases during 2006 – 2017 reveals that the numbers of employees under WCF increases year by year while the trends of injuries (all cases and severe cases) clearly decrease. Detailed statistics are shown in Table 2-1.

Table 2-1 Occupational Accident Statistics during 2006 – 2017, classified by Severity Level and Workman Compensation

Year	No. of Employees	No. of Decided Cases					Occupational Injury Rates			Amount of Workmen's Compensation (Million Baht)		
		Death (1)	Disability (2)	Loss of Organ (3)	Leave Work > 3 days (4)	Leave Work ≤ 3 days (5)	All Cases (1-5)	*Severe Cases (1-4)	**All Cases (1-5)		**Severe Cases (1-4)	***Fatal Cases (1)
2006	7,992,025	808	21	3,413	51,901	148,114	204,257	56,143	25.56	7.02	10.11	1,684.23
2007	8,178,180	741	16	3,259	50,525	144,111	198,652	54,541	24.29	6.67	9.06	1,734.90
2008	8,135,606	613	15	3,096	45,719	127,059	176,502	49,443	21.70	6.08	7.53	1,688.35
2009	7,939,923	597	8	2,383	39,850	106,598	149,436	42,838	18.82	5.39	7.52	1,569.19
2010	8,177,618	619	11	2,149	39,919	103,813	146,511	42,698	17.92	5.22	7.57	1,592.63
2011	8,222,960	551	4	1,630	35,709	91,699	129,632	37,933	15.76	4.61	6.70	1,616.57
2012	8,575,398	717	20	1,818	36,165	93,106	131,826	38,720	15.37	4.52	8.36	1,726.58
2013	8,901,624	635	28	3,036	31,419	76,776	111,894	35,188	12.57	3.95	7.13	1,743.16
2014	9,132,752	625	14	1,485	29,329	68,939	100,392	31,453	10.99	3.44	6.84	1,284.10
2015	9,336,317	575	6	1,324	27,845	65,924	95,674	29,750	10.25	3.19	6.16	1,668.71
2016	9,449,984	584	12	1,290	26,829	60,773	89,488	28,715	9.47	3.04	6.18	1,666.94
2017	9,777,751	570	17	1,200	25,820	58,671	86,278	27,607	8.82	2.82	5.82	1,650 †

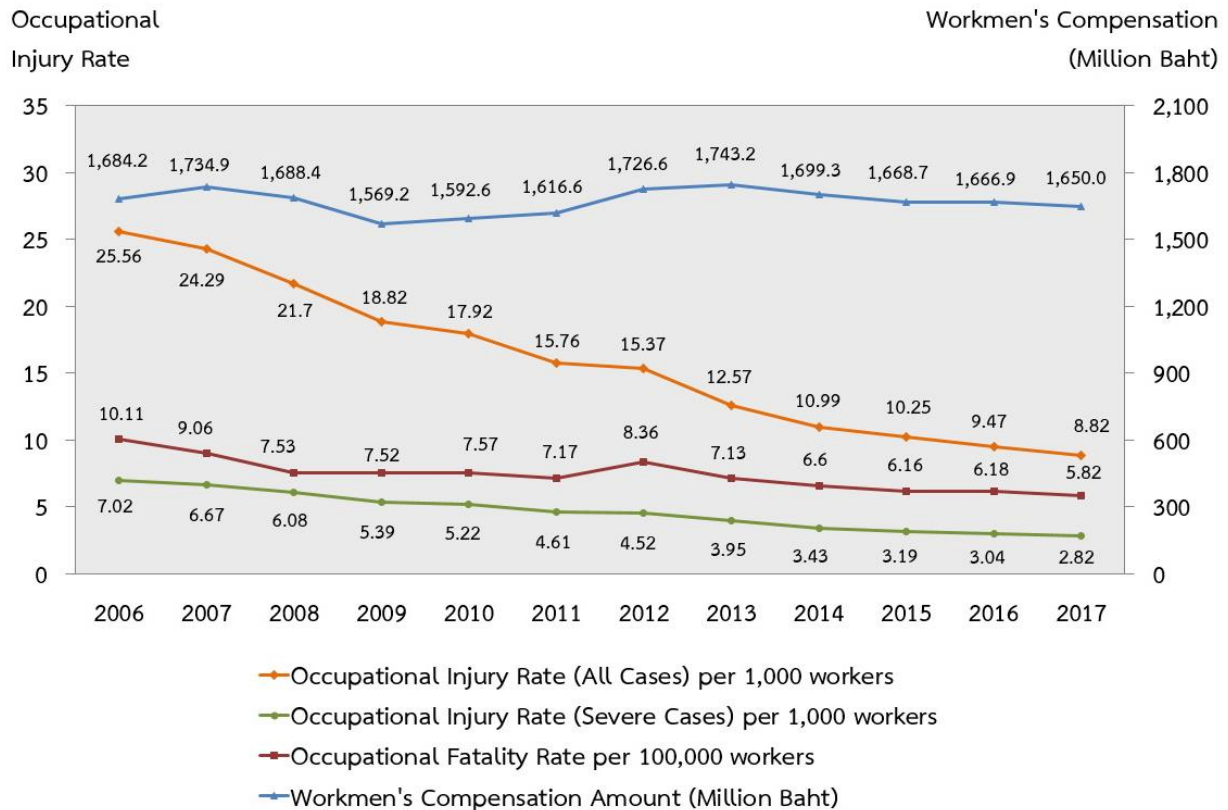
* Not included cases those left work ≤ 3 days

** Rate per 1,000 workers

*** Rate per 100,000 workers

† Approximated amount (not include the cases that claiming was in progress and not decided by the end of December 2017)

Figure 2-1 Trend of Occupational Injury Rates by Severity and Workmen's Compensation, 2006 - 2017



From Figure 2-1, it is obvious that occupational accident and injury rates per 1,000 workers for all cases and for severe cases reduce substantially during 2006 – 2017. In the mean time, occupational fatality rates tended to reduce after 2005 but slightly increased in 2012, with decreasing trend afterwards. The amounts of compensation paid, in overall, has no significant trend of changes over the 12-year period (appear to be stable, with the total payment of approximately 1,600 million THB each year).

The rates of occupational accidents and injuries by severity are considered the indicators of achievement on occupational safety and health administration of the country, by comparing to the rates from the previous years. These statistics are, in addition, used for benchmarking of OSH performance across the nation to evaluate the status of OSH administration as well.

Statistics on occupational accidents and injuries for the year 2017, classified by several important factors, are summarized in the following tables:

Table 2-2 Cases of Occupational Accidents and Injuries by Size of Establishment

No. of Employees	No. of Decided Cases					All Cases
	Death	Disability	Loss of Organ	Leave Work > 3 days	Leave Work ≤ 3 days	
1 – 10	116	8	134	2,952	4,929	8,139
11 – 20	65	2	92	2,076	3,789	6,024
21 – 50	96	-	150	3,527	6,800	10,573
51 – 100	60	-	152	2,800	6,127	9,139
101 – 200	61	-	145	2,964	6,531	9,701
201 – 500	49	2	209	4,132	9,654	14,046
501 – 1,000	43	2	146	2,408	6,003	8,602
Over 1,000	80	3	172	4,961	14,838	20,054
Total	570	17	1,200	25,820	58,671	86,278

