

WORLD DAY FOR SAFETY AND HEALTH AT WORK

28th April 2012

- *Each day, an average of 5,000 people die as a result of work-related accidents or diseases, totalling more than 2.2 million work-related deaths a year. Of these, about 350,000 deaths are from workplace accidents and more than 1.7 million are from work-related diseases. In addition, commuting accidents increase the burden with another 158,000 fatal accidents.*
- *Each year, workers suffer approximately 270 million occupational accidents that lead to absences from work for 3 days or more, and fall victim to some 160 million incidents of work-related disease.*
- *Approximately 4% of the world's gross domestic product is lost with the cost of injury, death and disease through absence from work, sickness treatment, disability and survivor benefits.*

(International Labour Organisation, 2005)

The ILO celebrates the World Day for Safety and Health at Work on the 28th April to promote the prevention of occupational accidents and diseases globally. It is an awareness-raising campaign intended to focus international attention on emerging trends in the field of occupational safety and health and on the magnitude of work-related injuries, diseases and fatalities worldwide.

The 28th of April is also a day in which Trade Union Movements around the world hold the International Commemoration Day for Dead and Injured Workers to honour the memory of victims of occupational accidents and diseases.

The increasing focus on finding new sources of energy and other environmentally-friendly activities have a positive affect on the global environment. Without appropriate action this trend can come at the cost of workers' lives and health. For this reason, ILO has chosen Green Jobs, as the theme for the 2012 World Day for Safety and Health at Work, in order to promote safety and health in a green economy.

The European Agency for Safety and Health at Work has a multi-annual project on green jobs. Risk anticipation is a major task of the Agency and in consultation with its tripartite stakeholders; it is producing a series of scenarios to examine how work in the area of green jobs will develop and what occupational safety and health challenges this will bring.

Concrete action in the field of occupational health and safety, should start at the enterprise level with the wider participation of all social partners including the Government, employers' and workers' associations. OHSa has always been pivotal in bridging the gap and establishing effective networks.

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