



# World Day for Safety and Health at Work

STOP THE PANDEMIC: COVID-19 EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AT THE WORKPLACE (VIRTUAL)

29 April 2020, 8:00-12:00 (Main event will be in Khmer language)

## Agenda

- 8:00-8:30 Online preparation and system preparation
- 8:30-9:30 Remarks by **Mr. Kaing Monika**, Deputy Secretary General, GMAC  
Remarks by, **Mr. Ath Thorn**, President, CLC  
Remarks by **Mr. Graeme Buckley**, Director, ILO Country Office for Thailand, Cambodia, and Lao  
Welcome remarks by **H.E. Dr. ITH Samheng**, Minister of Labour and Vocational Training
- 9:30-9:40 Factory-level Covid-19 Preventive Measures, TBC
- 9:40-11:30 Stop the Pandemic: Covid-19 Emergency Preparedness at the Workplace, **Dr. Yi Kannitha**, Deputy Director, DOSH, MoLVT, and **Mr. Ung Sokrethyuthea**, Trainer/Advisory, ILO/BFC

### Virtual World Day for Safety and Health:

Wednesday, Apr 29, 2020 (8:00-12:00)

Meeting number: **143 184 156**

Password: **Welcome2020**

Please join meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://ilo-videoconferences.webex.com/ilo-videoconferences/j.php?MTID=m2586b8f1ce18c13ef4ba39191e76adda>

New to Cisco Webex Meetings, Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts: <https://www.webex.com/downloads.html/>

To register your name as participant, please click on this link:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScZihgCtBHhOVAVF7ym\\_joQpbkt\\_eZC5AwBzc5ySEzY21MxwvA/viewform?usp=pp\\_url](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScZihgCtBHhOVAVF7ym_joQpbkt_eZC5AwBzc5ySEzY21MxwvA/viewform?usp=pp_url)



## Virtual World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2020

### **“Stop the Pandemic: Covid-19 Emergency Preparedness at the Workplace”**

**29 April 2020 (8h00 – 12h00)**

The ILO Centenary Declaration adopted in June 2019 declared that **“safe and healthy working conditions are fundamental to decent work”**. This is even more significant today, as ensuring safety and health at work is indispensable in the management of the pandemic and the ability to resume work. The theme was announced earlier for 2020 on **“violence and harassment in the world of work”** has been replaced in view of the current global crisis. In recognizing the great challenge that the world is facing to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, the World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2020 focus on addressing the outbreak of infectious diseases at work, focusing on the COVID-19 pandemic. The theme was announced as: **“Stop the Pandemic: Safety and health at work can save lives”**. The aim is to stimulate national tripartite dialogue on safety and health at work. The ILO is using this event to raise awareness on the adoption of safe practices in workplaces and the role that occupational safety and health (OSH) services play.

The Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training (MoLVT), Employer’s and Worker’s Organizations in Cambodia, with technical support from the International Labour Organization (ILO) through ILO/Japan OSH Project on “Enhancing the Occupational Safety and Health Standard in Construction Sector”, and ILO/BFC Project (Better Factories Cambodia), jointly organized a virtual World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2020 under the theme **“Stop the Pandemic: Covid-19 Emergency Preparedness at the Workplace”**, on 29 April 2020 from 08h00 to 12h00 through Cisco WebEx Meeting Application.

There were two sections of the event, official opening and online learning. The official opening was presided over by Minister of MoLVT, and representatives of the employer’s, worker’s organizations and the ILO Country Director for Cambodia, Thailand and Lao PDR. Agenda is attached for reference.

More than 212 accounts logged into the virtual link, with estimated of more than 350 participants attended the event as some accounts joined as group of participants.

#### **Remarks by Mr. Kaing Monika, Deputy Secretary General of the GMAC-Garment Manufacturing Association of Cambodia**

After greeted the honourable guests and representatives of all partners, Mr. Kaing expressed his points that Cambodia has embraced labour and OSH compliance as integral part of the trade policy, and OSH is an important part of the continuous promoting and sustaining items. He clearly pointed that, in general, when we talk about OSH, we refer to the protection of workers from risks that arise from all workplaces and it includes social, emotional, and physical welfare of all workers. These require the joint effort by the tripartite partners to create a better situation and response, especially in the context that Cambodia is heavily affected from Covid-19 pandemic.

