

NEWSLETTER

On Occupational Safety and Health & Working Environment

NUMBER 1, 2015

National Institute of Labour Protection of Vietnam-CIS/ILO Collaborating Centre

Signing Ceremony for the Arrangement on Technical Collaboration in the field of OSH

between National Institute of Labour Protection and Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency phase 2015-2018

Tran Bich Ha

On April 13th, 2015, at the headquarter of the National Institute of Labour Protection (NILP) was held the signing ceremony for the Arrangement on Technical Collaboration in the field of OSH between NILP and Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency (KOSHA).

Attending the ceremony, from KOSHA were Mr. Lim, KOSHA's Vice Young-Sub. President, Mr. Jin, Chan-ho, Mr. Kong Keung-Doo and Mr. Cha Jung-Choel; from Vietnam General Confederation Labour (VGCL) were Mr. Tran Thanh Hai, Standing Vice President, member of VGCL Presidium and Ms. Hoang Thi Thanh, Manager of International Department, member of VGCL Presidium; from NILP were Mr. Do Tran Hai, member of VGCL Presidium, General Director of NILP, NILP's leadership, guests and journalists.

To review the implementa-

tion of collaborative activities in the framework of the Arrangement on Technical Collaboration in the filed of OSH phase 2012-2015, Mr. Do Tran Hai, General Director of NILP highlighted the achievements and practical results obtained by both parties from activities such as training, raising capacity for researchers, technical supports for occupational safety, occupational health and environmental monitoring; Mr. Hai also proposed in the next three year of the arrangement NILP and KOSHA to continue to actively promote and widen the scope of collaboration for the development of the two organizations and the career of labor protection of the two countries.



Mr. Do Tran Hai, member of VGCL Presidium, General Director of NILP and Mr. Lim, Young-Sub, Vice President of KOSHA sign the Arrangement on Technical Collaboration in the field of OSH

Delivering guiding speech at the signing ceremony, Mr. Tran Thanh Hai, Standing Vice President, member of VGCL Presidium praised the enthusiastic support and help of KOSHA to NILP in the recent years and hoped that as OSH Law which was supposed to submit for review and approval on the upcoming 9th National Assembly Session, KOSHA and NILP would set up more collaborative activities focusing on Korean enterprises and employees working in Vietnam and Vietnamese employees working in Korea.

Mr. Lim, Young-Sub, Vice President of KOSHA fully agreed and recorded ideas from VGCL and NILP leadership and also expressed his willingness together with NILP setting up more and more collaborative activities for target of safety and health for workers.

The Arrangement on Technical Collaboration in the field of OSH between NILP and KOSHA has formally started since 2009 with collaborative activities in training, raising knowledge on OSH, coresearching, technical supporting with many practical results and benefits for NILP and KOSHA and also contribute to promote OSH and the friendship between Vietnam and Korea.



Mr. Tran Thanh Hai, Standing Vice President, member of VGCL Presidium delivers guiding speech at the signing ceremony



Panorama of the signing ceremony

Co-operation activities between NILP and KOSHA in 2014

Tran Bich Ha

n the framework of the Arrangement on Technical Collaboration between the National Institute of Labour Protection (NILP) and the Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency (KOSHA) for the 2012-2015 phase, the year 2014 witnessed technical collaboration activities in the field of OSH between the two organizations with significant achievements.

The co-operation year 2014 between NILP and KOSHA started in May with a delegation of NILP's officials to visit KOSHA headquarters in Ulsan attending the Fellowship Training Program on Occupational Safety and Health. Through this training program, officials of the two organizations shared and updated the OSH information in Vietnam and Korea such as the experience on making OSH Act, occupational accident compensation, occupational accidents in construction, hazardous factors, methods for sampling and assessing micro-organism in the atmosphere, management and using of asbestos...

Follow to the visit of NILP's delegation to KOSHA, in August 2014, NILP received two KOSHA's experts: Mr SeungKuk Bang, Deputy Director in Safety Certification Center and Mr SeungSoo Chae, Manager of Safety Certification of PPE to visit and give technical support for Occupational Safety Centre (OSC) of NILP. During the time

working at OSC, KOSHA's experts had shared valuable experiences on PPEs assessment methods and promised to assist OSC in testing PPEs including documents on testing procedures and equipments, help to train OSC staff skills on testing and calibrating equipments, and also support the Centre in inter- laboratory comparisons, procedures for conforming equipments.

