



International Commission on Occupational Health - ICOH
Commission Internationale de la Santé au Travail - CIST
Founded in 1906 as Permanent Commission



World Day for Safety and Health at Work: 28 April 2009

The International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH) calls for actions for maintaining and developing occupational health and safety programmes and for competence development of workers also during the times of economic crisis

The globalizing world economy sets continuously new challenges to health and safety at work. The current global financial crisis and recession are having a further impact on health and safety of workers worldwide. The crisis means harder work for everyone to sustain families, communities and national economies, and there is a risk that less priority and resources will be allocated for health, environment and social protection. It is important to emphasize concerted health and safety risk management at the workplace and improve access to occupational health and safety services.

Consequently the need for occupational health will grow as times get harder. The evidence obtained from the previous recessions shows that efficient social protection programmes and services, including occupational health and safety and improvement of work environments and working methods, provide effective buffers against the most negative impacts of the economic crisis. It would also accelerate quick recovery after the crisis through enabling effective mobilization of competent, healthy and motivated workforce. ICOH calls for all decision-makers to continuously improve the basic safety and health structures of the work environment and promote workers' health in order to alleviate the heavy burdens - health, social and economic - that all workers always are forced to face in economic crises.

ICOH joins with all the partners in commemorating the workers who have lost their lives from occupational accidents and diseases in the past. As occupational safety and health is needed today more than ever, we want to encourage decision-makers to strengthen research and service programmes on occupational health as well as other social and educational programmes and infrastructures as their need does not decrease but grows in the times of recession.

ICOH warmly congratulates the ILO on its 90th Anniversary and its enormous and unique impact on improvement of conditions of work and social justice throughout the world. We extend our sincere gratitude for excellent collaboration during 90 years and call upon further collaboration with every partner to counteract the negative health and safety impacts of recession of today and to enhance our abilities to recover as soon as possible.

ICOH is willing to offer our scientific efforts and expertise to support all our Allies and the ILO in particular for making health and life at work a basic right for each and every working individual in the world.

Dr. Kazutaka Kogi

President of the International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH)