



NEWSLETTER

On Occupational Safety and Health & Working Environment

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Viet Nam National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health - VNNIOSH

COLLABORATION ACTIVITY PROGRAM ON OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH IN PERIOD OF 2018-2020

In February, 2018 the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (VNNIOSH) under Vietnam General Confederation of Labor (VGCL) and the Department of Work Safety under Ministry of Labor-Invalid and Social Affairs (MOLISA) had a meeting and signed the Collaboration Activity Program (Collaboration Program) on Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) in period of 2018-2020.

The aim of the Collaboration Program is at enhancing effectiveness of co-operation between VNNIOSH and Department of Work Safety in research for State management of OSH and promoting implementation of the law of OSH. Beside, Collaboration Program promotes research activity, providing scientific basis to set up regulation and policy for different types of jobs and work appropriately and effectively, ensuring OSH and envi-



ronmental protection (EP), contributing to protect human resources. Pushing forward OSH & EP promotion and training and labor legislation in order to raise awareness for employees, employers and community.

According to the signed Collaboration Program, both sides should implement 07 points as follows:

1. Fluent exchange of information between leaderships of two organizations on demands as well as essential issues serving State management of OSH;
2. Building up national monitoring system on working condition in the period of industrialization and modernization of the country;
3. Promoting research activity to serve setting up regulations, policies and State management on labor in general and OSH in particular;
4. Collaborating study to improve tools or methods for inspection, auditing OSH at enterprises. Setting up new OSH standards and regulations for the above targets, especially for inspection and auditing new industrial establishments, high-tech zones which should be collaborated and implemented effectively as soon as possible;
5. Collaborating in study on setting up detailed stipulation of implementing OSH law such as (i) how much enterprises should share their part to the insurance fund for occupational accidents and diseases depending on status of OSH management and health of workers at enterprises; (ii) setting up methods for compensation to the loss due to occupational accidents and diseases; (iii) setting up criteria and methods for evaluating how good enterprises follow OSH law at workplaces and give them guidelines to practice; (iv) preparing syllabus or lectures of training materials and providing training course for trainers for some industrial branches;
6. Collaborating implementation in OSH information, promotion and training activities;
7. Collaborating and participating in international co-operation on OSH.

At the meeting, Mr Do Tran Hai, Director General of VNNIOSH said the collaboration program between VNNIOSH and Department of Work Safety was very important and compatible with the present context and he wished both sides had effective collaboration in OSH & EP, contributing to the protecting and developing human resources.

Agreeing with Mr Do Tran Hai, Mr Ha Tat Thang, Director of Department of Work Safety emphasized that based on the signed collaboration program, annually both sides should have action plan in details, closely with reality, develop each advantage and accomplish all objectives of the Collaboration Program.



MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT AND VIETNAM GENERAL CONFEDERATION OF LABOR: COMPREHENSIVE CO-OPERATION IN PROTECTING RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT AND RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

On 16 April, 2018 in Hanoi, Minister of Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), Mr. Tran Hong Ha and President of Vietnam General Confederation of Labour (VGCL), Mr. Bui Van Cuong co-held the signing ceremony on Collaboration Program on protecting natural resources, environment and response to climate change and building Vietnam worker class in period 2018-2023 between MONRE and VGCL. Also participating to this event were Vice-Ministers of MONRE Vo Tuan Nhan, Tran Quy Kien and Le Cong Thanh, Deputies President of VGCL Mai Duc Chinh and Nguyen Thi Thu Hong and officials of both organizations.

Effectiveness of collaboration in implementing environmental protection serving sustainable development

On 15th April, 2004 Minister of Ministry of Natural Resources and environment and President of Vietnam General Confederation of Labour had signed the Joint Resolution No.01/2004/NQLT-TLĐ-BTNMT on collaboration for action for environmental protection and sustainable development. During the time of implementation of the decision, VGCL regularly organized activities for workers in promotion to enhance awareness on environmental protection, natural resources saving and using; integrating activity of EP with movement “Green-Clean-Beauty”, ensuring safety and health which had been launched by VGCL.

