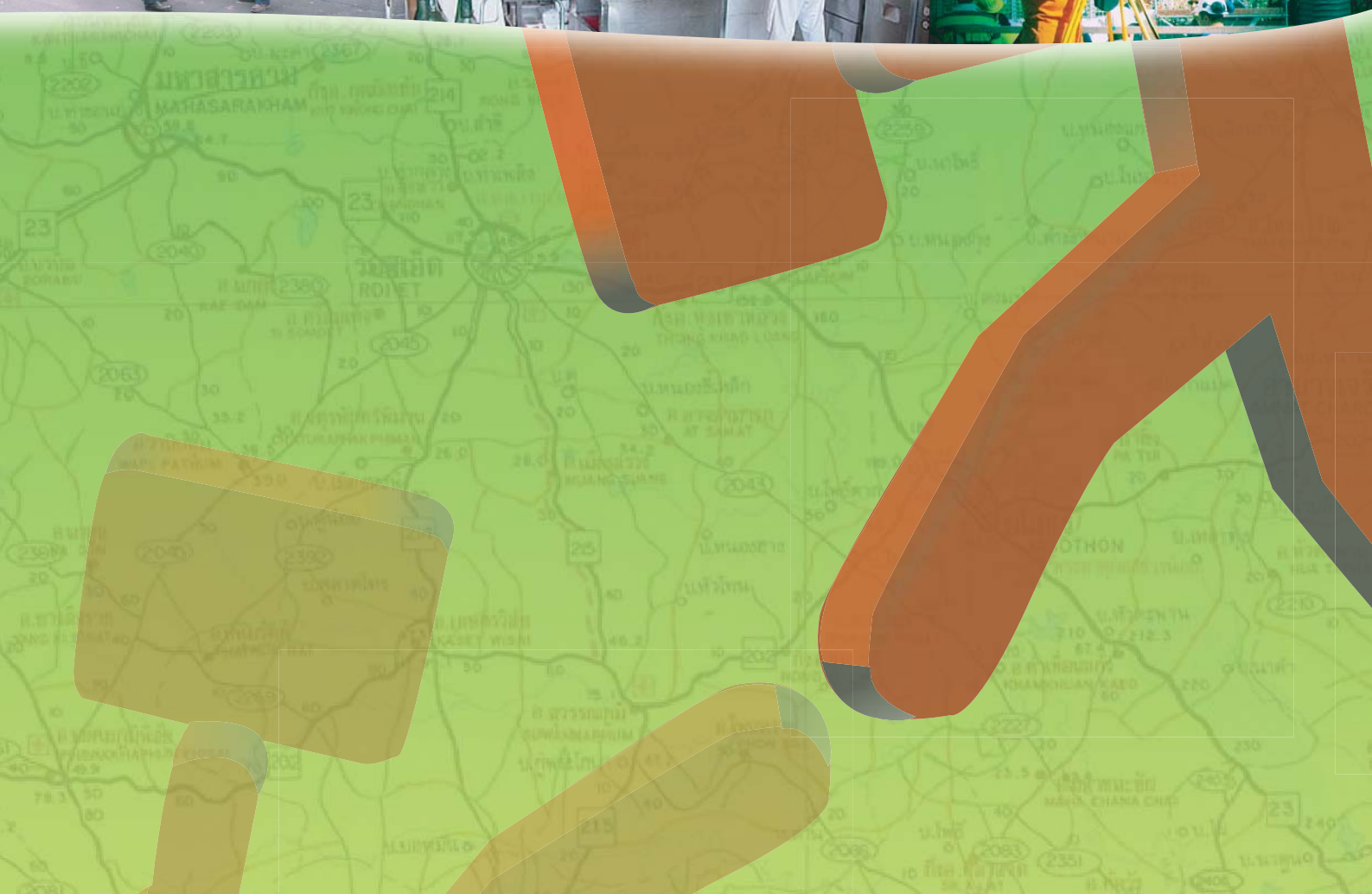




Department of Labour Protection and Welfare
DLPW 19/2009

NATIONAL PROFILE ON OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH OF THAILAND



*NATIONAL PROFILE ON OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND
HEALTH OF THAILAND*

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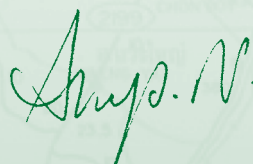


Introduction

Problems pertaining occupational injuries or diseases caused by working conditions have always been the primary awareness of the Department of Labour Protection and Welfare (DLPW). Cooperation with various concerned agencies in the public and private sectors, including the employer's and employee's organizations, educational institutes and the NGOs has been continually mobilized so as to prevent harms and to ensure safety at work for our valuable human resources -- workers in all sectors -- while working towards national development.

As a mean to enhance our said efforts, the Department therefore published this book on "***National Profile on Occupational Safety and Health of Thailand***" to summarize the ongoing occupational safety and health situations and ways to solve facing problems. This book, we hope, will serve as the baseline to facilitate policy, planning, measures and directions adopted to enhance occupational safety and health for all workers by appropriate working conditions and environment.

The Department of Labour Protection and Welfare (DLPW) expects as well that our publication "***National Profile on Occupational Safety and Health of Thailand***" will be benefits for public and private organizations, educational institutes, all workplaces, employers / business owners, safety officers, DLPW officers, and all concerned and interested persons.



Mrs. Amporn Nitisiiri,
Director General,

Department of Labour Protection and Welfare.

May 2009



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National Profile on Occupational Safety and Health of Thailand

1. Information and statistics on occupational injuries and diseases

1.1 Problems caused by occupational injuries and diseases

Fast economic expansion in Thailand has changed the basic economic structure from the traditional agriculture towards industrialization. Throughout recent decades, the Thai economic development policies aiming to enhance competitiveness at the international level have used the advantages of higher labour availability and lower labour costs. In addition, industrial investment promotion measures have been intensively adopted leading to rapid economic expansion i.e. in construction, textile, electronics, food and medicine industries. As a result, Thailand has been satisfactory successful in achieving the economic and social development. One example is the shifting from importer to exporter country. Currently, Thailand is one of the leading exporters in worldwide market. Therefore, the industrial sector has become the largest labour market to accommodate labour inflows. Workers enjoy life due to income increasing and live in better conditions. However, industrialization also brings along negative impacts especially on occupational safety and health (OSH) leading to the problems of worker's injury, disability or death, and occupational diseases. This is due to OSH practices in Thailand have not been sufficiently developed alongside industrialization.