At the end of October 2014, under the invitation of KOSHA, NILP sent a researcher from National Working Environment Monitoring



KOSHA's experts visit and work at Occupational Safety Centre of NILP



NILP's researcher takes part in collaborative research program in KOSHA, Korea

Station to take part in an onemonth collaborative research program in KOSHA. The program's activities mainly focused on methods of working environment monitoring, analysis methods and practicing on modern equipments, experience from KOSHA in preserving chemicals, air supply system and prevention of safety incidents in labs...

Also in 2014, Mr. WonYong Researcher, Senior Lim. Manager, Occupational Health Research Department, Occupational Safety and Health Research Institute, KOSHA had paid a visit to Occupational Health Centre (OHC) of NILP. In around one week working at OHC, Mr. Lim gave valuable technical supports to OHC staffs in laboratory skills and also help to raise up researching capacity for young researchers of OHC.

The co-operation activities in 2014 between NILP and KOSHA are considered to go in-depth and help to create the solid and long-term relationship between centers and departments of NILP and KOSHA. Hoping that in the coming times, the two organizations continue to maintain the co-operation relations in order to contribute to the OSH activities of NILP and KOSHA in particular and also in Vietnam and Korea in general.



KOSHA's expert visits and works at Occupational Health Centre of NILP

The Signing Ceremony on the Co-operative programme in education and research on occupational safety and health

Due to the need of human power with high quality in the field of occupational safety and health to meet the requirement of ensuring OSH and protecting workforce, the National Institute of labour protection (NILP) and Trade Union University (TUU) signed the agreement on the cooperative programme in education and research on occupational safety and health in the period of 2015-2020 on 11th February, 2015.

The objectives of the program are as follows:

1. Enhancing capability, competency and effectiveness of educating OSH engineers to give human power with high quality;

2. Enhancing capability and effectiveness of research in the field of occupational safety and health.

The content of activity of the program includes: participation to education council, teaching, tutorial lessons in labs, supervising post students, compiling curriculum, allowing NILP staff to give lectures and lectures of TUU to do research etc.

The OSH faculty and NILP office the are coordinating ones to help leaders of NILP and TUU to set up activity plan and implementation of the program.



Panorama of the signing ceremony

RESEARCH ON ASSESSMENT OF WORK SAFETY USING MECHANICAL - ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT FOR AGRICULTURE IN THE SOUTHERN PROVINCES, AND PROPOSE SOME SOLUTIONS TO MINIMIZING WORKING ACCIDENTS

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I. BACKGROUND

safety ccupational and health (OSH) issue in agriculture has been long discussed and in recent years by the State and other relevant departments, especially when agriculture makes considerable contribution to the country development. it has received more attention of appropriate authorities and social organizations. However, this attention was insufficient in OSH work for employees in the agricultural sector. Safety risks when using the machinery has not been mitigated, harmful factors in this field are still evident.

There are many reasons for the increase of occupational accidents in agriculture, but the main reason being that farmers still lack understanding of OSH and awareness of respecting OSH regulations. On the other hand, most farmers are now filling the knowledge and skill gap in using agricultural machinery, using a "vocation trains vocation" manner, so the occurrence of accidents was unavoidable.

OSH issue in agriculture could not be resolved overnight, but it needs proper care of State management agencies at all levels, professional organizations, agencies and appropriate authorities from central to local levels to gradually enhance OSH knowledge for workers in this field.

II. OBJECTIVES AND CONTENTS OF STUDY

2.1. Study objectives

- To evaluate the work safety situation in the use of mechanical electrical equipment in agricultural production in the Southern provinces.
- To propose some feasible solutions to reducing working accidents in agriculture in the Southern provinces.

2.2. Study contents

- To overview the situation of actual use of mechanical electrical machinery, equipment, tools in production and for production in some common industries in the Southern provinces.
- To identify hazards and risks from using machinery in the Southern provinces.
- To survey and assess the situation of working accidents due to mechanic electric agricultural machinery in production, to analyze the cause of accident (the parameters and criteria for safety, safe structure, qualifications and skills of users, etc.).
- To propose some managerial and techniques solutions in order to ensure safety and reduce working accidents for users of mechanic electric agricultural machinery.

III. STUDY RESULTS

3.1. Identification of dangers:

The comparison of dangers occuring during the use of mechanical - electrical equipment in reality with safety standards for some machine as cited suggests that there is still a relatively large distance between application of standards and actual use of machinery.

Learning from the survey, we have discovered that: There are dangers from the equipment itself (blades of mowers, blades of rowing harvesters, etc.). Reduction of puncture and cut risks entirely depend on the level of safe work understanding and practice of employees for each device.

