



NEWSLETTER

On Occupational Safety and Health & Working Environment

NUMBER 1, 2017

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

Responding to the first action month for occupational safety and health 2017



Cooperative activity between NILP and KISA Training of trainers workshop

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Under the cooperation agreement between the Institute of Labor Protection (NILP) and the Korea Industrial Safety Association (KISA), from May 24 to May 26, 2017, the TOT workshop regarding occupational safety on the construction site of high rise and super-high rise buildings were held.

Participating in the workshop, in the side of Korea Industrial Safety Association there were Mr. Kang Young Tak, the team manager of construction consulting team and Mr. Kim Jin Ho, the manager of construction technical support team; in the side of the National Institute of Labor Protection, there were representatives of Occupational Safety Center, National Working Environment Monitoring Station, Sub-institutes for OSH and EP in the South and in the Central areas.

During the workshop, KISA experts together with the staff working in departments and Occupational Safety Center under the NILP have shared their safety expertise in the construction industry as well as in building activities of high-rise and super high-rise buildings in Vietnam and in the world. Many participants have commented

that, in addition to the application of modern science and technology in construction, ensuring safety of workers working on construction site is also an urgent and challenging task for managers in particular as well as for safety officers in general.

This could be considered as a meaningful activity, initiating co-operation between the NILP and KISA in the future with the common goal towards a safe and healthy working environment for employees.

At the end of the workshop, Ph.D. Nguyen Anh Tuan, the Deputy Director of Occupational Safety Center, on behalf of the participants has thanked the KISA experts for their time and sharing their valuable experiences in occupational safety in construction industry in general and in construction of super high-rise buildings in particular; and also expressed the expectation that the two agencies will have more meaningful cooperation in the future.



Launching the first Action Month for Occupational Safety and Health in 2017

Bui Quang Dung

On the morning of May 18, 2017, the Steering Committee of Action month for Occupational Safety and Health and the Hanoi People's Committee held the "Launching the first Action Month of OSH in 2017" with the theme "Promote occupational safety and health training to prevent occupational accidents and diseases". Attending the launching ceremony were delegates: Mr. Dao Ngoc Dung - Member of the Party Central Committee, Minister of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs; Mr. Bui Van Cuong - Member of the Party Central Committee, President of the Vietnam General Confederation of Labor; Mr. Nguyen Van Suu - Member of the Party Central Committee, Vice Chairman of Hanoi People's Committee; Mr. Chang Hee Lee, Director of International Labor Organization Office in Vietnam and representatives of relevant ministries, departments, international organizations, enterprises and nearly 1,000 officials and employees in Hanoi Capital.

In his speech at the launching ceremony, Mr. Doan Mau Diep - Deputy Minister of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs has emphasized 2016 is the first year to implement OSH Law, along with the system of decrees of Government, decisions of Prime Minister and legal documents of ministries,

branches and localities detailing and instructing the provisions of the OSH Law to enterprises and employees. 2016 is also the year that the 18th National Week of OSH is organized. The successful organization of 18 National Weeks on OSH, fire and explosion prevention and control along with the implementation of the new OSH policy and law system has contributed to raising awareness and consciousness of all levels, sectors, employers and employees; OSH activities have become a routine in many organizations and agencies, functional agencies with business units and employees in implementing OSH in workplace. As a result, employers are becoming more and more interested in, aware of and willing to fulfill their responsibilities for caring health for employees; more active in building, strengthening the structure and work force on OSH in enterprises, etc. Owing to the positive change of consciousness and awareness leading to concrete and practical actions mentioned above, the frequency of occupational accidents and diseases in the period 2011- 2016 has decreased by 5% compared to the period 2006 – 2010, especially in some high risk sectors and occupations. Activities of training, testing, working environment monitoring, periodical health examination, occupational diseases predictive examination for employees are paid more attention to by better organized by employers.



Minister of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs Dao Ngoc Dung gives a speech at the launching ceremony

The average annual employees trained in OSH is about 4 million; the number of establishments monitoring working environment increases by nearly 10% per year; the number of employees examined for occupational diseases increases by about 15%; the total number of employees having periodical health examination increases by 7% compared to 2015; the number of employees achieving health classification of type I and type II accounts for over 60%.