People of working ages are at "risk of occupational hazards" whether they are in private sector, agriculture, state enterprises or government agencies. There are several types of occupational hazards such as chemical leakage and explosion in the chemical and petrochemical industry, fire, lost of organs due to machinery works, electricity and electrical tools, transportation, noises, illumination, vibration and radiation in construction works, work stress, musculoskeletal disorders caused by poor ergonomic designs. In addition, people of working ages are in general lack of knowledge, lack of awareness and attitudes regarding OSH and therefore leading to accidents at work.



Most of enterprises in Thailand are of small and medium size enterprises (SMEs) with limited investment. Many of them have to import used machinery with incomplete or appropriate safety systems. In addition, the management ignores the matters of OSH considering them a wasteful effort. Moreover, in the capital intensive sector where modern technology, machinery and chemicals have been widely used in respect of high quality production and marketing competitiveness, workers are at risk of occupational hazards due to the lack of understanding and knowledge to work in those situations. These are the main reasons causing unsafe working conditions faced by inflowing labour from the rural areas. The most difficult attempt is to promote OSH awareness among employers and employees and encourage cooperation in this matter among the two parties. Therefore, OSH works are among the most important national plans with crucial impacts on employers, employees and industrialization of Thailand as a whole.

1.2 Social and economic losses

The OSH issue is one of the major national problems. Each year, a large portion of workers continue to confront working hazards leading to various losses and serious impacts upon social and economic development of the country. The report from the Office of the Workmen's Compensation Fund (OWCF) of the Social Security Office (SSO) in Table 1 demonstrates that from A.D.1999-2008, the occupational accident rate per 1,000 workers of excluding temporary disability ≤ 3 days has been reducing. In A.D.1999, the accident rate was 10.20 : 1,000 workers. The latest rate of A.D.2008 was 6.08 : 1,000 workers which is the lowest rate during the last ten years. Despite of the aforementioned, accident rate is gradually decreased but the number of accident at work is still relatively high. In A.D.1999, the number of all accidents were 171,997 cases. In 2008, the accident were 176,502 cases, or at the average rate of 484 cases per day, or almost 20 cases per hour. Of these numbers, 613 persons were dead. The average death rate was 1 - 2 persons per day.



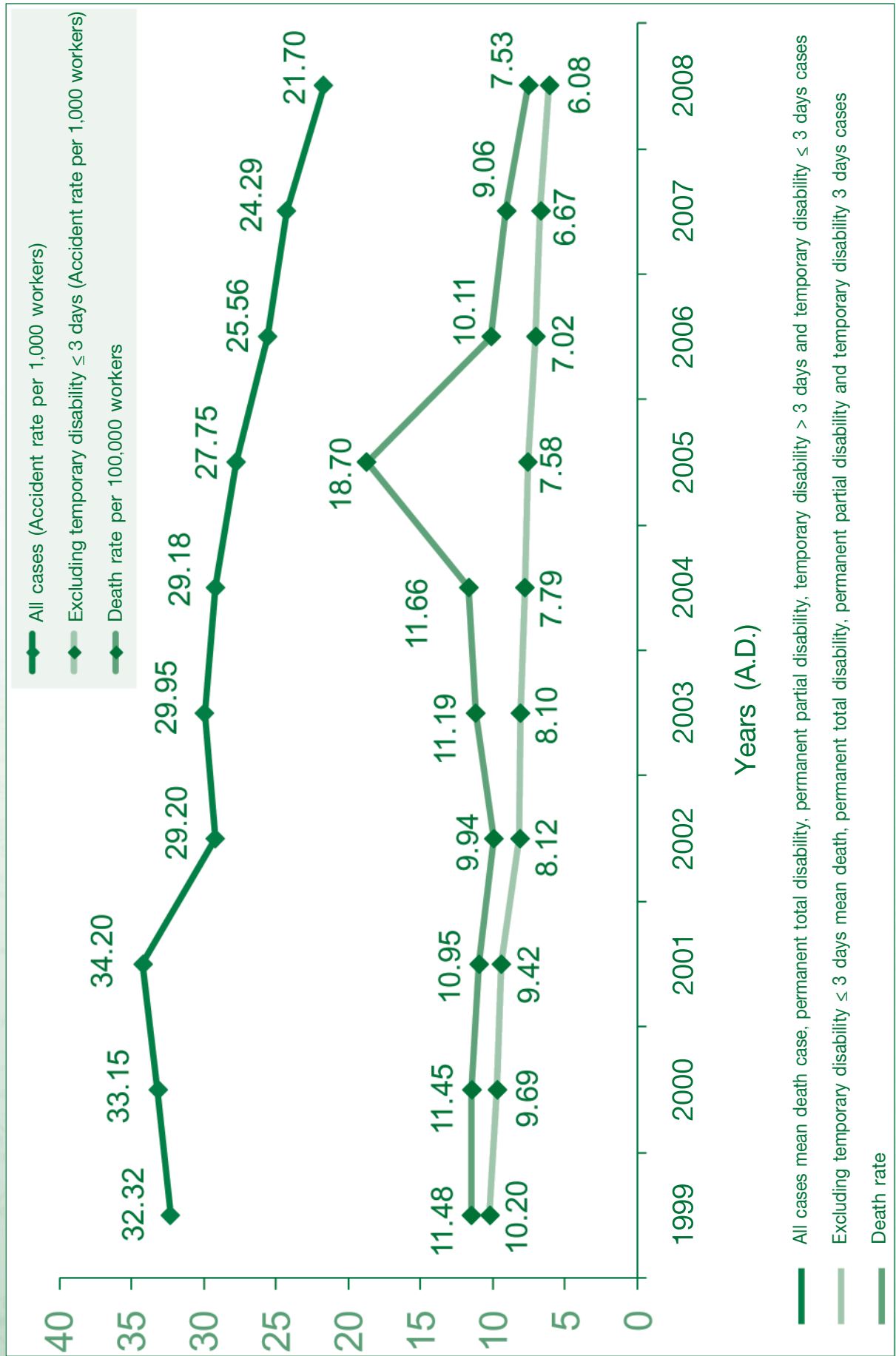
Table 1 : The A.D.1999 - 2008 occupational accident data classified by degrees of severity (under the Workmen's Compensation Fund)

