

Dear Gabor Sandi,

I'd like to inform you about the recent activities of the Georgian National Information Centre on occupational safety and health.

Now Georgian National Information Centre is in the structure of Georgian State Inspection for Technical Supervision. Briefly about Technical Inspection. It's a state organization and its chief target is to provide state supervision in the field of technical safety and use force on the base of the Law of Georgia "About safety at hazardous enterprises" and in accordance with it. The main objective of technical supervision is to protect workers' health and life in the process of labour, to provide comprehensive safety management at objects of danger and highly hazardous enterprises and operations in the frame of the competence of Inspection. Supervision shall be providing at every stage of planning, constructing, making, assembling, repairing and exploiting.

Georgian Information Centre maintains close links with all state, trade unions and nongovernmental organizations dealing with safety and health at work. We are jointly working with Ministry of Labour and Health of Georgia, Trade Unions Amelgamation, Georgian Employers' Association.

As since 2003 the International Labour Organization began to observe the World Day for Safety and Health stressing the prevention of illness and accidents at work and 28 April is also a day the world's trade union movement has long associated with commemorating victims of occupational accidents and diseases, Georgian Information Centre recently arrange different measures.

On April 28 2006 by the Georgian Information Centre was organized the conference devoted to the “Decent work-safe work.” The participants of the conference were the representatives of: Ministry of Labour and Health of Georgia; Ministry of Economic Development; Trade Unions Amalgamation; Employers’ association; Georgian Technical University; businessmen; director of ILO Moscow office Mr. Werner Blenk. For this year with the same participants was organized the conference and the main topic was: “Making decent work reality. Safe and healthy work places.”

OSH profile is our first priority to establish what we have and what are the major issues for improvement (presence of detailed OSH regulations, access to work places, availability of OSH information, training and education needs, etc.).

Information Centre has prepared the National OSH profile for Georgia (Georgian National review on Labour Protection). It was translated from Georgia into English and sent to Moscow and Geneva, HQ of ILO.

One of the important result of this profile is to start a discussion on the Georgian OSH system (legislation, implementation structures at enterprises, OSH information, enforcement and monitoring), to establish where we are and where we want to go.

During this period Centre realized the translation into Georgia, printing and dissemination of some selected ILO OSH publications. We’d like to underline “Guidelines for system of management on occupational safety and health” ILO, OSH, 2001. We translated from English into Georgia also “The rights of workers for compensation by accidents”, which is very important for workers.

For the near future we are going to organize training studies at our information centre and to invite the best specialists of Georgia in different field on occupational safety.

Our general goal is to establish a library specialized on Occupational Safety and Health that would be the effective source of information and that would contribute to the development of the Centre as well as workers, employers and insurers.

Head of Georgian state inspection for technical supervision took part in Health and Safety Canada 2007 IAPA Conference and Trade show, Canada's largest health and safety event, who marks its 90 th anniversary. We are very grateful to Madam Maureen show personally, as we regularly receive be-monthly magazine "Accident Prevention", the data about the IAPA Conference on Health and Safety in Canada and other materials.

We are very grateful to Mr. Gabor Sandi, head of CIS and Madam Annick Viro, CIS Centre Coordinator of ILO; National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, USA (NIOSH); Institute National de Recherche et de securite, France (INRS), other our Colleagues, from whom we regularly receive information. I hope for our close and fruitful cooperation in future.

Sincerely,
Alexander Bezhanishvili
Head of Georgian
State Inspection for
Technical Supervision