However, in 2016, there were 7,900 working accidents throughout the country, causing more than 8,200 casualties, including 862 deaths and 1,952 serious injuries. Particularly, there have been some very serious working accidents such as the accident of asphyxiation in lime kiln, the accident of landslide cliff in Thanh Hoa province, etc. Compared with 2015, the number of working accidents increased by 5% and the number of deaths due to working accidents increased by nearly 7%. The situation of fire and explosion tends to increase in some types of production and business establishments in industrial parks, export processing zones and production establishments in craft villages and residential areas. There were 29 cases of fire causing serious damage, killing 13 people, injuring 4 people, costing over 900 billion VND, etc.

In 2017, the ministries, branches, localities, enterprises and employees should concentrate and decisively deploy strictly 6 focused tasks and solutions as follows:

i. Ministries, sectors, localities and enterprises actively bring regulations on OSH into reality;

ii. Arrange, mobilize resources and actively implement OSH activities in non-labor relation areas;

iii. Continue to innovate, diversify forms of OSH public information, integrated in entertainment programs, special topics, highlight events to attract businesses and employees nationwide;

iv. Strengthen working safety culture and measures to prevent occupational accidents and diseases in the workplace;

v. Employees should be active and self-regulated in following strictly the regulations and measures to prevent occupational accidents and diseases, improving working conditions, and equipping themselves with skills to protect their own health and life;

vi. Strengthen OSH inspection and control activities, especially in high risk sectors, in small and medium enterprises and hand-craft villages.

Mr. Dao Ngoc Dung, Member of the Party Central Committee, Minister of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs and the head of the Central Steering Committee has praised ministries, branches, localities, enterprises, organizations and individuals for having made great efforts contributing positively to the prevention of occupational accidents and diseases; for having cared for and ensured the safety and health of employees and properties of the State and people. To face and control risks in work, to improve working conditions and prevent accidents and serious incidents, to minimize occupational accidents and diseases, to build working safety culture at the workplace, the Minister has proposed that all levels of government, agencies, organizations, enterprises and employees should focus on implementing the following practices:

First, mobilize resources to diversify the forms of training, build quality education and training institutions based on the development



President of VGCL Bui Van Cuong and Deputy Minister of Molisa Doan Mau Diep hand over the emulation flags to excellent collectives in OSH and fire explosion prevention works

of practical training materials, improve the quality of teaching staff and promote the application of information technology in OSH information and training;

Second, develop typical solutions and models to ensure safety, prevent occupational accidents and diseases and improve working conditions for nationwide replication;

Third, organize concrete and practical activities in response to the first Month of occupational safety and health, in association with the activities of the Workers' month and towards enterprises and workers;

Fourth, strengthen OSH inspecting and checking activi-

ties; continue to implement inspection campaigns in areas of high risk of occupational accidents and diseases, and all violations of OSH regulations must be strictly treated;

Fifth, employees should actively, fully and strictly respect OSH rules, procedures and measures; proactively equip themselves with knowledge and skills to work safely.

The Minister has emphasized: "We have to consider OSH in all investments and production processes and take specific actions and solutions in every work day and shift of each employee, production manager and employer. We do not trade the health, life and safety of

employees for economic benefits; economic development must be closely linked to the protection of environment, employees' health and life".

At the launching ceremony, the Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs handed over the commemorative flag to Hanoi City and turning flag for Ho Chi Minh City - the key place where the 2nd OSH Action Month to be organized in 2018.

At the end of the ceremony, delegates visited the exhibition area of personal protective equipment and the photo exhibition on OSH in the main hall of Vietnam-Soviet Friendship Palace.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRADE UNION IN PROTECTING EMPLOYEES' LEGAL RIGHTS AND INTERESTS ON OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH AIMING TO CARING FOR HEALTH AND PREVENTING OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES

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The occupational safety and health work plays a very important role in production, in socio-economic development strategies, human development strategies and is one of the objective requirements of production and of any production field.