Years (A.D.)	Number of adjudications						Number of employees	Accident rates per 1,000 workers		Death rate per 100,000 workers
	Total	Death	Permanent total disability	Permanent partial disability	Temporary disability > 3days	Temporary disability ≤ 3days		All cases	Excluding temporary disability ≤ 3 days	
1999	171,997	611	12	3,396	50,239	117,739	5,321,872	32.32	10.20	11.48
2000	179,566	620	16	3,516	48,338	127,076	5,417,041	33.15	9.69	11.45
2001	189,621	607	20	3,510	48,077	137,407	5,544,439	34.20	9.42	10.95
2002	190,979	650	14	3,424	49,012	137,879	6,541,105	29.20	8.12	9.94
2003	210,673	787	17	3,821	52,364	153,648	7,033,907	29.95	8.10	11.19
2004	215,534	861	23	3,775	52,893	157,982	7,386,825	29.18	7.79	11.66
2005	214,235	1,444	19	3,425	53,641	155,706	7,720,747	27.75	7.58	18.70
2006	204,257	808	21	3,462	51,901	148,114	7,992,025	25.56	7.02	10.11
2007	198,652	741	16	3,259	50,525	144,111	8,178,180	24.29	6.67	9.06
2008	176,502	613	15	3,096	45,719	127,059	8,135,606	21.70	6.08	7.53

Note : In A.D.2005, there were 938 workers facing Tsunami related disaster. In A.D.2006, there were 59 workers facing Tsunami related disaster, and 32 workers facing unrest harms.

Source : Office of the Workmen's Compensation Fund (OWCF), the Social Security Office (SSO), A.D.1999 - 2008.

Graph shown The A.D. 1999 - 2008 Occupational accident data classified by degrees of Severity



—◆— All cases mean death case, permanent total disability, permanent partial disability, temporary disability > 3 days and temporary disability ≤ 3 days cases
—◆— Excluding temporary disability ≤ 3 days mean death, permanent total disability, permanent partial disability and temporary disability 3 days cases
—◆— Death rate



The data on occupational accidents collected by the OWCF (Table 2) indicates that in A.D.2007, most of the accidents at work, accounting for 58.61%, happened in SMEs workplaces of 1-199 employees. This is because the majority of SMEs lack of capacity to comply with OSH laws and OSH management, leading towards risk of occupational injuries and diseases.

Table 2 : Number of employees and number of occupational accidents, classified by size of workplace (number of employees) in A.D.2008

Size of workplace (number of employees)	Number of employees under protection	Degree of loss (case)					Total (percentage)
		Death	Permanent total disability	Permanent partial disability	Temporary disability > 3 days	Temporary disability ≤ 3 days	
1-199	4,171,005	450	11	1,917	28,324	72,750	103,452 (58.61)
200-499	1,335,349	77	2	566	8,085	24,383	33,113 (18.76)
500-999	946,337	34	0	324	4,237	13,480	18,075 (10.24)
Over 1,000	1,682,915	52	2	289	5,073	16,446	21,862 (12.39)
Total	8,135,606	613	15	3,096	45,719	127,059	176,502 (100)

The data on occupational accidents collected by the OWCF (Table 3) indicates that during a period of ten years, from A.D.1999-2008, the OWCF have paid 14,873.99 million Bahts for compensation, averagely over 1,400 million Bahts per year. In 2008, the compensation money paid by the OWCF was over 1,600 million Bahts. Apart from the said compensation with covered on medical care, accident at work also effects the family members of the injured persons, companies and the country. The International Labour Organization (ILO) has estimated that a direct lost caused by accident at work e.g. life, assess, and indirect lost e.g. opportunities, trustable, time or skills, was 4% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The national GDP of Thailand for A.D.2008 estimated by the National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB) was 3,966,372 million Bahts (at the fixed price) and 7,479,244 million Bahts (at the market price). Therefore, a loss caused by occupational injuries and diseases in Thailand was approximately 3 trillion Bahts.



Table 3 : Compensation paid in A.D.1999 - 2008

Years (A.D.)	Compensation (million Bahts)
1999	1,404.40
2000	1,256.81
2001	1,276.60
2002	1,220.14
2003	1,480.00
2004	1,490.19
2005	1,638.37
2006	1,684.23
2007	1,734.90
2008	1,688.35
Total	14,873.99

2. OSH policy and plans

2.1 The Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand (A.D.2007)

The A.D.2007 Constitution as proclaimed in the Government Gazette on August 24th, 2007, Part 6, Rights and Liberties in working, Section 44 indicates that **"A person has the right of security in respect of safety and welfare at work**, including security in the living both during the working life and upon leaving the state of employment."

2.2 Government policy

The cabinet led by Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva announced the national administration policy at the National Assembly on Monday, December 29th, 2008, including eight topics where the OSH policy is in Topic 3 on social and quality of life policy. In topic 3.2, labour policy, where Topic 3.2.1 states that "Labour both in the formal and informal sectors shall be protected under the Thai labour standards, especially for OSH and employment conditions. The workplaces shall be encouraged to pass the test and certified on standard labour management to ensure worker's rights and protection in compliance with the international labour standards."

Moreover, on Tuesday, December 11th, 2007, as proposed by the Ministry of Labour (MOL), the cabinet had adopted the resolution to announce the policy on "Safety and health for workers" as the national agenda. It is recognized that "labour" is the main factor to strengthen the economic system and ensure active trade liberalization with security by A.D.2016. Collaboration from all sectors are required to achieve the following seven objectives, namely:

1. Labour security ensuring under the national master plan on OSH and working environment.
2. Labour in all sectors work in safe environment.
3. Labour have OSH attitude and knowledge.
4. Occupational accidents are at reducing rates.
5. Labour accessibility to OSH information and data.
6. Labour obtain surveillance system on OSH.
7. Labour have safety culture.

