

## **Activity Report**

### **National Tripartite Meeting on Safety and Health at Work in the Philippines**

#### **1. Activities accomplished**

A total of 118 participants from government, employers' and workers' organizations, media practitioners and international organizations attended the National Tripartite Meeting on Safety and Health at Work at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Manila. The meeting was a joint collaboration of the ILO Sub-Regional Office for South-East Asia and the Pacific (ILO Sub-Regional Office, Manila), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Employers' Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP), Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP) and Federation of Free Workers (FFW) to observe the World Day for Safety and Health at Work.

In the opening programme, following the opening statement by Ms. Camela I. Torres, Officer-in-Charge and Deputy Director, ILO Sub-Regional Office, Manila, and the keynote address by Dr. Dulce Estrell Gust, Executive Director of Occupational Safety and Health Center (OSHC), messages were delivered by the following tripartite representatives: Mr. Aniano G. Bagabaldo, Vice President of the Employers' Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP), Mr. Ramon Jabar, President of the Federation of Free Workers (FFW), and Mr. Ariel Castro, Director for Education of the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP). In the tripartite forum, the presentation was made on the current policies and practices on occupational safety and health by the following resource persons: Dr. Dulce Estrella Gust (OSHC), Mr. Rene E. Cristobal, Vice President of ECOP, Mr. Ariel Castro (TUCP), and Mr. Antonio Asper, Vice President for International Affairs of FFW. An open forum was moderated by Mr. Kenichi Hirose, Social Protection Specialist, ILO Sub-regional Office, Manila.

At the end of the meeting, representatives from government, employers and workers signed a tripartite covenant as a pledge of their commitment in upholding the safety and health of all workers and in observance of the World Day on Safety and Health at Work.

#### **2. Preparation for the National Tripartite Meeting**

A Tripartite Working Committee was organized to oversee and coordinate all activities needed for the preparatory phase and the actual holding of the national tripartite meeting.

The members of the Tripartite Working Committee from the government, employers' and workers' organizations are as follows: Mr. Rene Cristobal, ECOP; Ms. Fe Corazon Mui, St. Luke's Medical Center; Ms. Jovie Monsalud, St. Luke's Medical Center; Mr. Ariel Castro, TUCP; Mr. Keith Abilar, TUCP; Ms. Raquel Arpogia, FFW; Dr. Dulce E. Gust, OSHC -DOLE; Ms. Agnes Teczon, OSHC-DOLE; Mr. Kenichi Hirose, ILO; Ms. Sylvia Fulgencio, ILO.

The committee decided on the agenda for the meeting and the promotional activities such as radio programs, press releases and the drafting and issuance of the Department Order from DOLE prior to the holding of the meeting on April 28, 2003.

The issuance of DOLE's Department Order No. 44-03 enjoins all offices under its jurisdiction as well as other organizations to commemorate April 28 every year as the "World Day on Safety and Health at Work". The issuance of the Department Order enabled a nationwide coverage of this significant event. All concerned were encouraged to carry out the following actions: a) hang a streamer with the slogan "Promoting a Safety and Health Culture in a Globalized World"; and b) conduct tripartite advocacy campaign like panel discussions, press conferences, and the like on the prevention of accidents and illnesses and sustain preventive programs.

In addition, there were a series of media campaigns through radio programs and press releases in

major dailies. On the actual day of the meeting, April 28, a television network, ABS-CBN News Channel covered the event and conducted interviews with resource persons from ILO, DOLE-OSHC, ECOP, TUCP and FFW. A health magazine, Health Today also covered the sessions for a feature article on safety and health at work.

It should also be acknowledged that adequate technical and administrative guidance was provided from the SafeDay organising team in the Headquarters.

Drafted by Kenichi Hirose and Sylvia Fulgencio (SRO-Manila)  
29 April 2003