Table 2-3 Cases of Occupational Accidents and Injuries by Type of Establishment

Type of Establishment/ Manufacturer	No. of Decided Cases					All Cases
	Death	Disability	Loss of Organ	Leave Work > 3 days	Leave Work ≤ 3 days	
- Agriculture/Forestry/ Fishing	6	-	12	234	555	807
- Mining/Quarrying	9	-	12	164	162	347
- Manufacturing	148	4	944	14,773	32,805	48,674
- Energy/Utilities	9	-	3	72	704	188
- Water Supply/ Waste Management	-	-	2	55	76	133
- Construction	139	10	82	2,484	6,258	8,973
- Whole & Retail Sale/ Vehicle Repair	81	-	90	3,850	8,910	12,931
- Logistics & Warehouse	110	-	22	1,223	1,768	3,123
- Lodging & Food Service	12	1	8	1,377	3,753	5,151
- Information & Communication	3	-	-	69	108	180
- Finance & Insurance	10	-	1	54	70	135
- Real Estate Business	1	-	5	210	495	711
- Scientific Profession & Technical Activities	4	1	7	266	813	1,091
- Administrative & Supportive Activities	28	1	8	684	1,445	2,166
- Academic Activities	2	-	-	58	91	151
- Health Promotion & Social Work	-	-	1	64	840	905
- Arts/Entertainment & Recreation	5	-	2	108	296	411
- Other Services	3	-	1	75	122	201
Total	570	17	1,200	25,820	58,671	86,278

Table 2-4 Top-7 Causes of Occupational Accidents and Injuries in 2017

Causes of Injury	No. of Decided Cases					All Cases
	Death	Disability	Loss of Organ	Leave Work > 3 days	Leave Work ≤ 3 days	
- Cut/Stabbed	3	-	255	5,654	14,748	20,660
- Collapsed/Felt on top	53	1	296	5,527	8,069	13,946
- Hit/Crashed	13	1	138	3,324	8,582	12,058
- Splashed into Eyes	-	-	8	564	9,571	10,143
- Pinched/Pulled	10	-	398	3,017	3,424	6,849
- Fall from Height	101	6	28	2,551	2,867	5,553
- Slip and Fall	7	-	14	1,650	3,382	5,053

Table 2-5 Cases of Diagnosed Occupational Diseases or Work-related Illnesses

Occupational Disease/ Work-related Illness	No. of Decided Cases					All Cases
	Death	Disability	Loss of Organ	Leave Work > 3 days	Leave Work ≤ 3 days	
- Chemical Exposures	-	-	-	1	2	3
- Physical Exposures	-	-	5	3	10	18
- Biological Exposures	-	-	-	6	180	186
- Respiratory Diseases	1	-	7	-	7	15
- Skin Diseases	-	-	-	2	58	60
- Musculoskeletal Disorders	-	-	-	248	1,306	1,554
- Other Diseases	-	-	-	1	1	2

Table 2-6 Top-10 Provinces with High Occupational Accident and Injury Cases

No.	Province	All Cases	No.	Province	Fatal Cases
1	Bangkok	23,575	1	Bangkok	150
2	Samut Prakan	12,393	2	Samut Prakan	37
3	Chonburi	5,611	3	Pathumthani	27
4	Samut Sakhon	5,036	4	Chonburi	20
5	Pathumthani	3,736	5	Nakhon Ratsima, Rayong	18
6	Rayong	3,039	6	Nonthaburi	17
7	Nonthaburi	2,998	7	Nakhon Pathom, Saraburi	16
8	Pra Nakhon Sri Ayutthaya	2,546	8	Samut Sakhon	15
9	Chachoengsao	2,427	9	Pra Nakhon Sri Ayutthaya, Ubon Ratchathani	11
10	Nakhon Ratchasima	2,090	10	Khon Kaen, Udonthani	10

III. National Policies, Strategies, and Master Plans on Occupational Safety, Health and Environment

The Government of Thailand has recognized the importance of Occupational Safety, Health and Environment and has implemented national OSH policies/programs since the past decades, as summarized below:

3.1 Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand

Issues on the right of workers, labour protection and welfare including Occupational Safety, Health and Environment, have been incorporated into the several previous constitutions of Thailand. The current Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand, B.E. 2517 (A.D. 2017) as proclaimed in the Government Gazette on April 6th of 2017, Part 6, Section 74 states that the Government shall promote abilities of the people to engage in work which is appropriate to their potentials and ages, and ensure that they have work to engage in. The Government shall also protect labour to ensure occupational safety and health, as well as sufficient income, welfare, social security and other benefits which are suitable for their living, and should provide for or promote savings for living after their working age.

3.2 Government Policy

On December 11, 2006, the government cabinet announced the policy “Decent Safety and Health for Workers” as the National Agenda applied for all relevant sectors, effective for 10 years. In order to strengthen OSH administration and move forward OSH activities to achieve the goals, the 1st National Master Plan on Occupational Safety, Health and Environment (2012–2016) was developed under the collaboration of relevant agencies to provide framework and direction for OSH operation of the country.

Due to the ending of the National OSH Agenda and the National OSH Master Plan in 2016, the 2nd phase of National OSH Agenda “Decent Safety and Health for Workers” (2017–2021) together with the 2nd National Master Plan on Occupational Safety, Health and Environment (2017–2026) were drafted and proposed to the government for approval. On December 14, 2016, the cabinet announced both the 2nd phase of National OSH Agenda and the 2nd National OSH Master Plan to be in effect. This is an important development that reflects the intention and commitment of the government to have a continuous and sustainable OSH policy and plan at national level.

Statement of the National Agenda “Decent Safety and Health for Workers” Phase II (2017 – 2026)

The Royal Government of Thailand has recognized the magnitude of problem on occupational accidents and injuries that have negative effects on productivity as well as economic and social development of the country. During the past decade, the National Agenda “Decent Safety and Health for Workers (2007–2016) was announced, leading to

the improvement of occupational safety and health administration with integration of works among relevant authorities. For the sustainability of administration and the continuity of ongoing activities on occupational safety and health to achieve the intention in the reduction of work accidents and injuries, the government therefore announces the National Agenda "Decent Safety and Health for Workers" – Phase II (2017–2026), with the following framework and guidelines:

1. Promoting safety and health among working people;
2. Emphasizing on prevention, in order to minimize the risk of exposure to hazardous working conditions, and the occurrence of occupational and work-related diseases;
3. Creating the network and participation of activities under the government's "civil state approach";
4. Building up preventive culture on occupational safety and health;
5. Developing the mechanisms for the administration of occupational safety and health at all levels.

3.3 National Economic and Social Development Plan

The current 12th National Economic and Social Development Plan (2017–2021) was formulated as national strategic plan to provide roadmap for the country development during a period when the world has been experiencing rapid change and becoming even more integrated, whilst Thailand itself has also been undergoing reforms. The principles of the "Sufficiency Economy Philosophy" have been and continue to be a vital element of development strategy as they underpin the promotion of moderation, reasonableness, and resilience. These principles have significantly contributed to balanced and sustainable development in Thailand. This 12th National Plan adheres to the 20-year National Strategy framework (2017-2036), the country's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Government's "Thailand 4.0" Policy, as well as other reform agendas with the development directions and strategies to achieve the objectives of "Security, Prosperity, and Sustainability".

In addition, this National Plan maintains the vision of "People as the Center for Development" while preparing the country to transition into "Aging Society" at the end of the 12th Plan so that they are living with harmony, social equality, fare, and are immunized to respond to changes". For the working population, the strategies for development are emphasized on the enhancement of labour skills, both of new entrants to the labour market and existing workers, in order to be compatible with the targeted improvements in the production and service sectors, and with technological changes. Furthermore, human society should be developed in such a way as to achieve well-being in all age groups and to have the capacity to cope adequately with daily life changes through the leverage provided by quality education, learning and skills enhancement, and through quality public health services in all areas, and by promoting the role of social institutions to imbue good, disciplined people with strong values and social responsibility.

3.4 Master Plan on Occupational Safety, Health and Environment

The Ministry of Labour of Thailand, by the Department of Labour Protection and Welfare, has issued the Master Plans on Occupational Safety, Health and Environment to provide directions for the development of OSH in Thailand. This 1st ever OSH Master Plan was launched in 2001 and was effective for 2002–2006. Then, the 2nd OSH Master Plan was developed for 2007-2011. However, these two Master Plans were implemented by the Ministry of Labour alone and had a lot of limitations.