Determining the content of trade union activities in occupational safety and health has always been an important issue. Under its responsibility, the Vietnam General Confederation of Labor has worked closely with trade union levels in protecting legal and legitimate interests of union

members and employees, including employees' rights to work under conditions ensuring OSH, health for employees that should be shown through the specific activities as follows:



First, the Trade Union joins with state agencies to develop policies and laws on occupational safety and health to protect legal and legitimate rights and interests of employees. When participating in the development of legislation, the Trade Union has proposed beneficial and practical provisions for employees in the laws, decrees and circulars such as the Constitution 2013, Labor Code 2012, Trade Union Law 2012, Social Insurance Law 2014, especially the Law on OSH in 2015 and decrees guiding its implementation. In 2016, the Trade Union has joined with state agencies to develop 3 decrees detailing a number of articles of the Law on OSH, 11 circulars guiding the implementation of OSH activities, guiding management of employees' health and occupational diseases, and other norms and technical standards on OSH.

Second, the Trade Union participates and cooperates with state agencies in inspecting and supervising the implementation of OSH policies, regulations and procedures. In 2016, the Trade Union in collaboration with the Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs have carried out the OSH inspection campaign in the construction industry simultaneously in 63 provinces and cities; participated in cross-sectoral inspection on OSH in over 5,500 enterprises; collaborated with employers to do over 21,000 self-inspections on OSH, thus detected safety hazards in time and recommended



to employers to implement OSH measures and adequate policies for employees; guided employees in complying with OSH regulations at workplace, contributing to the prevention of occupational accidents and diseases.

Third, the Trade Union has renovated the form of public information and dissemination of legal policies such as providing OSH materials, leaflets, posters; organizing OSH club activities; building public information corner on labor protection; coordinated in OSH training; encouraged employees and employers to implement well the provisions of law, norms, technical standards, procedures and measures to ensure OSH in the workplace. In the First Month of OSH action in 2017, the Trade Union organization has compiled, printed and distributed 32,000 leaflets and 4,500 posters on OSH and OSH Law to local authorities, business and agencies; supported the development and issue of the special edition on OSH Month in the Labor Protection Magazine; provided public information on OSH in newspapers and magazines of the trade union system and other mass media. The provincial and city trade unions, trade unions of the central branches, trade unions of corporations under the VGCL have printed and distributed 578,560 leaflets, 65,882 banners, slogans, posters and other 52,966 propaganda publications on OSH and OSH Law. The newsletters, reports, interviews on OSH have been published and broadcasted in local newspapers, magazines and television.

Fourth, the Trade Union has joined the Accident investigation Delegation. When participating in the investigation and handling of working accidents, the Trade Union has clear opinions and recommendations on measures to prevent recurrence of accidents.

Fifth, regarding research and application of science and technology on OSH and education of engineers, masters on OSH and environment protection, in 2016 the National Institute of Labor Protection under the VGCL has completed 19 scientific projects on OSH; the



Trade Union University and Ton Duc Thang University continue to train engineers and masters on labor protection. In 2016, hundreds of labor protection engineers have graduated.

Sixth, all levels of Trade Union have actively coordinated with government agencies at the same level to promote the movement "Green - Clean - Beautiful, ensuring Occupational Safety and Health" and build the safety culture of workplace that contributes to improve working conditions for workers; restrict and prevent risk of causing of occupational accidents and diseases; strengthen, manage, guide and enhance the activities quality of the Network of Safety and Health activists. In 2016, the VGCL held a 10-year review of implementa-

tion of the Resolution No. 5b/NQ-TLĐ of the VGCL Executive Committee (9th term) on "Promote labor protection of Trade Union in a new context" and 20 years of "Green - Clean - Beautiful, ensuring Occupational Safety and Health" movement. Based on review results, also to meet the requirements of the new situation and the Law on OSH, the VGCL Executive Committee has issued the Resolution 10C/NQ-BCH on "Promoting effectiveness of occupational safety and health activities of trade unions in a new context"; the Directive 04/CT-TLĐ on further promoting the "Green - Clean - Beautiful, ensuring Occupational Safety and Health" movement in the new situation, replacing Resolution

5b/NQ-BCH; the Resolution 7c/NQ-BCH on "The quality of employees' mid-shift meal" and encouraging enterprises to increase cost of mid-shift meals to ensure the employees' health.

Trade Union has been posing a positive impact on health care and occupational disease prevention for employees, contributing significantly to putting in order the work of occupational safety and health step by step. It is hoped that with the efforts to act its role and hold responsibilities of Trade Union, in the future, the work of occupational safety and health, improvement of working conditions, occupational disease prevention and health care for employees should be significantly improved.