2.3 The tenth National Economic and Social Development Plan (A.D.2007 - 2011)

The tenth National Economic and Social Development Plan (A.D.2007 - 2011) maintains the vision of Thailand's Green and Happiness Society. The virtuous Thai society amidst globalization will value warm family, strong community, peacefulness, secured economy with quality and fairness and quality environment with sustainable natural resources. All are under the democratic regime of the sovereign monarchy and of recognized dignity in the world community. The national development vision is based upon the philosophy of sufficiency economy with integrated approaches for "people centre development." Strategic goals and developing directions are toward the knowledge based society for "safe, livable and peaceful living resorted on social justice and fairness for right protection."

2.4 The master plan on labour (A.D.2007 - 2011)

The Ministry of Labour has developed the labour master plan (A.D.2007 - 2011) by which OSH contents are as follows:

Strategic issue 3 : Enhancing job security and quality of living for all workers whereas the third priority is to develop labour protection and OSH systems comprising of the following activities/projects:

1. Promoting OSH system in the workplaces.
2. Promoting prevention and monitoring systems on accidents at work and surveillance on occupational diseases.
3. Developing mechanism for certifying OSH management system.
4. Promoting OSH in SMEs.
5. Promoting development and supervision of OSH.
6. Promoting public relations to increase knowledge and recognition of OSH matters.
7. Promoting knowledge on OSH laws among networks of labour instructors.
8. Promoting campaigns on OSH awareness.
9. Promoting projects on reduction of accidents at work.
10. Promoting projects on Zero Accident Campaign.
11. Developing OSH curriculums.
12. Conducting OSH trainings for the informal sectors.
13. Promoting OSH for plantation workers.
14. Promoting working conditions improvement among small construction sites.
15. Developing OSH model in the construction works.
16. Promoting capacity enhancement among OSH personnel.
17. Promoting development of OSH networks.
18. Promoting discussions among concerned agencies to consider ratification of the ILO convention concerning Promotional Framework for OSH.



2.5 The second Master Plan on occupational safety, health and working environment (A.D.2007 - 2011)

The second master plan on occupational safety, health and working environment (A.D.2007 - 2011) was approved by the cabinet on April 18th, 2007. The Plan covers five strategic issues as follows:

Strategy 1 : The competency development of the OSH personnel in all sectors (employers, employees and concerned officers).

Goals : To provide adequate number of the qualified OSH personnel.

Strategic approach : The development of the existing target group's capacity and the establishment of the approved and adequate number of the new target groups.

Strategy 2 : Raising the level of OSH holistic management.

Goals : To provide the capable organizations to be able to manage and support on OSH in accordance with the international principles.

Strategic approaches : The establishment and development of the organizations responsible for OSH.

Strategy 3 : The development of the efficiency OSH management.

Goals : To protect and promote OSH for the target groups in accordance with the international standards.

Strategic approaches :

1. The development of OSH standards and laws to meet the international levels.
2. The development of OSH protection and promotion systems in accordance with the international principles.
3. The study and research to develop OSH standards and activities.



Strategy 4 : The OSH promotion of all sectors participation.

Goals : To allow more access, participate, and acknowledge by the target groups.

Strategic approaches :

1. The establishment of the OSH networks.
2. The establishment or promotion of the group assemble and group activities.

Strategic 5 : The development of the OSH information technology and public relation systems.

Goals : To provide comprehensive and updated information / technology / exchange on OSH with adequacy and easy to access.

Strategic approaches :

1. The establishment of the information technology networks and the development of OSH technology.
2. The development of computer systems and other media technologies.

3. OSH Laws

3.1 Laws relating to OSH under the administration of the Department of Labour Protection and Welfare, Ministry of Labour

The Labour Protection Act (A.D.1998), Section 8, prescribes OSH protection measures for which a national committee on occupational safety, health and working environment shall be established comprising of seven representatives from each party; the government, the employers and the employees; totaling twenty-one persons. The committee is authorized to present opinions to the Minister in the promulgation of ministerial regulations, notifications or regulations for the implementation of this Act. The Minister, on the other hand, is authorized to issue ministerial regulations determining the standards for the employer's implementation of the management and arrangement of occupational safety, health and working environment programs. This Act is enforceable for workplaces having one employee or more. The target groups are workers in manufacturing and agricultural sectors, including home workers. At present, there are 12 ministerial regulations and notifications on occupational safety, health and working environment as follows:



1. Notification by Ministry of Interior on working environment (chemicals) safety.
2. Notification by Ministry of Interior on electrical work safety.
3. Notification by Ministry of Interior on hazardous chemicals work safety.
4. Notification by Ministry of Interior on fire prevention and protection.
5. Ministerial Regulation, Ministry of Labour, on the prescribing of standard for administration and management of occupational safety, health and working environment in confined space (A.D.2004).
6. Ministerial Regulation, Ministry of Labour, on the prescribing of standard for administration and management of occupational safety, health and working environment in relation to ionizing radiation (A.D.2004).
7. 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 (A.D.2004).
8. Ministerial Regulation, Ministry of Labour, on the prescribing of standard for administration and management of occupational safety, health and working environment in relation to diving work (A.D.2005).
9. Ministerial Regulation, Ministry of Labour, on the prescribing of standard for administration and management of occupational safety, health and working environment in relation to heat, light and noise (A.D.2006).
10. Ministerial Regulation, Ministry of Labour, on the prescribing of standard for administration and management of occupational safety, health and working environment (A.D.2006).
11. Ministerial Regulation, Ministry of Labour, on the prescribing of standard for administration and management of occupational safety, health and working environment in relation to construction (A.D.2008).
12. Ministerial Regulation, Ministry of Labour, on the prescribing of standard for administration and management of occupational safety, health and working environment in relation to machinery, crane and boiler (AD.2009).

Apart from the aforementioned laws, there are other OSH provisions prescribed under the State Enterprise Relations Act (A.D.2000) and the Labour Protection Act (A.D.1998) as follows:

1. The State Enterprise Relations Act (A.D.2000)
 - Notification by the State Enterprise Relations Committee on the minimum employment standards of state enterprises (A.D.2006), Chapter 7, Items 55 and 56.
2. The Labour Protection Act (A.D.1998) :
 - Ministerial Regulations No. 2 (A.D.1998) on the works that may be harmful to the health and safety of employees.
 - Ministerial Regulations No. 6 (A.D.1998) on the works for which an employer is prohibited from requiring an employee under eighteen years of age to perform.
 - Ministerial Regulations No. 11 (A.D.1998) on maritime transport and logistics.
 - Ministerial Regulations No.12 (A.D.1998) on land transport work.
 - Ministerial Regulations on protection for home workers (A.D.2004).
 - Ministerial Regulations on allowed loading weights (A.D.2004).
 - Ministerial Regulations on protection for agricultural workers (A.D.2004).
 - Ministerial Regulations on welfare facilities at workplaces (A.D.2005).