Hence, the 3rd Master Plan was developed with emphases on inter-ministerial collaboration and integration of work plans with those of related ministries and supporting organizations. It was therefore upgraded and released as the 1st National Master Plan on Occupational Safety, Health and Environment (2012–2016), with the aim to provide framework and direction for OSH operation of the country. At the ending of the National OSH Agenda and the National OSH Master Plan in 2016, the above-mentioned 2nd phase of National OSH Agenda “Decent Safety and Health for Workers” (2017–2021) together with the 2nd National Master Plan on Occupational Safety, Health and Environment (2017–2026) were drafted and proposed to the government for approval. On December 14, 2016, the cabinet announced both the 2nd phase of National OSH Agenda and the 2nd National OSH Master Plan to be in effect. This is an important development that reflects the intention and commitment of the government to have a continuous and sustainable OSH policy and plan at national level. Such the national policy and plan are considered as key elements to support the ILO Convention No. 187 Re: Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health, 2006 that the country ratified in 2016.

The 2nd National Master Plan on Occupational Safety, Health and Environment (2017–2021)

Vision

“Strives to build-up preventive culture to promote safety and health of workers”

Mission

1. Establish and develop preventive or promotional measures on occupational safety and health (OSH);
2. Promote labour protection in all sectors on the issues of workers’ rights, duties regarding occupational safety and health, to enhance their safety and health at work;
3. Create and develop occupational safety and health network and collaboration among all relevant sectors;
4. Develop mechanisms for the administration and operation of occupational safety and health;
5. Monitor, control and follow-up occupational safety and health issues.

Main Target

1. To build-up recognition and awareness on occupational safety and health in all relevant sectors, leading to the preventive safety culture of the nation;
2. To promote collaboration among all relevant sectors in the implementation of occupational safety and health activities with efficiency and effectiveness.

Key Performance Indicators

1. Rate of occupational accidents and injuries
2. Number of sectors those have active role in the promotion of safety and health at work;
3. Effectiveness of activities implemented, by strategy under this master plan.

Strategies

Strategy 1 Promoting and developing explicit knowledge on occupational safety and health

Goals

1. Personnel from all relevant sectors have been developed in OSH knowledge;
2. OSH knowledge and information are fully accessible and have been exchanged;
3. Methodology and direction for the development of OSH knowledge have been established.

Strategic Approaches

1. Create and develop a system to promote OSH knowledge and technical capacity among relevant personnel in all sectors, e.g., employers, employees, students, and partner organizations;
2. Conduct researches/studies to develop OSH knowledge or innovation;
3. Exchange or share OSH information and knowledge with relevant organizations, both local and international;
4. Establish measures and directions for the development of OSH knowledge bodies to cover all relevant sectors;
5. Develop capacity and knowledge of OSH inspectors and relevant individuals on the enforcement of OSH laws and standards.

Strategy 2 Promoting, monitoring, supervising and developing of preventive measures on occupational safety and health

Goals

1. Establishments are protected or monitored by the laws administered by relevant authorities, with efficiency and effectiveness;

2. OSH laws/standards are developed in consistent to economic and social factors and applicable for current situation;

3. Labour in all sectors have knowledge in OSH and are protected by relevant authorities regarding their rights and duties related to OSH, with efficiency and effectiveness.

Strategic Approaches

1. Promote and monitor the establishments to be complied with OSH related laws of the relevant authorities;

2. Develop and improve OSH laws and standards under the participation of all relevant authorities;

Strategy 3 Promoting collaboration and developing network or partnership on occupational safety and health

Goals

Existing OSH networks are strengthened and all relevant sectors get involve or actively participate in OSH activities, with efficiency and effectiveness.

Strategic Approaches

1. Encourage and support the establishment of effective OSH network to cover all relevant sectors, both local and international network;

2. Develop capacity and strengthen collaboration among OSH networks;

3. Expand the coverage and enhance the capacity by seeking the collaboration with international OSH networks;

4. Build-up participatory scheme that involves entrepreneurs, employers, individuals, juristic persons, and workers from all sectors, in the support of OSH activities at workplaces.

Strategy 4 Developing effective mechanisms for the administration of occupational safety and health

Goals

1. OSH administration system that complies with relevant standards is in place;

2. OSH information system and network among relevant agencies is fully functional to facilitate the activities under strategies 1 to 3;

3. OSH information service is effectively accessible to all clients;

4. Personnel, organizations and sources of funding are available for OSH administration and operation;

5. Monitoring and evaluation system is effective.

Strategic Approaches

1. Develop effective mechanisms to facilitate OSH administration and to integrate OSH activities;
2. Encourage OSH personnel and labour in all relevant sectors to get involve or actively participate in OSH administration and activities at national, ASEAN and regional levels;
3. Create, develop, integrate, and link OSH databases or information systems, including explicit knowledge, service and public relation;
4. Build-up and develop capacity of personnel to have knowledge in skill in OSH information technology;
5. Establish proactive measures to encourage personnel in all sectors to utilize OSH database and information system;
6. Develop and strengthen the capacity of OSH organizations;
7. Monitor and evaluate OSH plans/projects effectively.

As described above, it could be concluded that OSH in Thailand has been administered systematically under the framework of the National OSH Agenda and National OSH Master Plan. Implementation of the activities under each strategy is considerably a significant process. It, therefore, requires accessible resources, synergy teamwork and effective collaboration among relevant parties. These are crucial for the achievement of the overall goal of the National OSH Agenda and National OSH Master Plan.

In addition, there was the establishment of the “Sub-committee on the Development, Monitoring and Evaluation of National Master Plan on Occupational Safety, Health and Environment” under the National Committee on the Administration of National OSH Agenda “Decent Safety and Health for Workers”. This National Committee comprised of representatives from over 20 concerned authorities/organizations, chaired by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Labour. Under the administrative framework, each sector shall determine, prioritize and integrate their prospective work plans/projects with the National OSH Agenda and the National OSH Master Plan. The Ministry of Labour is serving as the coordinator and secretary for the implementation of the National OSH Master Plan. Progress and outcomes derived from the implementation of this Master Plan will be proposed to the National Committee for OSH Promotion, chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister, for further consideration.

Results from the implementation of the National OSH Master Plan and from the review of its sub-plans or projects shall be proposed to the National Committee for OSH Promotion twice a year. The meetings of the National Committee on the Administration of National OSH Agenda “Decent Safety and Health for Workers”, or other direct sub-committees are periodically organized, at least 2 times a year. However, a special meeting with urgent issues may also occur to push forward the implementation of important OSH plans/projects with more flexibility, more concrete and more effectiveness.

IV. Laws and Regulations on Occupational Safety, Health and Environment

Thailand has had labour laws and regulations for protection of workers' safety and health since 1972, when the first OSH law came into force as provisions under the "Announcement of the Revolutionary Party No. 103 Re: Labour Protection". A series of Ministerial Notifications on various OSH aspects was also issued under this Announcement. Later, the "Labour Protection Act, B.E. 2541 (A.D. 1998)" was promulgated, replacing the above-mentioned Announcement. With a specific chapter "Chapter 8 – Occupational Safety, Health and Environment", this Act provided a better basis for safety and health regulations. A number of Ministerial Regulations related to OSH was also issued under this Labour Protection Act. A remarkable milestone in the development of OSH law in Thailand was the promulgation of "Occupational Safety, Health and Environment Act, B.E. 2554 (A.D. 2011)" (hereafter referred to as "OSH Act"), which was endorsed by the cabinet resolution in December 2010 and became effective since July 16, 2011. From the past decade, there has been significant progress in the development of OSH laws and regulations of the country to ensure the effective enforcement and coverage to workers in various sectors.