3.2. Survey results:

Conducting a survey on 526 agricultural producing households that use mechanical electrical equipment in agricultural production, we have totaled up the types of machines used by each household and the common forms of accidents during the of these types use machines; information about users in order to generally assess the current status of work safety in agricultural production in a number of stages as mentioned above.

General observations:

- 1. The majority of equipment operators are in the working age (> 18 years), of which only 16% are professionally trained and 28% have heard (not yet trained) of occupational safety while working with machinery.
- 2. Machinery and equipment: for mechanical devices like plough, rake, harrows tractors, harvesting threshing combines, accidents caused by objects thrown and shot at, by being stabbed, cut and by falling maintain at high rates.
- 3. A number of rotating parts cannot be shielded so it is difficult to control thrown and shot objects due to the rotation of working parts during operation.
- 4. Among these mechanical devices, the open working parts are normally sharp (cutting knife and discs, milling blades, etc.) and pointed (rice cleaving spearhead, harrow teeth, etc.) so accidents by being crashed and cut have high rates.
- 5. Accidents caused by falls: there are many different causes. In normal operation, accidents could happen when drivers cannot control the machine (with two- wheels plows and tillers). Falling should occur due to slipping when climbing up or down tractor, or by concentrating too much on productivity and neglecting work safety (persons giving a hand with the gathering rice on harvesting threshing combines, etc).
- 6. Water pumps: Water pumps of producers are usually electric pumps. Major accidents here were electric shock and falling. Pumps used are not

fixed but would move as requirements of cultivation and crops, therefore the shell of the wire insulation is easily damaged by movement in unfavorable working environment. Falls due to slippery work surface could also lead to accidents.

7. Pesticide spraying devices: Hazards come from pesticide splashing and poisoning during spraying. Falls also have a high rate because workers often have to carry heavy equipment and by paying attention to spray they may forget to observe the ground and often stumble.

3.3. Discussion

We have chosen a narrow issue, only to assess the status of labour safety during the use of mechanic - electric agricultural equipment for rice production in paddy soil preparation, caring and harvesting in five provinces in South East region and Mekong Delta by surveying 526 agricultural producing households that use mechanical - electrical machinery including 13 types of device and total of 1,064 devices. Information collected includes: Information about operators controlling devices (age, vocational training, knowledge of safety); causes of occupational accidents.

By analyzing of the survey data, we found out the 3 groups of cause that are the main factors leading to occupational accidents:

1. Human factor:

The issues related to workers controlling machinery: health, skills (proficiency,

understanding of using machinery), vocational age, knowledge of occupational safety in use of machinery.

We have chosen two parameters to assess potential occupational accidents in the use of machinery and equipment:

- + The users of equipment that have understanding of safety: 28.2%
- + The users of equipment that have no understanding of safety: 71.8%
- 2. Machinery factor:

The study team has surveyed 526 agricultural producing households that use mechanical – electrical machinery in production and found that the common forms of accidents when using machines include: stabbing, cutting, objects splashing, falls, electric shock, poisoning.

3. Used environment factor:

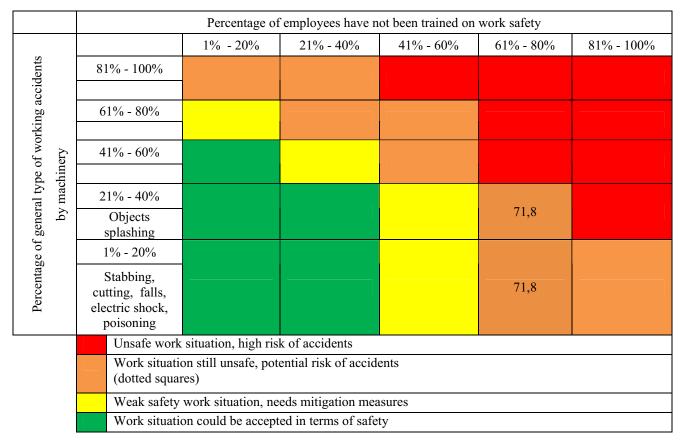
With 3 groups of cause leading to working accidents as described above, knowing the possibilities of each group can lead to working accidents, we have used the probability summation to calculate levels and ability which can lead to working accidents.

Three groups of cause can lead to working accidents independently but sometimes simultaneously by 2 or 3 causes, so if the potentiality that leads to working accidents by each of 3 causes is expressed as P1, P2 and P3, we can estimate the general potentiality leading to working accidents as Pc.