3.2 OSH laws administered by the Social Security Office, Ministry of Labour

The aforementioned laws include:

1. The Workmen's Compensation Fund Act (A.D.1994).
2. The Ministerial Notification by Minister of Labour on diseases classified by nature or working conditions or work related factors (A.D.2007).

3.3 OSH related laws administered by other agencies

Those laws are of the following lists:

1. The Factory Act (A.D.1992) administered by the Ministry of Industry.
2. The Hazardous Substances Act (A.D.1992) administered by the Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Public Health and Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives.



3. The Public Health Act (A.D.1992) administered by the Ministry of Public Health and Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives.

4. The National Environment Conservation Act (A.D.1992) administered by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.

5. The Building Control Act (No. 4) (A.D.2007) administered by the Ministry of Interior.

6. The Atomic Energy for Peace Act (A.D.1961) administered by the Ministry of Energy.

7. Relevant local laws.

4. Government agencies with OSH duty and responsibility

In Thailand, OSH consideration has been mainly focused on the industrial sector until recently that certain protection have been extended to encompass agricultural and home workers. The three main ministries responsible for OSH activities are Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Public Health and Ministry of Industry.

4.1 The Ministry of Labour plays the leading role on OSH labour protection nationwide. OSH laws have been stipulated and enforced with monitoring and inspection 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. The responsible agencies for OSH works are the Department of Labour Protection and Welfare (DLPW) and the Social Security Office (SSO).

The Department of Labour Protection and Welfare (DLPW) has been authorized for OSH promotion, including research and study and capacity development. Under the DLPW, the direct responsible agency is the **Occupational Safety and Health Inspection Division** with its support to facilitate all works carried out by the provincial and the Bangkok Metropolitan Area (BMA) labour protection and welfare offices on legal enforcement, technical OSH inspection and drafting of required laws for further adoption. Technical supports are mainly provided by the **National Institute for the Improvement of Working Conditions and Environment (NICE)** in the areas of research and studying and capacity development. It is also the IT centre of OSH information. Required OSH services have been provided through twelve **Regional Centres**



for the Improvement of Working Conditions and Environment (RICE), established in the central and regional areas. There are **seventy-five Provincial Labour Protection and Welfare Offices**, taking care of OSH inspection at the provincial level. In BMA, there are together **ten BMA Labour Protection and Welfare Offices**, taking care of the whole BMA.

According to the A.D.2002 Ministerial Regulations on administration responsibility of the DLPW, the Occupational Safety and Health Inspection Division and the National Institute for the Improvement of Working Conditions and Environment (NICE) are authorized for the following duties and responsibilities:

The Occupational Safety and Health Inspection Division is authorized to :

1. Control and ensure legal compliance by the employers and employees on OSH provisions under the Labour Protection Act and the State Enterprise Relations Act and other related laws.
2. Determine measures and procedures on OSH inspection.
3. Jointly carry out assigned works with other concerned agencies, or support their operations.

The National Institute for the Improvement of Working Conditions and Environment (NICE) is authorized to :

1. Promote and develop OSH systems.
2. Certify OSH services.
3. Promote and develop OSH networks.
4. Jointly carry out assigned works with other concerned agencies, or support their operations.

4.2 The Ministry of Public Health is responsible to provide occupational health services covering health promotion, prevent and control factors causing sickness and injury at works and to provide medical care through the technical department in the central region and the public health systems of all levels in other regions. The occupational health programs are responsible by the Bureau of Occupational and Environmental Diseases under the Diseases Control Department.



The Bureau of Occupational and Environmental Diseases, Department of Disease Control is authorized to :

1. Study, analyze, research and develop knowledge on surveillance and prevention of harmful diseases caused by occupational and working environment.
2. Determine and develop surveillance standards and procedures to control harmful diseases caused by occupational and working environment.
3. Transfer knowledge, and technology on surveillance and prevention of harmful diseases caused by occupational and working environment to public, private, local administration organizations and the people at large.
4. Coordinate and support development of mechanisms and networks for surveillance and prevention of harmful diseases caused by occupational and working environment.
5. Coordinate and develop knowledge on symptom diagnosis and treatment of harmful diseases caused by occupational and working environment.
6. Jointly carry out assigned works with other concerned agencies, or support their operations.

4.3 The Ministry of Industry is responsible for issuing permission for factory setting up and operation, order laws on safety in industrial settings, inspection to ensure legal compliance and to renew the business permit. The concerned agency is the Department of Industrial Works (DIW).

Through factory inspection, the DIW is authorized to ensure that industrial operations do no harm to people's health. Environmental impacts must be eliminated. The DIW plays vital roles to ensure safety practices at the factory level because it has the power to consider renewal of the business permit. The responsible agencies for these affairs are the Office of Safety Technology, the Office of Hazardous Substances Control and the Industrial Cluster Bureau.

The Safety Technology Bureau is the technical agency with following duties and responsibilities :

1. Studying and analyzing to further develop factory safety and health programs.
2. Factory energy conservations.
3. Determining safety and health policy, action plans and procedural standards at the factory level.
4. Enhancing supports on factory safety technology and safety and health management.
5. Monitoring factories of high hazardous risks, or of required specialization.



6. Collaboration on preventive measures for factories with hazardous substances.
7. Supervising certified private companies which manage factory safety and health programs.
8. Serving as the national focal point to coordinate the action plans on Awareness and Preparedness for Emergency at Local Level (APELL) according to the mandate of the UNEP/IE.
9. Collaboration with various local and international safety organizations.
10. Developing and publicizing technical manuals on factory safety and health programs for required observation.
11. Collaboration with and support other concerned agencies or as assigned.

The Bureau of Hazardous Substances Control is responsible for ensuring legal compliance on prevention and use of volatile substances, determine and develop various measures to prevent chemical harms and impacts. It also serves as the focal point for participation in developing international agreements on industrial businesses.