Laws and regulations related to OSH under the administration of concerned organizations are summarized below:

4.1 Laws and regulations under the administration of Department of Labour Protection and Welfare, Ministry of Labour

4.1.1 Occupational Safety, Health and Environment Act, B.E.2554 (A.D.2011)

This OSH Act comprises of 8 chapters with the total of 74 sections. This Act apply to all establishments except the government administrations (central, provincial, or local level) and other enterprises in whole or in part as prescribed in the Ministerial Regulation. However, these government administrations shall provide standards for OSH administration and management on its own working unit not lower than standard which regulated in the Act. Generally, it the duty of employers to provide and keep the workplace and employees in safe and hygienic working conditions and environment to prevent occupational accidents/diseases. The main points by chapter are as follows:

Chapter 1: The OSH Act stipulates the duties of employer to provide employee safe and hygienic work conditions and work environment, and employer shall be responsible for the expenditure related to such provision.

Chapter 2: The OSH Act stipulates that establishment provides OSH administration, management and implementation in accordance with OSH standards. In addition, employee shall have duties to comply with such standards.

Chapter 3: The OSH Act stipulates that there shall be the Occupational Safety, Health and Environment committee, comprising of 8 representatives from each party of the government, the employer and the employee as well as 5 OSH experts; totaling 29

persons. The committee is authorized to present opinions to the Minister in the promulgation of ministerial regulations, notifications or regulations for the implementation of the OSH Act, as well as opinions concerning OSH policy, work plans and measures. In addition, the OSH committee is authorized to provide opinions to government agencies related to OSH promotion.

Chapter 4: The OSH Act stipulates that employer shall conduct hazard assessment and study of work environment impact on employee, as well as prepare OSH work plan and employee control and supervisory plan. In addition, employer shall submit the results of hazard assessment and impact study, as well as work plan and employee control and supervisory plan to the Department of Labour Protection and Welfare.

Chapter 5: The OSH Act stipulates that safety inspector is authorized to inspect, record image and sound of work environment concerning OSH issues, as well as to enquire the fact, investigate or request establishment to stop the action that violates the OSH laws, as well as request the establishment to correct, to improve or to conduct in accordance with the OSH laws.

Chapter 6: The OSH Act stipulates that there shall be the Safety, Health and Environment Fund, directed by the OSH Fund Management Committee, comprising of 5 representatives from each party of the government, the employer and the employees as well as; totaling 15 persons. The OSH Fund shall be set up with grant from Thai government and further grants for operating from various sources such as fine/penalty, government subsidy, donation, and the return on investment. The OSH Fund shall serve as funding for OSH operations and activities such as OSH promotion campaigns/projects, OSH research and development, and loans for the OSH improvement of establishments.

Chapter 7: The OSH Act stipulates that there shall be the Institute for the Promotion of Occupational Safety, Health and Environment, responsible for promoting, and supporting the development of measures concerning OSH, as well as conducting OSH research in Thailand.

Chapter 8: The OSH Act stipulates that the employer who violates or fails to comply with the OSH laws shall be penalized with the maximum imprisonment of not more than 1 year or a fine not exceeding 800,000 baths or both.

The transitory provision of the OSH Act stipulates that “During the period where the Ministerial Regulation, Notification or rule for the execution of this Act has not been issued, the Ministerial Regulation issued under Chapter 8 of the provisions of the Labour Protection Act, B.E. 2541 (A.D. 1998) shall apply *mutatis mutandis*”.

Therefore, as of March 2015, the Ministerial Regulations those are still effective under the transitional provision of the OSH Act and a series of new Ministerial Regulations issued under the OSH Act are listed below:

(1) Ministerial Regulation, Ministry of Labour, on the prescribing of standard for administration and management of occupational safety, health and work environment in confined space, B.E.2547 (A.D.2004)

(2) Ministerial Regulation, Ministry of Labour, on the prescribing of standard for administration and management of occupational safety, health and environment in relation to ionizing radiation, B.E.2547 (A.D.2004)

(3) Ministerial Regulation, Ministry of Labour, on the prescribing of criteria and method of conducting health check-up of employees and forwarding the results of health check up to labour inspectors, B.E.2547 (A.D.2004)

(4) Ministerial Regulation, Ministry of Labour, on the prescribing of standard for administration and management of occupational safety, health and environment in relation to diving work, B.E.2548 (A.D.2005)

(5) Ministerial Regulation, Ministry of Labour, on the prescribing of standard for administration and management of occupational safety, health and environment, B.E.2549 (A.D.2006)

(6) Ministerial Regulation, Ministry of Labour, on the prescribing of standard for administration and management of occupational safety, health and environment in relation to construction work, B.E.2551 (A.D.2008)

(7) Ministerial Regulation, Ministry of Labour, on the prescribing of standard for administration and management of occupational safety, health and environment in relation to machinery, crane and boiler, B.E.2552 (A.D.2009)

(8) Ministerial Regulation, Ministry of Labour, on the prescribing of standard for administration and management of occupational safety, health and environment (No.2), B.E.2553 (A.D.2010)

(9) Ministerial Regulation, Ministry of Labour, on the prescribing of standard for administration and management of occupational safety, health and environment in relation to fire prevention and control, B.E. 2555 (A.D. 2012)

(10) Ministerial Regulation, Ministry of Labour, on the prescribing of standard and criteria for training agencies on basic fire fighting, and on fire drills and evacuation, B.E. 2555 (A.D. 2012)

(11) Ministerial Regulation, Ministry of Labour, on the prescribing of standard for administration and management of occupational safety, health and environment in relation to hazardous chemicals, B.E. 2556 (A.D. 2013)

(12) Ministerial Regulation, Ministry of Labour, on the prescribing of standard for administration and management of occupational safety, health and environment in relation to electrical work, B.E. 2558 (A.D. 2015)

(13) Ministerial Regulation, Ministry of Labour, on the prescribing of standard for administration and management of occupational safety, health and environment in relation to heat, noise, and lighting, B.E. 2559 (A.D. 2016)

With the globalization, the focused issue is the development of OSH to be consistent with the international standards. The current OSH Act and almost all of the above Ministerial Regulations are being reviewed and will be revised as necessary to expand the scope of enforcement and to enhance the effectiveness.

4.1.2 Labour Protection Act, B.E. 2541 (A.D.1998)

The promulgation of the OSH Act resulted in the abrogating of subordinate legislations by default. In addition, certain subordinate laws that are not effective prior to July 16, 2011, are not be able to be enforced in principles. However, a number of OSH related Ministerial Regulations issued under the Labour Protection Act, B.E. 2541 (A.D. 1998), as listed in 4.1.1, (1) – (8), are still effective under the transitory provision of the OSH Act.

Apart from the aforementioned laws, there are other OSH and working environment provisions prescribed under other Acts as follows:

1) State Enterprise Relations Act, B.E. 2543 (A.D. 2000)

- Notification by the State Enterprise Relations Committee on the minimum employment standards of state enterprises, B.E. 2549 (A.D. 2006)

2) Home Worker Protection Act, B.E. 2553 (A.D. 2010)

3) Labour Protection Act, B.E. 2541 (A.D. 1998), amended by (No. 2) B.E. 2551 (A.D. 2008)

- Ministerial Regulations No. 2, B.E. 2541 (A.D. 1998) on the works that may be harmful to the health and safety of employees

- Ministerial Regulations No. 6, B.E. 2541 (A.D. 1998) on the works for which an employer is prohibited from requiring an employee under 18 years of age to perform

- Ministerial Regulations No. 11, B.E. 2541 (A.D. 1998) on protection of maritime transport and logistics worker

- Ministerial Regulations on allowed loading weights, B.E. 2547 (A.D. 2004)

- Ministerial Regulations on protection of agricultural workers, B.E. 2547 (A.D.2004)

- Ministerial Regulations on welfare facilities at workplaces, B.E. 2548 (A.D.2005)

4.2 Laws and regulations related to OSH under the administration of the Social Security Office, Minister of Labour

The aforementioned laws include:

4.2.1 Workmen's Compensation Fund Act, B.E. 2537 (A.D. 1994)

4.2.2 Ministerial Notification by Minister of Labour on diseases classified by nature or working conditions or work-related factors, B.E. 2550 (A.D. 2007)

4.3 Laws and regulations related to OSH administered by other agencies

Those laws are of the following lists:

4.3.1 Factory Act, B.E. 2535 (A.D. 1992) administered by the Ministry of Industry

4.3.2 Hazardous Substances Act, B.E. 2535 (A.D. 1992), amended by (No. 2), B.E. 2544 (A.D. 2001) and (No. 3) B.E. 2551 (A.D. 2008) joint-administered by the Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Defense, and Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives

4.3.3 Public Health Act, B.E. 2535 (A.D. 1992), amended by (No. 2), B.E. 2550 (A.D. 2007) administered by the Ministry of Public Health

4.3.4 National Environment Conservation Act, B.E. 2535 administered by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

4.3.5 Building Control Act B.E. 2522 (A.D. 1979), amended by (No. 2), B.E. 2535 (A.D. 1992), (No. 3), B.E.2543 (A.D. 2000) and (No. 4), B.E. 2550 (A.D. 2007) administered by the Ministry of Interior

4.3.6 Nuclear Energy for Peace Act, B.E. 2560 (A.D. 2016) (replacing the Atomic Energy for Peace Act, B.E. 2504 (A.D. 1961) and No. 2 B.E. 2508 (A.D. 1965)), administered by the Ministry of Science and Technology

4.3.7 Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Act, B.E. 2550 (A.D. 2007) administered by the Ministry of Interior

4.3.8 Relevant local laws

V. Organizations involve in Occupational Safety, Health and Environment

5.1 Government Agencies

Currently, three main ministries involving in OSH issues in the country are the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Public Health and the Ministry of Industry.

5.1.1 Ministry of Labour

The Ministry of Labour of Thailand (MOL) is a governmental organization that plays the important role on labour protection including OSH issues. It has functions and responsibilities in enactment, enforcement and administration of legal issues as well as in the promotion of labour safety, health, and welfare. Laws on OSH and relevant standards have been stipulated and enforced with monitoring and inspection to ensure the required compliances. Meanwhile, the improvement of working conditions and environment has been vigorously promoted to ensure safety and health at the workplace. In addition, recovery and rehabilitation programs have been developed to secure workers from occupational hazards. Under MOL, the responsible agencies for OSH works are the Department of Labour Protection and Welfare (DLPW), the Social Security Office (SSO), and the newly established “Thailand Institute for the Promotion of Occupational Safety, Health and Environment (TOSH)” which is a public organization under the Ministry of Labour.

- **Department of Labour Protection and Welfare**

The Department of Labour Protection and Welfare has been authorized for the administration of OSH policies, implementation of OSH programs, and enforcement of the OSH Acts. Under DLPW, the “Occupational Safety and Health Bureau” is the direct responsible agency designated in accordance with the OSH Act and national practice. The Bureau was established under the reconstruction of the organization and the authority of Department of Labour Protection and Welfare by merging the previous 2 agencies; the Occupational Safety and Health Inspection Division (OSHID) and the National Institute for the Improvement of Working Conditions and Environment (NICE). The chronological development of OSH organizations of the country is described in Chapter I.

OSH Bureau is the main authority to support the mission on OSH administration to make it systematic and effective, and to facilitate OSH inspection and services by its decentralized regional OSH centers. The Bureau also acts as the host agency for the driving and implementation of activities under national agenda on “Decent Safety and Health for Workers” to achieve the ultimate outcomes.

In summary, OSH Bureau has the following authorities and functions:

- 1) Set up and develop OSH standards;
- 2) Monitor and supervise employers, workers, related individuals, juristic persons or relevant agencies to comply with the OSH laws or standards;

- 3) Provide services on authorization, registration and supervision of activities or services prescribed under the OSH laws or standards;
- 4) Develop a system for OSH protection, inspection and control measures;
- 5) Develop an OSH information technology system and network;
- 6) Promote OSH knowledge development as well as researches/studies to identify problems and to develop appropriate measures for further adoption of OSH laws or standards;
- 7) Develop OSH network and promote for participation;
- 8) Coordinate or support the functions of relevant agencies, as been assigned.

OSH inspection and services have been provided through 12 Regional Occupational Safety and Health Centers established in the central and regional areas. In addition, there are 76 Provincial Labour Protection and Welfare Offices, taking care of OSH administration and legal issues at provincial level. In Bangkok Metropolitan Area (BMA), there are together 10 Labour Protection and Welfare Offices, taking care of such works in their responsible areas.

- **Social Security Office**

The Social Security Office (SSO) was established by virtue of the Social Security Act, B.E. 2533 (1990) to manage the Social Security Fund (SSF), with the aim to bring about security and stability of livelihood for Thai citizens. The coverage of SSF is divided into several types: sickness, maternity, disability, death, child allowance, old age and unemployment. Employees in Thailand are entitled to compensation schemes to cover injuries, illness and death both inside and outside of workplace.

In addition to social security contributions, an employer is required to contribute a percentage of its employee's annual remuneration to the Workmen's Compensation Fund (WCF). WCF was established in 1974 to protect workers those are victims of occupational accidents and injuries in the mean of compensation and other benefits. Since April 2002, the the coverage of the Workmen's Compensation Scheme has been extended to enterprises with 1 or more employees throughout the country.

Office of the Workmen's Compensation Fund, an internal unit under the Social Security Office, has roles and responsibilities in various aspects in accordance to the Workmen's Compensation Act, B.E. 2537 (1994). These include the analysis and determination of the contribution rates, management of appeals on contributions and compensation of employees and employers, and other duties including OSH promotion. WCF provides substantial financial support for OSH programs, as Clause 28 of Chapter 3 of the Workmen's Compensation Act allows the use up to 22 %t of the interest earned by the Fund for OSH programs and rehabilitation programs for injured workers. Support for OSH programs includes financing research, seminars and training courses which are carried out by the Government, employers' and workers' organizations and universities. The selection of the OSH programs to be financed has been the responsibility of a sub-committee of the Tripartite Board of the Workmen's Compensation Fund.

- **Thailand Institute for the Promotion of Occupational Safety, Health and Environment (Public Organization)**

By virtue of the OSH Act 2011, the “Thailand Institute for the Promotion of Occupational Safety, Health and Environment (TOSH)” was established as a functional unit for OSH promotion including OSH research activities. This Institute is a public organization under the supervision of the Minister of Labour. Its operations have been in progress and the institute is expected to be in full services in the next couple of years.

TOSH has the following objectives and roles/functions:

- 1) Develop and promote countermeasures to solve OSH problems;
- 2) Facilitate the preparation of standards to promote OSH activities;
- 3) Coordinate or jointly operate with other agencies on OSH promotion, both from public and private sectors;
- 4) Conduct or arrange research programs for OSH promotion;
- 5) Perform any other actions as prescribed by the related law.

Overall, the Ministry of Labour plays the leading role on OSH protection of workers nationwide. OSH standards and inspection system have been stipulated and enforced with monitoring and follow-up to ensure required compliances. Working condition improvement has been vigorously promoted to ensure safety at the workplace. Recovery and rehabilitation programs have been developed to secure workers who faced occupational hazards.

5.1.2 Ministry of Public Health

The Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) is a main governmental organization responsible for all public health issues in the country. It also has roles and functions in occupational health such as the provision of occupational health services in all sectors through its technical unit and health care network. The major technical unit responsible for occupational health activities is the Bureau of Occupational and Environmental Diseases (BOED), currently under the Department of Disease Control (formerly the Division of Occupational Health, Department of Health). BOED main functions include:

- 1) Conduct researches or studies to develop policy, set up standards and guidelines for occupational health services and management;
- 2) Determine and develop occupational health surveillance system for the prevention and control of occupational diseases and work-related diseases;
- 3) Transfer occupational health knowledge and technology;
- 4) Coordinate and support the development of mechanisms and networks for surveillance and prevention of occupational or work-related diseases;
- 5) Develop and transfer knowledge on medical diagnosis and treatment of occupational or work-related diseases;
- 6) Jointly carry out assigned works, and support the relevant agencies.