On the task of monitoring of working environment, from 2006 to date, the National Working Environment Monitoring Station (belong to Vietnam National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health - VNNIOSH) has conducted 2,000 monitors for 1,000 enterprises. The results of monitoring have been used as input of national data base to show the picture of status of pollution in Vietnam. The laboratory of the Station is always upgraded and standardized to satisfy requirement of accuracy of the analysis. The labs of the Station has achieved the requirement of ISO/IEC 17025, VILAS 441 certified by BoA Vietnam and VIM-CERT 025 of Vietnam Environment Administration.



The activity of the Station

has contributed to the enhancement of awareness for staff, officials and workers on environmental protection, step by step to the change of the behavior and bad habits that negatively affect on the living environment, to the awareness of saving and using natural resources, building civilized living style, environmental friendly for the sake of sustainable development, justice and human being progress.

Strengthening management, monitoring and protecting resources, environment and response to climate change

Inheriting the above achievement, Minister Tran Hong Ha and President Bui Van Cuong have signed Collaboration Program on protecting natural resources, environment and response to climate change and building Vietnamese workers class in period of 2018-2023 in order to develop role and responsibility of organizations, agencies and all levels of trade union in promoting, disseminating and enhancing awareness on Party’s policy, governmental regulations and motivating staff and employees to participate into management and monitoring of protecting resources and environment and response to climate change. In addition, it also creates good condition for staff and workers to have better living and working environment. The Collaboration Program as well helps better to protect the rights and benefits for workers, to build workers class and trade union organizations more strong; it also helps to find weakness or unsuitability of the policies and regulation to change for tailoring to the life and contributing to better state management of protecting natural resources, environment and response to climate change.

The main content of collaboration program in period of 2018-2023

According to collaboration Program signed by both organizations, the main content is as follows:

- Promoting, disseminating with various forms to enhance awareness among the staff, workers to participate in management, monitoring and protecting environment, natural resources and response to climate change; integrating activity of environmental protection with movement “Green- Clean-Beauty”, ensuring safety and health which has been launched by VGCL. Organizing activity relating with the World Environment Day (5th June), the Action Month on Environment and other environmental events;



- Collaborating in inspection, monitoring and social criticism in setting up and implementing policies, regulations on management and use of natural resources, environmental protection and response to climate change;

- Compiling documents, organizing seminars, workshops, discussions, training courses to enhance awareness, knowledge and skill

for trade union staffs on management, monitoring and use of natural resources, environmental protection and response to climate change; Compiling and providing documents on environmental protection and response to climate change suitable with education levels of trade union staff and can be integrated into content of education on occupational safety and health;

- Building integrated program on unifying management system of occupational safety and health with environmental protection within trade union organizations; collaboration in research and application of thesis and projects and using their results in activities of each side;

- Building and implementing the model of workers and their representatives participating in management, monitoring and protecting natural resources, environment and response to climate change; evaluating its effectiveness so that it can be extended to larger scope; Organizing Forum “Workers for Environment” so that they can exchange and discuss experience on environmental protection at their enterprises as well as to honor those who have good contribution to environmental protection at their workplaces;

Promoting and introducing worker class and trade union organization of Vietnam to agencies belong to sector of natural resources and environment and in other communicating activities that appropriate to the content of the event;

- Continuing implementation of the tasks given by the State and Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment such as the program of monitoring and assessment of the impact of working environment on surrounding environment and residency living surrounds; assessment of environment health, especially the effect of pollution on workers’ health in particular and on residents in general who live around enterprises and industrial zone; Application of projects of pollution control at enterprises in order to protect the environment, serving green growth, sustainable development and response to climate change.

LAUNCHING OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ACTION MONTH IN 2018

On 6th May, 2018 in Ho Chi Minh City, the Steering Committee for National Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) action month held the launching ceremony for OSH action month in 2018 with the theme “Proactive measures to prevent and control hazards at workplaces to reduce occupational accidents and diseases”.