Covid-19 bought a very negative impact on both, health and economy sectors. Therefore, the emergency preparedness plan at workplace to stop the spread of Covid-19 at workplace has become an agenda that employers are increasingly paying particular attention today. Since the Covid-19 outbreak, GMAC always advises to its factories members to be vigilant and pay high attention for

taking preventive measures in accordance with the measures from the Royal Government of Cambodia, especially the Ministry of Health (MoH), the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training (MoLVT), and relevant authorities with the aim to prevent the spread of this vicious disease to workers at the factories. He thank the ILO/BFC for technical support to the garment factories in response to OSH, and on behalf of GMAC, he also expressed its commitment to continue to work with all stakeholders through tripartite mechanisms and social dialogue aimed at strengthening and enhancing OSH.

#### **Remarks by Mr. Ath Thorn, President of Cambodia Confederation of Labour (CLC)**

First, he greeted Minister of MOLVT, and other honourable guests and all participants in the virtual meeting. He then started the remarks with the key objective of the World Day for Safety and Health. The UN started organizing this since 2003, while Cambodia has started from 2006.

Today event marked as commemoration of the day for dead and injured workers, and as promotion the prevention of the occupational accidents and diseases for workers. According to trade unions, Cambodia still face some challenges regarding labour and OSH conditions such as: work-related accidents and death at workplaces, limited number of workers access to social protection schemes, lack of inspection in some vulnerable workplaces (construction, brick kiln...etc), the occupational diseases not yet defined, not enough OSH regulations and policies have been putting in place, in which are things we need to improve.

In relation to Covid-19, we noted that it has become pandemic and the big concern for the world. According to the data, there are more than 3 million people infected and more than 200,000 deaths by today. He shared that, according to the ILO, there are several key impact by the Covid-19 include: Increased unemployment and underemployment, Worsened OSH and working conditions, Reduced access to social protection, particularly negative effects on specific groups more vulnerable to adverse labour market outcomes.

Although Cambodia has only 122 infected cases, but it affected seriously on economy as some workers lose their jobs. Therefore, to promote and ensure better working and OSH condition at the workplaces, Mr. Ath proposed for following key actions by the government and all partners:

- Conduct more inspection, especially extend to some sectors (construction, entertainment, brick kiln);
- Improve and Expand social protection schemes to vulnerable sectors;
- Capacity building on OSH by ILO to all partners to improve OSH at the workplaces;
- Develop more regulations on OSH and speed up the process on Pension scheme;
- Provide awareness knowledge to workers on Covid-19 to prevent the outbreak;
- Respond to the impact on workers are result of job loss or suspended due to Covid-19

#### **Mr. Graeme Buckley, Country Director for the ILO in Cambodia, Thailand and Lao PDR**

To start, Mr. Buckley expressed his appreciation to the Minister of MoLVT and Representatives who tried to organize this virtual event. He hopes that the Covid-19 is over so that he will be able to meet face-to-face soon. He expressed his thanks for the collaboration by the tripartite partners on the Covid-19 response throughout the commitment to take measures to address the threat of COVID-19.

He added that the ILO is using this day to raise awareness on the adoption of safe practices in the workplaces and the role that occupational safety and health services play.

Concern is growing over the continuing rise in COVID-19 infections in many parts of the world and the ability to sustain declining rates in others. The Governments, employers, workers and the enterprises and organizations that they work for, face enormous challenges as they try to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and protect safety and health at work. To address these needs and in response to Covid-19, the ILO has developed some key promotional materials which help the employers and workers to assess and implement the work properly such as: the **“employer’s guide on managing workplace during Covid-19”** , **“Action Checklist for Prevention and Mitigation of Covid-19 At Work”**...etc . He does hope that these tools are helpful and widely shared.

He also stressed that beyond the immediate crisis, there are also concerns about resuming activity in a manner that sustains progress made in suppressing transmission, and therefore focus needs to be on the medium to long-term actions, including recovery and future preparedness and integrating measures into OSH management systems and policies at the national and enterprise levels. Challenge such as this pandemic can only be overcome if there is a global and coordinated response that sees strong social dialogue and cooperation, as never before, among governments, social partners, associations, international organizations, economic and financial institutions at all levels. Enhancing social dialogue at workplace would allow the enterprises to better prepare for emergency responses.

He wished for safe, healthy and productive enterprises in all sectors, where Cambodian workers don’t have to worry about their safety, and where they can take responsibility for the working environment, together with management. He expressed that the ILO/BFC and ILO/OSH Project commit to work together with all stakeholders to realize a vision of a world that is safer and healthier for all people.