The Industrial Cluster Bureau is responsible for supervising and monitoring factory operations to ensure legal compliances for the use of hazardous substances and to prevent the use of volatile compounds. It has authority to enforce laws nationwide.

5. Other related OSH associations and organizations

5.1 The Safety and Health at Work Promotion Association (Thailand)

The first National Safety Week of Thailand was organized during June 1st - 3rd, 1986. The organizing committee at that time also recommended the establishment of the OSH association and to annually perform the national safety week. The established OSH association participates in organizing the annual national safety week while the Department of Labour (at that time) acts as the national coordinator. The Safety and Health at Work Promotion Association (Thailand) was thus set up with the following objectives:

1. To promote OSH at work.
2. To publicize OSH knowledge and experiences.
3. To cooperate with various public and private organizations to promote and carry out OSH activities.
4. To support coordination among various public and private organizations to enhance OSH programs.



5. None political involvement.

This association was registered on May 29th, 1987 with the office located at the DLPW Building, Talingchan, Bangkok.

5.2 The Occupational Health and Safety at Work Association

Followings are the objectives of the association:

1. To promote technical knowledge on OSH among members and the society at large.
2. To promote professional advancement on OSH affairs.
3. To promote and coordinate with workplaces and industrial communities for OSH activity development and quality of working life.
4. To enhance technical cooperation on OSH activities with various public and private organizations, or associations, locally and internationally.
5. To promote cooperation and relationship among members.
6. To acquire sources of OSH technical supports for members.
7. None political involvement.

The association is located at the OSH Department, Faculty of Public Health, Mahidol University, Bangkok.

5.3 The Ergonomics Society of Thailand

The Ergonomics Society of Thailand maintains the following objectives:

1. To be the centre for knowledge and experience exchanging with publication of technical papers on ergonomics.
2. To promote OSH programs related to ergonomic situations in workplaces.
3. To coordinate with other public and private organizations to enhance ergonomic activities.
4. To promote and support studies and researches to enhance ergonomic program development.
5. To collaborate in efforts to promote ergonomic activities among public and private organizations at local and international levels.
6. To promote national ergonomic works.

The Ergonomics Society of Thailand was registered on August 6th, 2001, located at the DLPW Building, Talingchan, Bangkok.



5.4 The Safety at Work Promotion Foundation

The DLPW established the Safety at Work Promotion Foundation with the objectives as follows:

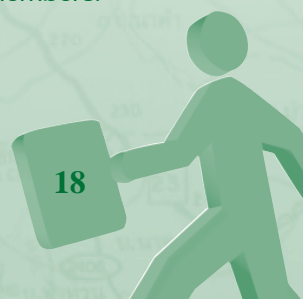
1. To promote and enhance OSH activities for better health and safety including welfare of workers.
2. To receive and provide financial and technical supports with other resources to promote OSH and welfare programs for workers.
3. To coordinate with the public sectors and private organizations to enhance OSH and welfare programs for workers.
4. To carry out public charity programs or coordinate with other charity organizations.
5. None political involvement.

The Safety at Work Promotion Foundation was registered on October 4th, 1993, located at the DLPW Building, Talingchan, Bangkok.

5.5 The Occupational and Environmental Diseases Association of Thailand

Objectives hold by this association are as follows:

1. To be the technical centre of occupational medicine and environment information and other related fields.
2. To support and organize educational activities and trainings on occupational and environmental medicines and other related fields.
3. To support technical services, knowledge and information distribution on occupational and environmental medicines and other related fields.
4. To support and develop research works on occupational and environmental medicines and other related fields.
5. To ensure technical cooperation and coordination on occupational and environmental medicines and other related fields with various public and private organizations at national and international levels.
6. To promote collaboration, unity and good relationship among members to enhance professional benefits in the occupational and environmental medicines and other related fields for the public at large and the nation as a whole.
7. To promote quality, moral and professional ethics among occupational and environmental medicine practitioners and those in other related fields, especially among members.



The Occupational and Environmental Diseases Association of Thailand was registered for establishment on November 6th, 2003 with the office located at the Occupational and Environmental Medicines Centre, Nopparat Rachathani Hospital, Bangkok.

5.6 The Thai Public Health Nurses Association

This association holds the following objectives:

1. To serve as the focal organization to promote education, research, technical services and coordination in OSH nursing among various members at the national and international levels.
2. To coordinate development in upgrading professional practices among OSH nursing groups or related OSH association at the national and international levels.
3. To coordinate with technical efforts and to propose approaching to solve OSH nursing problems with public and private organizations at the national and international levels.

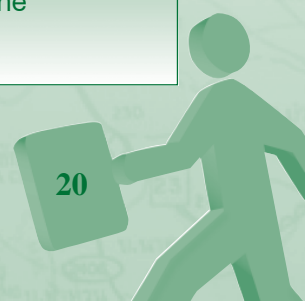
The Thai Public Health Nurses Association was registered on September 3rd, 2007 with the office located at the Faculty of Public Health, Mahidol University, Bangkok.



6. OSH personnel

6.1 Graduates from OSH courses (as of June A.D.2008)

University	Courses	Number of graduates (persons)
Mahidol University	Bachelor of Sciences, major in OSH	1,026
	Master of Sciences, major in OSH	161
	Industrial Hygiene	
Khon Kaen University	Bachelor of Sciences, major in OSH	212
Burapha University	- Bachelor of Sciences, major in Industrial Hygiene and Safety, 4 years.	81
	- Bachelor of Sanitary Sciences, major in OSH, continual course, 2 years.	(for 2 courses)
Walailak University	Bachelor of Sciences, major in OSH	166
Suranaree University of Technology	Bachelor of Sciences, major in OSH	271
Huachiew Chalermprakiet University	Bachelor of Sciences, major in OSH	333
Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University	Bachelor of Public Health, major in OSH (continual course of 2 years and certificate)	2,512
Thaksin University	Bachelor of Sciences, major in industrial hygiene and safety	65
Prince of Songkla University	Master of Sciences, major in OSH	7
Bansomdejchaopraya Rajabhat University	Bachelor of Sciences, major in safety sciences	147
Chandrakasem Rajabhat University	Bachelor of Sciences, major in safety sciences	268
Rajabhat Rajanagarindra University	Degree in safety sciences	30
Thammasat University	Bachelor of Sciences, major in OSH	None
South - East Asia University	Engineering, major in industrial safety management	None
Valaya Alongkorn Rajabhat University	Bachelor of Sciences, major in safety sciences	None