STATISTICS OF OCCUPATIONAL ACCIDENT STATUS IN VIETNAM 2016

Tran Thi Dong

In March 2017, the Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs announced to the ministries, sectors and localities the situation of occupational accidents in 2016 and some major solutions to proactively prevent accidents and injuries in 2017 across the country as follows:

I. CURRENT SITUATION

According to reports from the provinces and centrally-run cities in 2016, there were 7,981 occupational accidents with 8,251 casualties including: 799 fatal accidents, 106 accidents having more than two victims, 862 deaths, 1,952 seriously injured victims, and 2,371 female victims.

2016 is the first year to implement statistical reporting of working accidents for workers who do not work under a labor contract (since July 1, 2016). Nationwide, 393 occupational accidents were reported causing 445 casualties in the informal sector, including 144 fatal accidents causing 151 deaths, 97 seriously injured victims, 80 female victims. In this area, occupational accidents

occur mainly in the fields of construction, mining, aquatic product and seafood exploitation. Occupational accidents investigation in this area has not been fully implemented in accordance with the law. Making records of occupational accidents for people who do not work under the labor contract is still difficult for the commune people's committees.

In 2016, fatal accidents happened the most in the 10 localities: Ho Chi Minh City, Hanoi, Binh Duong, Thanh Hoa, Quang Ninh, Dong Nai, Thai Binh, Hai Duong, Binh Dinh and Phu Tho. The total number of deaths due to occupational accidents is 411 people, accounting for 57.8% of the total number of deaths due to occupational accidents in the areas with labor relations of the whole country.

Some serious occupational accidents in 2016 are as follows: Asphyxia accident occurred at 4.30pm on January 1, 2016 at lime kiln of Yen Thai limestone mountain in Hoang Giang commune, Nong Cong district, Thanh Hoa province causing 08 deaths and 01 seriously injured; cliff collapse accident occurred at 10.30am on January 22, 2016 at the quarry of Tuan Hung Company in Yen Lam commune, Yen Dinh district, Thanh Hoa province, killing 08 people; the collapse of the building roof occurred at 10.30am on April 4, 2016 at the construction site of Cultural House of Vinh Long Commune in Vinh Bao district, Hai Phong City causing 09 injured people; the oil line explosion of hydraulic press machine occurred at 9.45am on April 18, 2016 at the plank press area of Vietnam Wood World Joint Stock Company in Nam Cam Industrial Zone, Nghi Loc district, Nghe An

province causing 11 injured people; boiler explosion at 10.00am on October 30, 2016 at Don Lan Anh processing facility in Quang Lang village, Thai Thuy district, Thai Binh province, causing 4 deaths and 11 injured; boiler explosion at 14.00pm on November 10, 2016 at the manufacturing plant of Thai Nguyen Construction and Building material production Joint Stock Company, killing two people and injuring 06 others.

II. ANALYSIS OF OCCUPATIONAL ACCIDENT CASES

According to incomplete reports of the 63 Departments of Labor - Invalids and Social Affairs, in 2016 in the area with labor relations nationwide, there have been 655 cases of fatal occupational accidents, but by February 10, 2017, the Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social

Affairs received only 202 investigation reports (216 deaths). Analysis from fatal occupational accident investigation minutes received, the Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs has some evaluations as follows:

1. The production and business areas having numerous fatal working accidents

- Construction accounts for 23.8% of total accidents and 24.5% of total deaths.

- Mineral mining accounts for 11.4% of total cases and 12.9% of total deaths.

- Building material production accounts for 7.4% of total cases and 7.9% of total deaths.

- Mechanical engineering accounts for 5.9% of total cases and 5.6% of total deaths.

- Service sector accounts for 5% of total cases and 4.6% of total deaths.





- Agriculture and forestry account for 4.5% of total cases and 4.2% of total deaths.

2. Major factors causing the most deaths

- High-falls accounts for 22.8% of total cases and 21.8% of total deaths;

- Electric shocks account for 13.4% of total cases and 12.5% of total deaths;

- Collapsing and falling objects account for 12.4% of total cases and 15.3% of total deaths.

- Traffic accidents account for 28.7% of total cases and 27.8% of total deaths.