Attended the launching ceremony were Mr. Vu Duc Dam, Member of the Party Central Committee, Deputy Prime Minister; Mr. Dao Ngoc Dung, Minister of Labour – Invalids and Social Affairs and along with representatives from ministries, industrial sectors, international organizations, provinces, cities and over 600 participants represented for organizations and enterprises.

At the ceremony, Minister Dao Ngoc Dung emphasized that in the last recent years, many policies, important documents were issued to strengthen leadership, directive, guideline to implement occupational safety and health with various content in order to take care for life of employees, especially open applied for those who work in non-contracted zone; regulation applied assist for prevention from work accidents and disease; identification and risk assessment, working condition improvement and building safety culture at workplaces.

In 2017, with great efforts of all levels of management, sectors and Vietnamese people, Vietnam has achieved many good OSH results. The rate of work related accidents has been reduced in some sectors that have high potential of risks; there were some models and excellent individuals who are good at OSH; many enterprises with thousands employees who working at high risks, but having many preventive measures for serious work accidents or casualties; sector of mining has sharply reduced number of deaths in comparison with previous years due to application of preventive measures.

Besides, Vietnam General Confederation of Labor, Federation of Labor and trade unions of all levels have had many effective activities in promotion and delivering information on OSH. Million documents, leaflets, posters on OSH have printed and delivered; thousands of competition on OSH or good OSH activists have organized creating movements of competition: Green-Clean-Beauty, OSH corner, ensuring OSH in enterprises.

In addition to achievement, the State management of OSH has shortages, the number of work accidents, work related diseases, serious incident is high. The challenges and new OSH potential increased; the number of businesses and employees entering to labor market also increased, new occupations, jobs with dangerous and hazardous factors accompanied by new technology, equipment, materials or chemicals also increased while many workers did not get vocational education or OSH training; safe knowledge and safe work skill are limited.

In order the OSH action month is implemented effectively Minister Dao Ngoc Dung required all ministries, sectors and authorities should implement effectively with the objectives to take care for and protect health and life of employees, security of citizens, for the sake of sustainable development of business and society. All businesses and provinces/cities focus on promotion, delivering information, training on OSH; enhancing quality of training on analysis skill, evaluation, identification and give measures to





prevent hazards and risks on occupational accidents and diseases. Minister Dao Ngoc Dung also required all State management agencies to strengthen directing, reforming, enhancing effectiveness in inspection, audits; strictly penalize the offense to the law; review and expending good models for OSH suitable with sectors, occupations or scope

of business; the effective use of insurance fund for work accidents and disease. Minister Dao Ngoc Dung confirmed that the Communist Party and Government always put the benefits, health and life of employees foremost: “We do not develop economy with price-less. Economic development should accompany with ensuring good working condition, health and life of employees. We should give hands to the action for the safety and health for me, for you and for all”.

Dr Chang Hee Lee, Director of the ILO Country Office for Viet Nam said that with the theme “Proactive measures to prevent and control hazards at workplaces to reduce occupational accidents and diseases” the month for OSH action this year again emphasized the importance of the prevention from accidents and diseases as mentioned in the policies of the Communist Party and Government as well as in the OSH law. Prevention is better than cure. In order to push forward to build prevention culture on OSH and reduce risks at workplaces, Vietnam should concentrate on improving income and analyzing information and data on OSH; strengthen legal frame; promote education and training on OSH especially integrate OSH into schools and vocational education; set up OSH management system at national and enterprise levels. As setting up sustainable prevention culture on OSH, Vietnam should particularly pay attention on high risk economic sectors and employees who easily expose to risks at workplace such as young labors.

In Vietnam, now there are more than 1 million of young laborers entering to labor market each year; most of them do not have OSH experience, work skill and training, especially shortage of experience to identify risks and how to control them at workplaces. Therefore, Vietnam should promote OSH for all employees of various ages focusing on young labors.

The aim at improvement of OSH for all employees including young labors can only achieve based on the efforts of everybody, from the Government, State management agencies, employers, employees and their representative organizations as well as other social citizen associations. The businesses have responsibility and play an important role in ensuring safe and healthy workplace for employees.

At the ceremony, the Steering Committee of the month for OSH action presented Flag and Certificates of Merit of MOLISA Minister for 8 excellent units (including 3 units got Flag and 5 units got Certificates of Merit); Vietnam General Confederation of Labor also presented Flag of Excellence for 3 units of good OSH. The organizing

board also presented Challenge Flag for Ho Chi Minh City People's Committee who is the host of the event in 2018 and presented Challenge Flag for Quang Nam Province, who will be the host of the month of OSH action in 2019.



NATIONAL DIALOGUE ON OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH IN 2018

On 11th April, 2018 the National Council for Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) held the Dialogue on Policy and Regulation on OSH in 2018. The Dialogue is an open forum for all including State management agencies, workers' representatives and employers to give comments and exchange their opinions about implementation and improvement of legislation on OSH. In addition, the dialog contributed to understanding each other among the participants and enhancement of regulation on occupational safety and health.

Opening the dialogue, Vice Minister of Ministry of Labour - Invalid and Social Affairs, Mr. Le Tan Dung said that the implementation of the Law on Occupational Safety and Health is in the context of economic integration more and more widely, global competition more and more bitter, the periodical dialogue on the policy on occupational safety and health is essential in



order to share information and strengthen understandings between employers, employees, trade union organizations and State agencies. The dialogue is also opportunity to in time give comments, adjust and supplement the legislation and policy so that they suitable with practical activity of production and social life.

According to International Labour Organization (ILO), each day around the world there are about 6,400 deaths due to work-related accidents and diseases, 860,000 persons injured at work. The load by injury, sickness and death resulting in the big loss of mentality, human and economy arises the essential requirement to invest in occupational safety and health at international, national and enterprise levels. In Vietnam, each year there are more than 1 million of young laborers entering to labor market; among them working age of 15 to 24 year old occupies 15% of the total national workforce. Young laborers have percentage of work-related accidents of 40% higher than senior laborers have.

According to experts of labor, to well conform OSH there is a need to prepare in very earlier stage, starting within their family and community. To help young people to identify the risk and protect themselves it needs to educate them in school through vocational training. In addition, employers of formal and informal enterprises, self running business also need to have guideline on the risks and how to have measures to fix the problems that employees are facing with at work.

Mr. Chang Hee Lee, Director of the ILO Country Office for Viet Nam said the goal to achieve improvement of OSH for employees can be got only through the efforts of all sides, from state management agencies, employers, employees, organizations represented for employers, employees, especially young people and organizations of youth.

Also Mr. Chang Hee Lee added in order to improve OSH for young laborers, it needed to concentrate on 5 points: (i) enhancement of collection and analysis of data, information on OSH and young laborers; (ii) setting up, adjustment and implement of regulation, policy and guideline for better protecting health of young laborers, employers, laborers; (iii) enhancing capacity to support state management agencies, employers, employees and their organizations to satisfy better requirement on OSH for young laborers; (iv) inserting OSH into education program and vocational training for young people in order to have new generation of labour with strong health and good OSH knowledge; (v) more promotion and enhancing awareness and research on OSH hazards and risks that young laborers are facing.

At the dialogue, participants discussed on the issues related with new policies that recently were promulgated and new achievement after national dialogue in 2017. The organizations, agencies, enterprises proposed opinions and suggestions to the National Council for OSH and State management agencies about the difficulties and challenges



they are facing when implementing policy and regulations related to OSH, especially how to manage enterprises on OSH training as well as initiatives on reforming administration procedure for saving time, expenses of personals, companies and improving effectiveness of state management.

The contributed opinions of participants are the basis which is used by the National OSH Council to consult the Government and the National Assembly in order to issue appropriate policies to improve legal OSH system. Beside, to support and adjust present regulations and set up new ones targeting on those which have high OSH risks and vulnerable groups including young people. The dialogue is also an opportunity for management agencies, employers' and employees' representatives to understand each other as well as enhance their knowledge on legislation of occupational safety and health.