6.2 Number of doctors in occupational medicine

Courses	Numbers (persons)
Board of Occupational Medicine (OM)	99
Two months training course on OM	442

Information from Occupational and Environmental Medicines Section, Nopparat Rachathani Hospital (<http://www.occmmednop.org>, accessed in A.D.2008)

6.3 Number of occupational health nurses

At present, the specific number of occupational health nurses is not available. So far, there are practitioners with following qualifications:

1. Graduates in the master degree of occupational health nursing.
2. Graduates in the bachelor degree of nursing or equivalent, or occupational health programs or equivalent.
3. Graduates in the bachelor degree of nursing and the graduates with diploma in occupational health nursing.
4. Graduates in bachelor degree of nursing who attended the 60 hours training course on occupational health nursing.

6.4 Number of trained safety officers at various levels (as of A.D.1997 - December A.D.2008)

1. 276,168 safety officers in supervising level.
2. 101,395 safety officers in executive level.
3. 6,910 safety officers in technical level (the basic level under the old law).
4. 25,443 safety officers in professional level (under the old law).

7. OSH inspection and law enforcement

7.1 The OSH inspection system

The three criteria of OSH inspection system are; **the law enforcement** to ensure legal compliances by the employers with appropriate enforcement in case of violation; **the support** to enhance understanding of the objectives prescribed by the laws for proper implementation; and **the facts studying** to collect information on OSH problems impeding compliances with laws, regulations, orders, rules and labour standards to enhance required improvement.

Safety inspection in the workplaces consisted of five types as follows:

7.1.1 The regular inspection is the OSH inspection at workplaces to ensure the workplace compliance with regulation. It is not the requested inspection, follow-up, accident inspection, or special inspection.

7.1.2 The requested inspection is the OSH inspection at certain workplaces where complaints have been lodged on non-compliance or violation against the OSH laws.

7.1.3 The follow-up inspection is the continual inspection after the regular inspection, requested inspection, or special inspection. It is to ensure that the manufacturers implement the workplace conditions as required by the OSH laws or the suggestions of the Labour inspectors. At any workplace, the follow-up inspection may be taken more than once.

7.1.4 The accident inspection is the OSH inspection at workplaces where and when unusual incidents or accidents occurred.

7.1.5 The special inspection is the specific OSH inspection as required for certain cases or projects to enhance OSH practices at the workplace.

Presentation of inspection results is conducted by the Labour inspectors after completion of inspection to identify the three areas of:

1. Compliance; meaning that certain workplaces or employers conformed with the related notifications or ministerial regulations.

2. Non-compliance; meaning that certain workplaces or employers failed to conform with the related notifications or ministerial regulations.

3. Not obligated; meaning that certain workplaces or employers were not required to conform with or implement the related notifications or ministerial regulations.



7.2 Responsible agencies for safety inspection and laws enforcement

The DLPW comprises of the following agencies, responsible for inspection and OSH laws enforcement namely:

7.2.1 The central agencies

7.2.1.1 The Occupational Safety and Health Inspection Division has authority to determine directive measures and procedures for OSH inspection, including patterns and methodologies to be exercised by Provincial and BMA Labour Protection and Welfare Offices. It has the duty to ensure legal compliance by the employers and employees as required by the OSH laws, the State Enterprise Relations Act (occupational safety, health and working environment section), and other related laws. In addition, it has to coordinate and support the Provincial and BMA Labour Protection and Welfare Offices.

7.2.1.2 The BMA Labour Protection and Welfare Offices are authorized to inspect and enforce implementation of OSH laws at the primary levels using the formulated indicators. There are altogether 10 BMA Labour Protection and Welfare Offices.

7.2.2 The regional agencies

The Provincial Labour Protection and Welfare Offices hold authorization to enforce the implementation of OSH laws using the formulated indicators the same as 7.2.1.2. There are altogether 75 Provincial Labour Protection and Welfare Offices.

7.3 Number of OSH inspectors

There are 735 OSH inspectors in accordance with the OSH laws (as of September 1st, 2008).

7.4 OSH inspector training programs

Basic training programs are organized to enhance required technical knowledge for central and regional Labour inspectors. This is to ensure that the OSH inspectors are able to provide proper suggestions for related workplaces. Building up good OSH attitudes among labour inspectors is also an essential part of the training. At present, the duration of OSH training course is 15 days. The training is conducted twice a year with 20 participants for each session.



The training course comprises of technical presentation and workplace inspection practicing. After finish this section, the participants have to take the examination and then the qualified trainees will receive the certifications. Currently, there are 396 trained labour inspectors from 25 courses (as of September 1st, 2008).

7.5 Penalty

Violation againsts the OSH laws is subject to the fine not more than 200,000 Bahts, or imprisonment not more than one year, or both.

8. OSH trainings as required by the laws

The DLPW organizes the following training courses on OSH as required by the laws:

1. Safety officer course for supervising level.
2. Safety officer course for executive level.
3. Safety officer course for technical level.
4. Safety officer course for advanced technical level.
5. Safety officer course for professional level.
6. OSH training course for the committee of occupational safety, health and environment in the workplace.
7. OSH training course for chief of safety department.
8. Basic training on fire prevention and control.
9. Training course on fire drills.
10. OSH course on confined space for granting permission.
11. OSH course on confined space for supervisors.
12. OSH course on confined space for assistants.
13. OSH course on confined space for operators working in confined space.
14. OSH course on confined space for granting permission, supervisors, assistants and operators working in confined space.



9. OSH promotion campaigns

The DLPW organizes OSH promotion campaigns as follows:

9.1 National safety week

The first national safety week was launched on June 1st -3rd, 1986 featuring seminars, exhibition and OSH workplaces contest. Also, the OSH nationwide campaigns in all provinces were conducted during June 1st -7th, 1986.

During the beginning years, there were no specific dates for the national safety week. Eventually, on January 20th, 1992, the cabinet adopted a resolution indicates that during July 1st -5th of each year is the national safety week and to organize the national safety week event at the same time in order to promote safety at work.