5.1.3 Ministry of Industry

The Ministry of Industry issues permission for factory setting up and its operation, administers laws on safety in industrial settings, conducts inspection to ensure legal compliance and to renew the permit. The concerned agency for OSH is the Department of Industrial Works (DIW). Through inspection, DIW plays vital roles to ensure that industrial operations are safe for the workers and the environment. The responsible unit for this affair is the Industrial Safety Technology Promotion Division, which is a technical agency with the roles and responsibilities as summarized below:

- 1) Conduct studies/analyses for development of industrial safety programs;
- 2) Establish industrial safety policy, action plans and procedural standards;
- 3) Promote and support the capability development of industrial safety;
- 4) Conduct industrial safety inspection, monitoring and follow-up;
- 5) Coordinate on preventive and control measures for factories processing hazardous substances;
- 6) Monitor and supervise certified agencies involving in implementation of industrial safety activities;
- 7) Develop and publish technical manuals/guidelines on industrial safety, and disseminate to relevant parties for implementation;
- 8) Jointly carry out assigned works and support the relevant agencies.

Through factory inspection, DIW plays vital roles in the implementation of programs to ensure that industrial operation is safe and eco-friendly.

5.2 Other OSH Agencies, Associations, and Organizations

5.2.1 Safety and Health at Work Promotion Association (Thailand)

Safety and Health at Work Promotion Association (Thailand) (SHAWPAT) was established by the Department of Labour in 1986, with the initial purpose to be in charge of organizer of the National Safety Week during that time. Currently, SHAWPAT is serving as an OSH services provider (training in various courses, consulting, working environment measurements, etc.). Its office is located at the Department of Labour Protection and Welfare – Talingchan (old building), Bangkok.

5.2.2 Occupational Health and Safety at Work Association

Occupational Health and Safety at Work Association (OSHWA) was established to promote the advancement of OSH professional as well as to enhance technical cooperation on OSH with various public and private organizations or associations, both locally and internationally. OHSWA is also serving as an OSH provider in various aspects to facilitate the workplaces and industrial communities in order to promote safety, health, and quality of life of workers. OHSWA is located at the Department of Occupational Health and Safety, Faculty of Public Health, Mahidol University, Bangkok.

VI. Occupational Safety and Health Personnel

Occupational safety and health personnel in Thailand could be categorized into the following groups:

6.1 Government OSH Officers

OSH personnel in this group are government officers in several authorities who perform duties as OSH inspectors under the OSH Act 2011. These OSH inspectors shall be qualified by academic background, or experienced and trained in accordance with the criteria announced by the Department of Labour Protection and Welfare. In performing his or her duties, OSH inspector shall be authorized in entering and inspecting the workplace, inquiring the facts or investigating, and shall check or submit the related documents and suggest the preventive safety measures to the Director-General.

Currently, there are over 400 OSH inspectors throughout the country, who are qualified in accordance with the OSH Act 2011. They are labour inspectors at the central and regional offices under DLPW. Comprehensive and technical training programs are organized for them in order to enhance their technical knowledge on OSH, to ensure effective OSH inspection goals for which the officials need to provide advice for appropriate improvement at workplaces. The training course comprises of theory of technical presentation, inspection practices at the workplaces and assessment. Qualified trainees will receive the certificate of training completion. Building up positive OSH attitudes among these inspectors is also essential parts of the training in order to promote sustainable culture of prevention in OSH.

6.2 OSH Personnel at the Workplace

As required by the Ministerial Regulation, Ministry of Labour, on the prescribing of standard for administration and management of occupational safety, health and environment, B.E. 2549 (A.D. 2006), an OSH practitioner (called "Safety Officer") must be appointed at the workplace to perform duties on occupational safety, health and environment. There are currently 5 levels of safety officer, with the total number by each level as follow:

- 1) 346,679 of Safety Officer - Supervisor Level
- 2) 120,181 of Safety Officer - Management Level
- 3) 3,672 of Safety Officer - Technical Level
- 4) 864 of Safety Officer - Advanced Technical Level
- 5) 10,822 of Safety Officer - Professional Level

Therefore, the total number of registered safety officers at all levels is 482,218.
(Data as of May 2018 – OSH Bureau)

Safety officers at different levels have different qualifications and duties. Requirements on the appointment of safety officer(s) by level are based on type of industries and workforce size.

Trainings of safety officers in each level are conducted by registered OSH training institutions with the curriculums those have been approved by the Department of Labour Protection and Welfare. There are almost 100 registered OSH training institutions throughout the country.

In addition, based on type of industries, an establishment having 50 or more employees shall arrange to have a Committee of Occupational Safety, Health and Environment of the establishment to perform duties as prescribed by the above-mentioned Ministerial Regulation.

6.3 OSH Personnel at Academic Institutions, OSH Service Units, and Other Relevant Organizations

OSH personnel in this group includes specialists, researchers, or technicians (such as industrial hygienists, ergonomists, etc.) as well as medical personnel (occupational physicians, occupational health nurses), and registered individuals to provide OSH services to the workplaces.

Currently, there are 33 academic institutions (both public and private) offering degree programs in the field of OSH. There are total of 36 undergraduate/postgraduate programs that the curriculums met the requirements under the above-mentioned Ministerial Regulation so that a person who graduates from any of these programs could serve as a certified safety officer – professional level.

XII. Occupational Safety, Health and Environment Projects, Activities and Events

Currently, a large variety of OSH projects, campaigns or activities are ongoing under the direct responsibility of the Department of Labour Protection and Welfare, Ministry of Labour. Selected projects, activities and events in the recent fiscal years are summarized below:

7.1 Ratification of the ILO Convention No. 187 “Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health, 2006”

On 23 March 2016, the Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva, accompanied the Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Labour to deposit the instrument of ratification of International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention No. 187 on the Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health, 2006 to the Director-General of ILO, on behalf of the Royal Thai Government. The ratification reassures Thailand’s commitment to improve working and living conditions for workers in compliance with international labour standards. This is the 16th ILO Convention ratified by Thailand, which has already entered into force since 23 March 2017.

The Convention No. 187 is one of the ILO’s core instruments in safety and health at workplace. The member states that ratify this Convention are obliged to formulate a policy and issue supporting domestic laws and regulations to ensure occupational safety and health and to effective implementation. The promotion of occupational safety and health is part of the ILO’s agenda of decent work for all, in line with the ILO’s Constitution which aims at protecting workers and preventing illness, injury and death at workplace. The importance of decent work is also highlighted in Goal 8 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which seeks to promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all.

7.2 “Safety Thailand” Project

In supporting of the ILO Convention No. 187 ratification and to be a part of the National Campaign “Startup Thailand” which was launched by the current Government of Thailand, the Ministry of Labour proposed a National Project on Safety and Health at Work to be implemented under the cooperation of relevant authorities. Hence, the so-called “Safety Thailand” project has initially been established by the agreement of the following 6 Ministries:

- Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
- Ministry of Industry
- Ministry of Interior
- Minister of Labour
- Ministry of Public Health
- Ministry of Transport

The Memorandum of Understanding was officially signed by the Ministers of the above 6 Ministries. This National Project aims to integrate collaboration to improve/strengthen the performance on Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) of the country, leading to the reduction of work-related accidents and injuries. In overall, this will eventually result in the better quality of life of the whole population with sustainability.

The implementation of this Project divided into two phases:

1. Short-term Action

All 6 Ministries will enhance the cooperation among each other to integrate their work plans and activities within the framework of these 3 aspects: A) Safety in Construction Work, B) Fire Safety in the Workplaces, and C) Chemical Safety. Each aspect will be performed in 3 dimensions.

- Promotional dimension (build-up recognition and awareness)
- Regulatory dimension (strengthen enforcement)
- Participatory dimension (create working network and public involvement)

2. Long-term Action

National strategies for the administration of Occupational Safety and Health shall be developed under the close collaboration among the above-mentioned Ministries, with the ultimate goal to achieve sustainable culture of prevention on safety and health.