#### **Opening remarks by H.E. Dr. Ith Samheng, Minister of MoLVT Cambodia**

He firstly expressed his sincere respect to the Honorable Guests, Excellency’s, ladies and gentleman, and all participants who are attending this virtual event from a distance today. He added that although we cannot celebrate this event collectively like previous years, we still can do it via a video conference. This shows our highest attention in regards to OSH issue at the workplace.

He declared that the objectives of the event include:

- Disseminate the status and level of the work-related accidents and work-related deaths of workers especially the impact on their families’ economic status and society;
- Raise awareness and cooperation on OSH among government institutions, private sectors, international NGOs, development partners, employer’s association, trade union and workers in order to enhance OSH prevention culture at workplaces;
- Promote further political and financial support activities and mitigate the loss of lives, work-related accidents, and occupational illness globally.

H.E. Dr. Minister pointed that this year is the 15<sup>th</sup> year that MoLVT organized this event, and throughout technical support from ILO/BFC and ILO/OSH projects with the aim to encourage all stakeholders to prepare preparedness plan and necessary measures for preventing the spread of Covid-19 at workplaces in Cambodia.

Covid-19 is considered a big issue for the world as it affects human’s lives, economy, welfare, mental, society etc. Cambodia found 122 cases, 119 have been recovered and another 3 patients continues receiving treatment (as of 26 April 2020). Although there is no number of death, WHO recommended that it remains challenges and we have to be cautious.

According to the ILO, the Covid-19 has negative impact for all sectors. It does not only public health, but also business and economic sectors globally. ILO estimated that an estimated 25 million people lost their jobs, with a loss of incomes at estimated of USD 3.4 trillion. He reiterated the key points of impact on the world of work as raised by Mr. Ath Thorn above.

H.E. Dr. Minister shared that the MoLVT is working very closely and through MoH & WHO, have been disseminating awareness knowledge and preventive measures on Covid-19 through announcements to all enterprises across the country in order for their self-prevention and avoid infection. MoLVT also issued additional subsequent instructions and assigned the working group to disseminate and train HR, supervisor, line leaders at the factories and enterprises about the prevention and combat measure for Covid-19. Recently, after Khmer New Year, the MoLVT also take up action on the quarantine arrangements of those workers who travelled during KNY.

To keep the momentum in improving OSH in the workplaces, H.E. Dr. Minister shared some of the key achievements by the MoLVT and further action to be done as follow:

- Kept implementing the 2nd Master Plan on Occupational Safety and Health (2018-2022);
- Kept implementing the Strategic Development Plan of Labour and Vocational Training (2019-2023);
- Continued effort through mechanism of the National OSH Committee to coordinate and provide advice to strengthen OSH management system at the national and enterprises levels;
- Improved an effective and qualified labour inspection system through improving inspection of labour's report and strengthened capacity of officials in charge of labour & OSH inspection and to increase labour inspection to construction, brick kiln and entertainment sectors.
- Explored international collaboration for development of the Law on OSH/OSH Act;
- Continued the collaboration with the ILO-OSH project for some key developments: National Policy on OSH, National OSH Profile; Assess mid-term review of the 2nd Master Plan on OSH (2018-2022), develop checklist on how to improve large and medium construction site, as well as expand more TOT and trainings on WISCON (Work Improvement for Small Construction Sites).

Before announced the official opening, he takes the opportunity of the event to re-appeal for the owners of all enterprises to thoroughly and properly implement the prevention measure for Covid-19 in accordance with guidelines from MoH and MoLVT. He expressed thanks to the ILO/BFC and ILO/OSH for continuous support, and wish everyone safe and healthy with the 4 blessings of Buddha.

**Online session on “Stop the Pandemic: Covid-19 Emergency Preparedness at the Workplace”, by representatives of DoSH/MoLVT, and BFC’s Trainer, followed after 10-minute break from opening.**

The session took 2 hours to go through the Power Point Presentation. Around 200 participants attended this online course with facilitation of 3 presenters:

- Dr. Yi Kannitha, Deputy Director of DoSH/MoLVT
- Mr. Chea Sophal, Team Leader, ILO/BFC
- Mr. Ung Sokrethyuthea, Trainer, ILO/BFC

After the presentation, there we also a Q&A session which allowed few participants to ask questions.

The virtual event successfully adjourned at 12h12.