However, the study has not enough date to quantify by these parameters, so we have selected a qualitative assessment method with two-dimensional matrix on the basis of human and machinery factors; the factor of working environment has been excluded in any circumstances. Two-dimensional matrix is designed with:

- + Column of the matrix is the human factor with one representative aspect as the rate of surveyed people
- about work safety training when using machinery.
- + Row of matrix is the rate of general type of working accidents encountered when working with machinery.

Percentage of general type of working accidents by machinery



IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Through survev and assessment of occupational safety status in the use of mechanic - electric agricultural machinery and equipment, the research team has found a number of major causes leading to accidents when using machinery and equipment for agriculture production and built some specific measures on management and technology contributing to the dissemination and application of these solutions for employees using

agricultural machinery, in order to minimize working accidents in the future.

Besides, in terms of technical solutions, the research team has recommended the application of power turn-off device for equipment using single-phase electric power when leakage current happened with leakage current # 20mA. The equipment has been tested in the laboratory and has reliable operation.

This study is conducted to propose to authorities at all levels that more attention should be paid to better train agricultural workers on safe usage of machinery and equipment in order to enable them to work safely.

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Vietnam General Confederation of Labour gathered opinions on regulations for preventing occupational accidents and diseases in the Draft of OSH Act

Nam Dương

According to the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, there are currently around 28,000 people suffering from occupational diseases, about 5,000-7,000 people suffering from working accidents, including 500-700 deaths due to working accidents. Particularly in 2014, throughout the country, there were 6,709 working accidents causing 6,941 people to suffer from those, including 630 deaths, 1,544 serious injuries. There were also 2,375 fires & explosions that killed 90 people, injured 143 people, property damage was estimated at nearly 1,400 billion VND.



Mr. Le Trong Sang - Member of the Presidium - Head of Labour Relation Section of VGCL speaking for workshop opening

n March 13th, 2015, Vung Tau city, VGCL has organized a workshop entitled "Gathering opinions on regulations for preventing occupational accidents and diseases in the Draft of OSH Act" under the chairmanship of Mr. Le Trong Sang -Member of the Presidium, head of Labour Relation Section of VGCL and Mr. Chau Van Thang - Chairman of Ba Ria-Vung Tau Provincial Labor Federation. Attending the workshop there were representatives of ministries, departments, branches, provincial Labor Federation of other provinces, the Trade Union of different branches, etc.

Speaking at the workshop, Mr. Le Trong Sang - Member of the Presidium - Head of Labour Relation Section of VGCL has emphasized: OSH has been a matter of concern to the Communist Party, State, businesses and has achieved important results. However, the situation of working accidents, occupational diseases. fire&explosion incidents still complicatedly unfolded and tends to increase in the number of cases, the number of people getting accidents and occupational diseases as well as in the severity that causes damages on humans and property for business. The main reason is due to the insufficient awareness of many levels of party committees, governments, businesses, heads of organizations, agencies and people on OSH; scattered, uncoordinated and lowly efficient organization of state management. The competence and qualifications of staff



Mr. Vu Anh Duc - Deputy Head of Labour Relation Section of VGCL reporting workshop guide.

engaged in this work are still limited; the inspection, examination, supervision and handling of violations of regulations on OSH are irregular and inadequate to take effect; the system of OSH legislation is incomplete and incomprehensive, some OSH policies are still inappropriate and lack of feasibility, etc.

The workshop focused on the following content: Performance of Labour Protection Council and suggestions on regulations for OSH councils at all levels; OSH situation and suggestions on regulations concerning rights and obligations of employers and employees; the operation of Center for Applied Science and Technology and suggestions on regulations regarding information, communication, training and socialization of OSH activities; experiences in coordination inspection and examination and suggestions on regulations on OSH inspection, examination and supervision; effectiveness of mass movements for OSH and suggestions on regulations concerning rights and responsibilities of trade union organization, regulations on OSH activists, etc.

At the workshop, the participants have presented speeches focusing on the following problems: Performance of Labour Protection Council of Ho Chi Minh City and the suggestions on regulations for OSH councils at all levels in the Draft OSH Act; suggestions on regulations concerning rights and responsibilities of employers and employees in the Draft OSH Act from the OSH situation in the province; experiences in interdisciplinary examination of occupational health and suggestions on regulations on ensuring OSH in manufacturing and trading in the Draft OSH Act, etc.

Also at this workshop, many delegates have agreed on the provisions of OSH Council at all levels as stated in the Draft OSH Act. However, participants have recommended that OSH Councils in cities and grass-roots levels should pay more attention to promoting propaganda, organizing activities in response to the National OSH Week, building a culture of workplace, employee's health promotion program, prevention of occupational accidents and diseases, etc

The participants' suggestions at the workshop should be considered as a basis for contributing to completion of the Draft OSH Act; for implementing occupational accidents & dis-

eases and fire & explosion prevention activities; for improving the quality of OSH activities of trade unions at all levels. On that basis, trade union organizations cooperate with the State and authorities in strengthening OSH at workplace to ensure the safety of lives and health of employees and assets of the state and business, etc.