- Pressing, clamping and rolling equipment account for 4.5% of total cases and 4.2% of total deaths;

- Shooting objects account for 3% of total cases and 2.8% of total deaths.

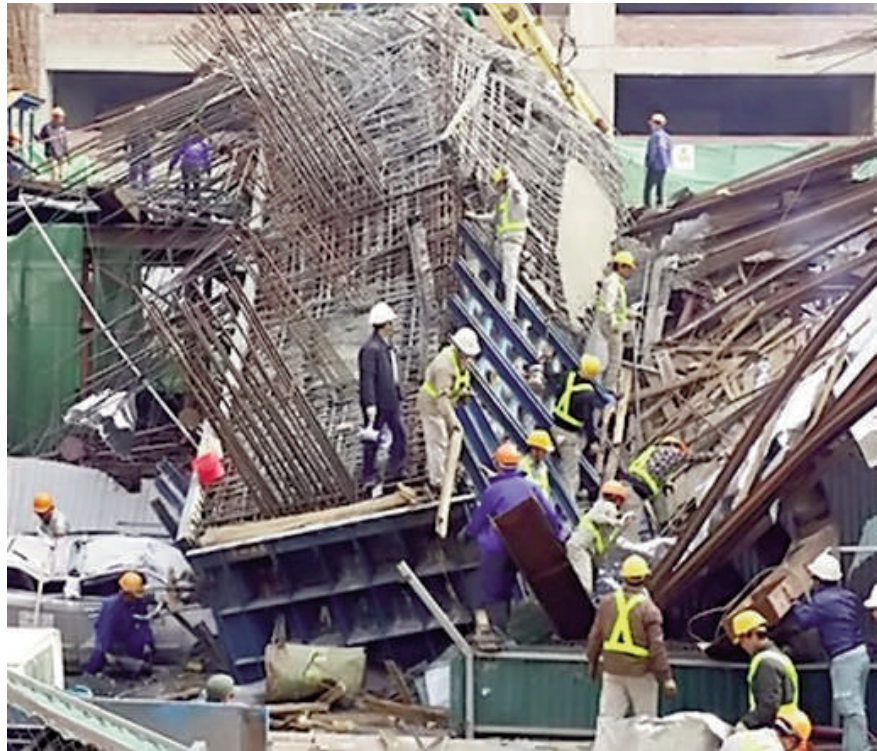
3. Main causes of fatal working accidents

- * The causes from employers accounting for 42.1%, specifically:

- Employers do not develop safe working procedures and measures, accounting for 17.8% of the total number of cases;

- Equipment does not ensure occupational safety, accounting for 8.4% of the total number of cases;

- Employers have not or



- inadequate occupational safety training for employees accounting for 11.4% of the total number of cases;

- Due to labor organization and working conditions, accounting for 3% of the total number of cases;

- Employers do not provide personal protective equipment on site, accounting for 1.5% of the total number of cases.

- * The causes from workers accounting for 17.3%, specifically:

- Workers have violated working safety regulations, accounting for 15.3% of the total number of cases;

- Workers do not use personal protective equipment, accounting for 2% of the total number of cases;

The remaining 40.6% are working accidents caused by other causes.

4. Losses caused by occupational accidents

According to preliminary data from the localities, material losses due to occupational accidents occurring in 2016 are as follows: medical expenses, burial expenses, compensation for families of the deceased and injured, etc, costing 171.63 billion VND; loss of property costing 7.8 billion VND; the total number of sick-leave days due to occupational accidents is 98,176 days

The working environment of fishermen on offshore fishing vessels in the coast of Central Vietnam

Ph.D. Nhan Hong Quang

The Vietnamese seafood industry has existed and developed for a long time and its economic efficiency has been increasing, thus contributing to the overall progress of the national economy. However, it can be seen that the exploitation of Vietnam has many limitations, not worthy of the abundant seafood potential that nature offers. Most of the fishing boats have small capacity, low productivity. In the Central, the offshore fishing fleets mainly uses 5 technologies: drag-net (50%), trawl-net (10%), trap-net (10%), tunny-net (15%). Ship capacity used depends on catching technology. The vessels of more than 400 CV capacity are mainly used for drag-net, trap-net and tunny-net fishing technologies. The remaining technologies are used in vessels of less than 400 CV capacity. The average age of the offshore fishermen is 43 ± 15.5 years old and the occupational average age was 20.3 ± 14.3 years old.

On offshore fishing vessels, fishermen are required to work under severe sea conditions and unfavorable conditions on board the vessel. The sea climate, sun, sea breeze, waves and the dangers are always there as storms and thunderstorms are factors that greatly affect the health of workers. In addition, noise, vibra-



tion, limited working space, lack of sanitation, limited nutrition and health care constitutes a typical working environment for the marine industry. The working environment at sea is a major cause affecting the health and morbidity structure of workers at sea. In addition, fishermen face many difficulties due to complicated terrain and coastal bodies of water, inaccurate and untimely ability to predict the weather, quite limited ability to communicate and news transmit that cause huge losses. The life of the fishermen is still very hard and precarious so it does not create attachment to the profession.

The reality is that the work of ensuring occupational safety and health on board as well as ensuring the offshore fishermen's health is not complete. Wishing to contribute to the

improvement of working conditions of offshore fishermen, the research team of the National Institute of Labor Protection has surveyed and assessed working conditions of the fishermen on offshore fishing vessels in the Central coast and proposed some scientific and technological solutions to ensure work safety for fishermen.

The survey results of working environment in offshore fishing vessels show that offshore fishermen mainly work outdoors, day and night, working time is not fixed. The microclimate conditions on board are relatively harsh. There are 54.62% out of the 2,296 locations measured have the microclimate conditions exceeding the allowable hygienic standards. The highest temperature reaches to 40°C. The humidity in 73.3% of respective

2,296 locations measured does not meet the allowable hygienic standards. Especially, when working on the sea, outdoor radiation is very high (the surveyed results show that the radiation in 47.24% of 1,179 locations measured is over allowable hygienic standards).

Fishermen work in low light conditions. The most serious fact is working alone at night, which can endanger the live of workers. There are night shifts that fishermen completely work alone in the dark. In general, the survey results show that the lighting in a 63.56% of 2,188 assessed locations do not meet the allowable hygienic standards.

Vessel shaking is an important factor causing working accidents for fishermen. The fishing process takes place mainly on the deck. Under the influence of sea waves, the vessels always oscillate that could cause slip and fall-down accident into the sea (according to survey results on 20 vessels, there are 10 cases of fall-down into the sea). Due to technical constraint, the study can not measure the vibration of vessels due to sea waves so it is not possible to accurately assess the its impact on fishermen. This study has investigated only local vibration caused by equipment operation in the machinery cellar that directly affects domestic places of fishermen. According to the survey, there are 4,61% of 1,019 measuring points exceeding the allowable hygienic standards.

Permanent noise has adverse impact on the workers' health, which is responsible for effects on the nervous system

causing inaccurate human activity and leading to working accidents. Noise on fishing vessels mainly comes from the vessel's engine and waves. There are 25.3% of 2,496 measuring points that exceed the allowable hygienic standards. The highest noise level reaches 111dBA.

Survey results of toxic gas concentrations show that on board there appeared some toxic gases that exceed the allowable hygienic standards (NO₂ and SO₂ gases). There are 4.15% of 2,000 measuring points for NO₂; 0.67% of 448 measuring points for CO₂ and 4.15% of 2,000 measuring points for SO₂ exceeding the allowable hygienic standards.

The initial results of the research team show that offshore fishermen in the Central Coast are working in harsh environment that may have negative impacts on health and psycho-physiology. Therefore, in order to ensure the health and safety of fishermen, the shipowners and fishermen must

first have a sense of self-protection in the course of their work, promptly prevent dangerous elements caused by unsafe equipment, machines and have the assignment, checking the work process on board. Production and business establishments must organize risk assessment on work safety and hygiene in order to develop measures to prevent incidents and accidents in the course of operation.

Based on the results of the initial research, the research team proposes scientific and technological solutions with the following content: Develop occupational risk management program; further study for classification of working conditions of fishermen on offshore fishing vessels; study occupational health of offshore fishermen; research on improving propulsion system of vessels, safety equipment systems on vessels; research rescue equipment; research contents and forms of propaganda and training on occupational safety and health and professional education and training for fishermen.



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Pictures of the National Institute of Labour Protection's exhibition stall at the launching ceremony of the first Action Month for OSH 2017



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