Subsequently, Safety Thailand project has expanded its network of operations with other 4 ministries and 4 organizations:

- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
- Ministry of Science and Technology
- Ministry of Tourism and Sports
- Industrial Estate Authority of Thailand
- The Federation of Thai Industries
- The Thai Chamber of Commerce
- The Engineering Institute of Thailand

As a result, it became the network of 10 ministries + 4 organizations. Several committee meetings were held with the representatives of the Parties to discuss and contribute to driving operation into the new era of Thailand 4.0.

7.3 World Day on Safety and Health at Work

The International Labour Organization (ILO) declared April 28th of each year as the World Day for Safety and Health at Work, which has been observed since 2003. The main objective of this celebration is to promote the prevention of occupational accidents and diseases globally that will contribute to the development of sustainable safety and health culture.

Hence, World Day for Safety and Health at Work is an important day to all workers. It is the day for awareness-raising campaign that intended to focus international attention on emerging trends in the field of occupational safety and health, on the magnitude of problems worldwide, and on how promoting and creating a safety and health culture can help reduce the number of work-related deaths and injuries. For Thailand, the Department of Labour Protection and Welfare has organized the event to reflect the government's determination and commitment to safeguard our workers' well-being and enhance their productive capacity, either in formal or informal sectors.

In 2018, a special event was organized at the Grand Conference Hall of the Occupational Safety and Health Bureau, Bangkok. The main objective is to raise awareness on Safety and Health at Work among the targeted individuals particularly the new generations those are entering the world of work. Approximately 200 representatives of the workers, employers, students, government agencies, and other relevant organizations participated in this event.

7.4 National Safety at Work Memorial Day

National Safety at Work Memorial Day has been observed in Thailand for over two decades. It is an important day to recall the worst industrial fire accident that occurred on May 10, 1993 at the Kader Toy Factory in Nakhon Pathom Province. This fire tragedy resulted in 188 fatalities and more than 400 severe injuries.

The loss from this fire accident brought about a great deal of interest and recognition in the importance of safety at work. The cabinet resolution on August 26, 1997 then declared May 10 of every year to be the National Safety at Work Memorial Day. The purpose is to ensure that government agencies, private sector, employers, employees and the general public are aware of the consequences from the occupational accident and injury, and to build-up awareness among employers, employees and all working peoples.

In 2018, the Department of Labour Protection and Welfare organized an event at the Occupational Safety and Health Bureau, Bangkok. Activities include the religious ceremony to consign merit to workers who lost their lives in workplace accidents, seminar, exhibition, etc. Approximately 400 representatives of the workers, employers, students, government agencies, and other relevant organizations participated in this event.

7.5 National Safety Week

In December 1985, the cabinet resolution met an agreement to establish a National Safety Week Organizing Committee, which is a committee at national level. National Safety Week has been considered a center of technical OSH information. It is an important event for OSH seminars, exchange of OSH information, promotion of OSH campaigns and activities to raise OSH awareness among workers, employers, and relevant parties. The first National safety week was organized in June 1986 featuring OSH seminars and nationwide OSH campaigns. Since then, the National Safety Week has been organized annually.

Since 2017, the Thailand Institute for the Promotion of Occupational Safety and Health (TOSH) – a public organization under the Minister of Labour, has been assigned to be the main organizer of such the event. The title “National Safety Week” has also been changed to “Thailand Safety@Work” since then. For 2018, the event was held between June 28–30 at the Bangkok International Trade & Exhibition Centre (BITEC), under the theme “Culture of Prevention for Safety Thailand”. It is estimated that there were over 10,000 visitors to this event each year.

7.6 Contest on Workplaces of Excellence in OSH

The first contest was launched in 1986, as an important part of the National Safety Week event. For the past several years, such the contest and presenting of awards have been organized separately with the following objectives:

- To promote better standards and system of OSH management among workplaces,
- To encourage and convince the workplaces to recognize the important of OSH program for the reduction of occupational accidents and injuries and for organization’s image and reputations.

In 2018, the awarding ceremony was held in conjunction with the “Thailand Labour Management Excellence Awards” on August 23 at the Impact Convention – Muang Thong Thani, Nonthaburi. Total of 187 companies achieved their milestones in OSH management and have been recognized as the “Workplaces of Excellence in OSH” for this year.

7.7 ASEAN-OSHNET Awards

The ASEAN Occupational Safety and Health Network (ASEAN-OSHNET), in 2013, started to develop the framework for the ASEAN-OSHNET Awards. It has a vision that the Awards would cultivate better awareness and greater involvement of business leaders in achieving the mindset that all work injuries and ill health are preventable in ASEAN Member States. The Awards will also significantly raise the profile of OSH in ASEAN and inspire further progress on OSH developments for the region, as well as promote cooperation and solidarity among companies in ASEAN as models of OSH best practices.

Initially, the ASEAN-OSNNET awarding ceremony is held biennially, with the 1st in 2016 and the 2nd in 2018. There are 2 categories of Awards:

a) **ASEAN-OSHNET Excellence Awards** for companies with good OSH management systems and performances. For 2018, the award winner from Thailand is Thai Stanley Electric Public Company Limited.

b) **ASEAN-OSHNET Best Practice Awards** for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) with good OSH practices. For 2018, the award winner from Thailand is IRPC Public Company Limited (IRPC Ayutthaya Depot).

The awarding ceremony for 2018 was held just after the ASEAN-OSHNET Coordinating Board Meeting in Cambodia. Representatives of both companies from Thailand joined the ceremony to receive the awards presented by the Minister of Labour and Vocational Training of Cambodia and the ASEAN Secretary-General.

7.8 ASEAN-OSHNET Scorecard Workshop

ASEAN-OSHNET Scorecard has been developed to be the systematic framework in collecting and analyzing OSH statistics and information across the ASEAN Member States (AMS). The proposed OSH Scorecard was adapted from various references particularly the ILO Convention No. 187. An analysis of the aggregated ASEAN-OSHNET Scorecard can help determine the progress of OSH in the region. The objectives of the Scorecard are hence to:

- a) Provide an overview of developments in OSH situations and performance;
- b) Enable benchmarking within the ASEAN region;
- c) Identify gaps within the current framework of the AMS; and
- d) Facilitate cooperation across AMS based on the different areas of expertise.

Thailand, as the program area coordinator for information, hosted the ASEAN-OSHNET Workshop on OSH Scorecard and Information System in Bangkok, from September 27–28, 2017. The event is an activity under the ASEAN-OSHNET Plan of Action for 2016-2020, with the main objective to improve the ASEAN-OSHNET Scorecard System. Representatives from 9 member states: Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam participated in this Workshop. There were also representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC), the ILO and the Korea Health and Safety Authority (KOSHA).

The revised ASEAN-OSHNET Scorecard consists of 80 indicators under 6 topics, notably:

- Topic I : National OSH Policy and Strategy
- Topic II : National OSH Programme
- Topic III : National OSH System
 - III (A): OSH Inspection
 - III (B): OSH Training and Services
 - III (C): OSH Research and Information
 - III (D): OSH Promotion
 - III (E): OSH Partners
- Topic IV : Occupational Accidents
- Topic V : Occupational and Work-related Illnesses
- Topic VI : International Standards/Collaborations and Others

The web-based system of ASEAN-OSHNET Scorecard is accessible by AMS for regular update via ASEAN-OSHNET website (www.asean-osh.net).

7.9 ASEAN Labour Ministers Meeting Special Session on OSH

A Special Session of ASEAN Labour Ministers on Occupational Safety and Health was organized in conjunction with the XXI World Congress on Safety and Health at Work 2017 in Singapore, on September 3, 2017.

The Labour Ministers from all AMS including Thailand reaffirmed their commitment to improve occupational safety and health for the region's workers, with the signing of an ASEAN Statement on Improving OSH for Sustainable Economic Growth. The Statement captured the ASEAN Member States' intent to raise OSH standards through reviewing safety regulation, building OSH capabilities, and deepening collaboration, among others. Thus, the signing of the Statement clearly indicates that all ASEAN Labour Ministers commit to seriously improve OSH at the workplace. It is also a reflection of ASEAN Member States' understanding and commitment to decent work which is pivotal in sustaining long-term economic growth.