Launching the 17th National Week on Occupational Safety & Health, Fire&Explosion Prevention and Control, 2015

Nam Dương

n the morning of March 15th, in Vung Tau city (Ba Ria-Vung Tau province), the Central Steering Committee for the National Week on Occupational Safety&Health (OSH), Prevention and control of Fire&Explosion (PFE) has launched the 17th National Week on OSH and FEPC, 2015 under the theme "Every business, employee should take the initiative with preventive measures against occupational accidents and diseases, fire and explosion to protect themselves, enterprises and society".

Attending the Launch Ceremony there were Mr. Dang Ngoc Tung - Member of the Central Party Committee -President VGCL, Mr. Truong Quang Khanh - Member of the Central Party Committee -



Employees of industrial zones attending Launching Ceremony

Deputy Minister of Defence, Mr. Doan Mau Diep - Deputy Minister Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs; Mr. Nguyen Van Trinh - Chairman of Ba Ria - Vung Tau Provincial People's

Committee, etc. Attending the Launch Ceremony there were also representatives of ministries, branches and central and local associations, International Labour

Organization (ILO) in Hanoi, International Social Security Association (ISSA)-Mining and more than 4,000 workers in Ba Ria-Vung Tau province.

According to the National Steering Committee on OSH and PFE, in 2014, throughout the country there were more than 6.700 working accidents with 630 deaths, 1,544 serious injuries with nearly 81,000 total working days left; there were more than 2,370 fires killing 90 people, injuring 143 people, costing more than 1,300 billion VND and destroying more than 1,300 hectares of forest. Besides, periodic health examinations on 1.100 thousand employees nationwide have shown that 20% of examined people had the health classified in category 4 and 5 (poor health). These figures show that the efforts in reducing occupational accidents and diseases, fire and explosion have not achieved the expected results. This situation affects the social - economic development, reducing the competitiveness of the country's human resources and leaving long-term consequences for the workers, their families and the society.

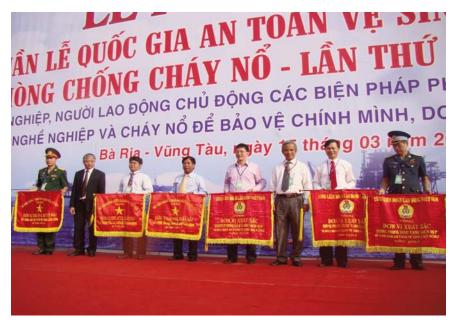
At the Launching Ceremony, the Steering Committee has set out six key tasks in 2015 and requested the ministries, branches, provinces, businesses and employees should focus on decisive implementation. Accordingly, the units must develop and enact detailed programs and plans suitable for OSH and PFE, seriously implement and strengthen the inspection, guidance and resolutely handle serious violations should there be any.

At the Launching Ceremony,

the Chairman of Ba Ria - Vung Tau Provincial People's Committee, on behalf of all employees in province, has committed to strictly implementing OSH and PFE activities. The representatives of ILO and President of ISSA – Mining have shared experiences in OSH and PFE from advanced countries and associations.



Mr. Doan Mau Diep, Deputy Minister of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs launching 17th National Week



Mr. Dang Ngoc Tung, President of VGCL and Mr. Doan Mau Diep, Deputy Minister of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs handing Flag and Certificate of Merit award to units with outstanding achievements in OSH - PFE in 2014

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Mr. Gyorgy Sziraczki, Director of ILO Country Office for Vietnam, speaking at the Launching Ceremony

Also at the Launching Ceremony, representatives of employees that suffered from working accidents have given the message about the need to raise awareness, the meaning and importance of OSH - PFE so that employees could prevent working accidents for themselves.

The Organizing Committee also conducted a merit award from the Government, Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, VGCL, Ba Ria-Vung Tau Province to businesses and individuals with outstanding achievements in the work of ensuring OSH - PFE in 2014, while agreeing that the 18th National OSH - PFE week in 2016 will be held in Hung Yen province.

Responding to the National OSH – PFE week, after the Launching Ceremony, PFE Police of Ba Ria-Vung Tau province and Vietsovpetro Petrol Joint Venture held fire maneuvers at Vietsovpetro Medical Center.



Fire maneuvers at Vietsovpetro Medical Center

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