HIGHLIGHTED EVENTS ON OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH IN 2017 IN VIETNAM

In 2017, accompanied with achievement of social-economic development of the country, occupational safety and health (OSH) of Vietnam also has good results, contributing to reduction of occupational accidents and newly getting occupational diseases. These results create good platform for industrial branches, local authority and enterprises to develop their OSH plans in 2018 with higher effectiveness. The following highlighted OSH events that are impressed in 2017:

1. The launching ceremony of the first action month on occupational safety and health in 2017 in Hanoi

In the morning 18th May, 2017, at Friendship Cultural Palace (Hanoi), the Steering Committee for the action month on OSH in co-operation with the Hanoi People's Committee held the Launching Ceremony of the First Action Month on Occupational Safety and Health in 2017 with the title: "Promotion of training for occupational safety and health to prevent occupational accidents and diseases".

At the ceremony, Minister of Ministry of Labor - Invalid and Social Affairs Mr. Dao Ngoc Dung required all levels of authority, agencies, enterprises and employees mobilize resources to raise the quality of OSH training, enhance quality of trainers and apply high tech in OSH training and delivering information. At the same time, organizing activities to respond to the First Action



Month on OSH and associated with activities of Workers' Month and towards to Enterprise and employees.

2. The National Council for Occupational Safety and Health held the First National OSH dialogue

With the aims at sharing information and accomplishment of OSH policies and regulation as well as promoting improvement of

working condition, on 15th December, 2017 the first National OSH dialogue was held in Hanoi in order to change challenges, difficulties during implementation of OSH policies and legislation. Participated in the dialogue there were more than 150 people who are representatives from ministries, industrial branches at Central and local levels, representatives for employers, employees, enterprises and associations domestics and overseas. After a while of preparation and gathering dialogue opinions throughout country, the council received 50 feedback from agencies, enterprises and personals with more than 157 questions, suggestions and proposals divided into 57 issues and 8 grouped contents.

The opinions of representatives to the dialogue are the basis for the National Council for OSH to consult the Government and the National Assembly in order to issue policies and regulations appropriated with situation to accomplish OSH legislation system. Besides, assisting to adjust present regulation and set up new ones for the subjects related with OSH of each occupation or job.

3. The first time to have statistics of work-related accidents in the non-labor contracted zone

According to the reports from 62/63 provinces and cities, in 2017 there were 8,956 work-related incidents causing 9,173 victims (including labor contracted and non-contracted zones).

It is the first time, after OSH law was launched and valid from the 1st July, 2017 Vietnam has statistics of work-related accidents in non-contracted zone. However, the investigation of work-related accidents conducted in non-contracted zone is not really comprehensive that required by law. The minutes of accidents for non-contracted employees set up by the People's Committee of commune level are still limited.

4. Ministry of Health prepared "Action plan for elimination of asbestos-related diseases"

On 12th June, 2017 in Hanoi the Health Environment Management Agency (Ministry of Health), Australian Government and the Australian People for Health, Education and Development Abroad (APHEDA) held the seminar to prepare national action plan to eliminate asbestos-related diseases.



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In the world, now there are about 125 million people exposed to asbestos at workplaces. Asbestos has been used to produce thousand of products with large quantity such as roof sheets, duct for water, fire resist blanket, heat resist material, brake pads, gaskets, etc. In Vietnam, there are about more than 6,000 employees exposed to asbestos at workplaces in roof sheet enterprises. 90% imported white asbestos (Chrysotile) is widely used to produce cement-asbestos roof sheets. All kinds of asbestos including Chrysotile are carcinogen agents and they are a cause of about ½ casualties due to occupational cancers.

In order to protect health of employees in general and asbestos-exposed employees in particular the accomplishment of National Action Plan for Elimination of Asbestos-related Diseases and early enforcement are very important and essential to help set up policy on elimination of asbestos-related disease and roadmap of stopping use of asbestos is soon applicable.



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