In 1997, the employee organizations requested to set up May 10th as the national safety day in memory of the fire incident at the doll factory which caused 188 deaths. The requested was adopted by the cabinet resolution on August 26th, 1997. Therefore, the 12th national safety week in A.D.1998 was taken place during the week of May 10th for the first time.

In 2000, the national safety week organizing committee agreed to launch the national safety week in five regions; the North, the Northeast, the East, the West and the South, in respect of extending OSH knowledge and technology from the central to regions. Since 2000, the national safety week events have been continually taking places in several provinces.

9.2 OSH workplace contest

The first contest was launched in A.D.1986 with the following objectives:

- To promote the implementation of better standards and systems of OSH management in the workplaces.
- To encourage and convince the workplaces to recognize the importance of OSH program aiming to reduce occupational hazards. Also, it is to promote the organization's image and reputation.



9.3 The Zero Accident Campaign

The DLPW launched the ongoing Zero Accident Campaign in A.D.2001 to motivate the workplaces to improve the OSH programs. The workplaces with continually reduced non-leave occupational accidents will be awarded with the emblem of honour from the Minister of Labour as follows:

1. The gold award is for 10,000,000 working hours or over with non-leave accidents.
2. The silver award is for 3,000,000-9,999,999 working hours with non-leave accidents.
3. The bronze award is for 1,000,000-2,999,999 working hours with non-leave accidents.
4. The primary award is for non-leave accidents in the past year regardless of accumulated working hours.

From A.D.2001 - 2009, there are 1,077 workplaces awarded.

9.4 The Safe Labour - Happy Thai Society campaign to enhance OSH awareness

The safety at work promotion committee is responsible for safety at work cultural campaign. It has recommended that in addition to the national safety week event, OSH should be promoted to cover targets in all areas.

Accordingly, the DLPW started this project in A.D.2007 focusing on activities for specific industrial settings or labour communities. On March 23rd, 2007, the DLPW signed the memorandum of agreement with the Industrial Estates Authority of Thailand to collaborate the following four directives:

1. Coordination to promote Safe Labour-Happy Thai Society campaigns.
2. Coordination to enhance safety awareness among workplaces.
3. Coordination to promote public-private sectors collaboration to publicize knowledge on OSH and working environment among the employers and employees in the workplaces.
4. Coordination with the networks to establish workplace safety culture.



9.5 Promotion of fire prevention and protection in the service sectors

This project was launched in A.D.2008, the year of Amazing Thailand for tourism campaign. At that time, the focus was on hotel businesses since they were mainly operating in high rise buildings with a large number of customers, both Thai and foreigners. This business is of high risk of severe fire hazard since it is difficult to stop once it occurs. The fire accident always causes tremendous losses of life and assets of both employees and tourists.

The fire prevention project for hotel businesses is aimed to enhance fire safety and provide confidence to customers, and to perform regular inspection and monitoring. It helps create awareness among personnel of all levels including the management. It also promotes safety system to encourage the tourists to visit Thailand.

At first, this campaign covered the twelve tourism destination provinces then in A.D.1999, it has expanded nationwide. Eventually, it was extending to encompass all department stores and hospitals. The project title thus changed to promotion of fire prevention and control in the business. The award has been issued for accepted fire safety management business based on the compliance with fire safety laws. This is ascertained by reviewing of the last two years documentations and working conditions inspection. The award presentation features the medal of honour and the certificate of two years term.

10. *The IT system for OSH*

The DLPW recognized capacity of the IT system for publicizing OSH projects by several approaches at various levels.

10.1 **Publications** to access the receivers at various levels. Therefore, several forms are published including:

- **OSH Newsletter** to report OSH activities quarterly. It is published four volumes a year, 10,000 copies per volume.
- **OSH Information sheet** is a one page publication to provide OSH knowledge and suggestions. It comprises of simple languages therefore it is suitable for the workers in operational level. It is printed 10,000 sheets for each subject.



- **OSH guideline sheet** is a one page sheet provided suggestions on work safely with equipment, tools or specific operations. It comprises of simple languages therefore it is suitable for the workers in operational level. It is printed 10,000 copies for each subject.

- **OSH Manual / guidelines** are technical information provided on safe working procedures. These guideline are suitable for OSH officers, management team and policy makers.

- **OSH posters** attract workers' attention by capturing the pictures of hazardous workplace. Moreover, it is easy to understand by using simple instruction.

10.2 OSH website at www.oshthai.org is the OSH information resource on technical data including:

- OSH laws, related to Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Public Health and Ministry of Industry.

- Study / research projects carried out by the DLPW.

- Case study / OSH accidents investigation in Thailand and overseas.

- Lists of registered organizations for training as prescribed by the law which include safety officer course, basic fire fighting course, fire drills, confined space, and lists of organization for working environment inspection service.

- Daily reports on all safety news including work related accidents.

- Centre of technical OSH knowledge comprises of contents on ergonomics, chemical safety, working environment, occupational diseases and health care, engineering safety, construction safety and safety management.

- OSH for youth with contents of school safety, road safety, OSH for students preparing for entering the labour market.

- ASEAN-OSHNET covers various activities carried out by the networks and also the minutes of meeting. Information is provided through the connected OSH websites of the ASEAN member countries.

- MAGAZINE ONLINE provides weekly updated information on various OSH activities. The contents cover new technology, Health Tip Safety Web, worldwide OSH events, articles and summary of accidents.



- Safety officer corner to exchange information among OSH personnel.
- Employees' health check-up provides guidelines on health care for workers in the workplaces.
- CIS is the connection with the IT centre on OSH of the ILO to provide OSH knowledge such as OSH encyclopedia.
- Accident statistics provide information on OSH accidents and diseases faced by workers under the protection of the Workmen's Compensation Fund.
- OSH media is the information centre which can be downloaded for immediate uses. It contains posters, manuals and guidelines, pamphlets, vdo clips, exhibition pictures, etc.
- Discussion board is an area provided for discussion and information exchanges on OSH problems and experiences.
- Download area is provided to download required information and several legal forms.

10.3 Cartoons and animation are aiming to create OSH awareness among the children and youth so that they can further apply OSH concepts in their future working life.

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