7.10 Safety at Work Knowledge Development Center and Exhibition

Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn's gracious preamble wrote "The establishment of safety and health measures at workplace to prevent injuries and disabilities amongst workers" was given to the Minister and executives of the Ministry of Labour during the opening ceremony of the Northeastern Region Worker Rehabilitation Center in Khonkaen province on the December 1, 2014.

In response to her graciousness in caring for workers' safety and health, the Department of Labour Protection and Welfare therefore established the "Safety at Work Knowledge Development Center and Exhibition, in celebrations on the occasion of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn's 60th Birthday Anniversary". The Center has been in service since January 2017, serving 500-1,000 visitors per month. Target visitors are all workers, employers, students and relevant government officers, with the objective to build-up safety awareness among them.

Currently, the Center consists of 11 display sections for different topics, including chemical hazards, PPE, color coding, confined spaces, hazard communication, electrical safety, machinery safety, welding safety, manual material handling, working at height, unsafe acts and conditions. However, in this beginning phase, the Center still have a lot of limitations, particularly in terms of display models and presentation technology as well as the shortage of qualified instructors.

7.11 Development of e-Learning System on OSH

The Department of Labour Protection and Welfare has launched the "Project for Capacity Building on OSH via e-Learning" as a new strategy to transfer technical knowledge and information to OSH personnel, particularly OSH inspectors and safety officers. This Project received financial support from the Workmen's Compensation Fund

and the web-based e-Learning system “e-OSH” was developed by Sukhothai Open University. It is accessible at www.e-osh.net.

Currently, this e-OSH system consists of 3 learning modules:

- Module 1 - Occupational Safety and Health Management
- Module 2 - Safety Technology
- Module 3 - Health and Industrial Hygiene

Each module contains 15 subjects with pre- and post-tests. It is designed for self-learning at home or at work. Multimedia such as videos, information sheets, examples, and tools like webboard and discussion via Facebook are also included in the system. Approximately, a participant should take 1-2 months to complete each module. Successful participant who passes all 3 modules will receive a certificate of achievement from the Department of Labour Protection and Welfare.

Since e-OSH was introduced in May 2017, there have been cumulatively over 250 registered participants.

XIII. International Collaboration on Occupational Safety, Health and Environment

In recent years, Thailand has revitalized the existing international collaboration and established new connections with neighboring countries in the region for the development of OSH administration and performance, as summarized below:

8.1 International Labour Organization (ILO)

Thailand has been an active member of the International Labour Organization (ILO) since its establishment in 1919. Hence, the country has an obligation to protect workers in various aspects including Occupational Safety and Health. In 1959, the ILO established the International Occupational Safety and Health Information Center (CIS) to serve as a center for management and dissemination of OSH information. ILO-CIS also promotes cooperation and develops a network of information exchange (CIS Network) between its member countries. In each member country, the CIS National Center and the CIS Collaborating Center will be assigned as focal points for OSH information of that country.

In 1983, the National Institute for the Improvement of Working Conditions and Environment (currently the Occupational Safety and Health Bureau - Department of Labour Protection and Welfare) was approved by the ILO to serve as the CIS National Center for Thailand. Later in 1995, the Division of Occupational Health - Department of Health (currently the Bureau of Occupational and Environmental Diseases – Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health) was appointed as a CIS Collaborating Center for Thailand.

Further, Thailand also aims to cooperate with the ILO on the development of OSH in line with international standards particularly by ratification to the relevant ILO conventions. In 2016, Thailand ratified the ILO Convention No. 187 on the Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health, 2006, which has already been in force for the country.

8.2 ASEAN Occupational Safety and Health Network (ASEAN-OSHNET)

ASEAN Occupational Safety and Health Network (ASEAN-OSHNET) was officially formed in 2000 through a memorandum of understanding among the ASEAN Member States. All 10 ASEAN member states (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam) currently in the network (+ China, Japan, and Korea as external collaborators). The objectives of ASEAN-OSHNET are to strengthen the cooperation and solidarity among national OSH institutions of ASEAN member states; to develop capacities of national OSH institutions in OSH promotion, training and research; to promote the exchanges of OSH information; and to harmonize OSH standards and guidelines in the region.

In term of administration, ASEAN-OSHNET Coordinating Board comprising of delegates from all ASEAN member states meet once a year to coordinate the programs under the ASEAN-OSHNET Plan of Actions and decides the policy direction and facilitate the approved programs.

For 2018, the ASEAN-OSHNET Coordinating Board Meeting together with the ASEAN-OSHNET Conference and ASEAN-OSHNET Awarding Ceremony were held in Cambodia, during April 2-4, 2018.

8.3 Thailand-Singapore Civil Service Exchange Programme (CSEP)

The Government of Thailand and the Government of Singapore have had strong technical collaboration under the Civil Service Exchange Program (CSEP) since its inception in 1998. Then, CSEP has been a key bilateral mechanism in promoting friendship and enhancing cooperation between the civil service agencies of Thailand and Singapore. Currently, CSEP consists of 13 areas of collaboration, classified by responsible ministries in both countries. For the area of labour, it is a paired collaboration between the Ministry of Labour of Thailand and the Ministry of Manpower of Singapore. Both organizations are also actively involved in the development of Occupational Safety and Health under the ASEAN Occupational Safety and Health Network (ASEAN-OSHNET).

Hence, a project for mutual exchange on OSH under the CSEP was proposed for the years 2016-2017. This project aims to strengthen collaboration with a focus on the participation in the OSH promotional activities of each side. Under this framework, Thailand supported and sent a group of executives and officers to participate in the XXI World Congress on Safety and Health at Work 2017 hosted by Singapore between September 3-6, 2017 at the Marina Bay Sands Expo and Convention Center, Singapore. It is the first time that this global platform has been held in ASEAN. At this event, Thailand also co-hosted the Symposium on Occupational Safety and Health in Agriculture and sent experts, specialists and staff to facilitate the technical presentation and discussion in this session.

8.4 Technical Cooperation with KOSHA - Korea

The Department of Labour Protection and Welfare (DLPW), Thailand and the Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency (KOSHA), in 2013, met an agreement to enter into an Arrangement on the Technical Cooperation in Occupational Safety and Health. The main purpose of this arrangement is to support enhancing capability of the Occupational Safety and Health of Thailand and contribute to the promotion of safety and health of workers at the workplaces in both countries by establishing a cooperative relationship between KOSHA and DLPW in the field of OSH. The scope of this cooperation includes the exchange of experts for training and education, seminar/workshop, consultancy, or for research program on the topics of mutual interest, and the exchange of technical information and materials, etc. Both organizations have continued to cultivate and nurture the relationship, and strengthen collaboration for mutual benefit.

8.5 Technical Cooperation with SAWS, P.R. China

On September 1st, 2016, the Director-General of the Department of Labour Protection and Welfare (DLPW), along with delegation from Thailand paid a courtesy call on the Vice Minister of the State Administration of Work Safety (SAWS) at the SAWS Headquarter in Beijing, P.R. China. The discussion between both sides focused on the development Occupational Safety and Health as well as the current policies and framework for technical collaboration of the two countries. The expansion of network and collaboration in the field of OSH between China and other countries, especially in ASEAN, has been highlighted in order to support economic growth along the China's concept of building "Silk Road – Economic Belt". Hence, the establishment of bilateral cooperation in OSH with Thailand will contribute to the strengthening of OSH performance of the country and improve the partnership between China and the ASEAN region as well.

The Memorandum of Understanding for Technical Cooperation in Occupational Safety and Health between the two agencies was signed at this event. The purpose of this MOU is to deepen mutual understanding through communication and collaboration and to cooperate in solving challenges in the field of OSH faced by both countries, in improving work conditions, in reducing work injuries and occupational diseases and in protecting the safety and health of workers.

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