



# WORLD SAFETY ORGANIZATION Newsletter

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November 2015

## “World Disaster Preparedness Day” Declared During 40th Anniversary of the WSO Founding in Manila, Philippines



*World Disaster Preparedness Day Commitment Wall on display during the 28th WSO Symposium, Manila, Philippines*

On October 26, 2015 over 325 participants from the Philippines, Australia, Qatar, Singapore, USA, Malaysia, India, Pakistan, Sultanate of Oman, Nigeria, United Arab Emirates, and other countries, gathered in Manila, Philippines, for the three day professional development symposium.

The Symposium was opened Monday morning with a welcome presentations of the guest speaker from the Philippine government, **Hon. Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz**, Secretary, Department of Labor and Employment.

In the combined efforts of the WSO members and partner organizations, the WSO announced the November 8 as the official “World Disaster Preparedness Day” which remembers the devastation wrought by the Super-typhoon “Yolanda” in the Philippines. Hon. Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz also participated in the announcement of the petition for the “World Disaster Preparedness Day.”

the Philippines was faced with one of the most tragic calamities ever recorded in world history. Are we truly ready for those kinds of natural disasters?” (from the Philippine Daily Inquirer)

WSO International Office for Philippines forwarded the petition to the United Nations, the International Labour Organization, the World Health Organization, and other similar policy-making groups on the local, national, and international levels to recognize November 8 as the official celebration of World Disaster Preparedness Day.

“Natural calamities are unpredictable,” said **Eng. Alfredo A. De La Rosa Jr.**, Director of the WSO International Office for the Philippines. “Two years ago,

## WSO Global Safety Round Table

The **WSO Global Safety Round Table** plenary session was co-organized with the Occupational Health and Safety Center (OHSC) Philippines, with a special message of **Engr. Jose Maria S. Batino**, Deputy Executive Director, OHSC. **Engr. James R. Porter, Jr.**, Technical Director, WSO International Office for the Philippines introduced the panelists for the presentations: **Prof. Richard Franklin** (Australia), **Dr. Janis Jansz** (Australia), **Prof. Peter Leggat** (Australia), **Mr. Nathan Willows** (Australia), **Mr. Ameer Ali Abdeali** (Singapore), **Dr. Saud S. Al-Anbari** (Sultanate of Oman), **Mr. Olalokun Soji Solomon** (Nigeria), **Dr. Charles H. Baker** (USA). Theme of the presentations was “Occupational Safety and Health Experience, Challenges, Public/Private Initiatives and Best Practices.”

Pictured, left to right, are: Engr. Porter, Engr. Batino, Mr. Abdeali, Dr. Al-Anbari, Dr. Baker, Prof. Franklin, Dr. Jansz, Mr. Willows, Mr. Olalokun, Prof. Leggat, and Engr. De La Rosa.



**It's more fun with Safety!**



# Welcome

*from the Director of the  
WSO International Office for Philippines*

**Mabuhay!**

Welcome to the 28th World Safety Organization International Environmental and Occupational Safety and Health Professional Development Symposium. The theme “It’s More Fun with Safety” weaves both values and expertise that motivate us to progress toward becoming safety advocates and practitioners with a global mindset. This year’s theme correlates to the Philippines’ tourism tagline “It’s more Fun in the Philippines” with the full support of the Department of Labor and Employment. With environment, health, and safety advocates and professionals coming from all across the globe, we look forward to having fruitful exchanges of best practices and latest innovations especially designed to promote environmental protections and safety and accident prevention. We want to promote the idea that thinking safety shouldn’t be considered work or additional concern but rather a value to be instilled and embodied and something that is fun to do.

This year’s symposium theme compels us to discern what our priorities, purposes, and contributions are as environment and safety advocates and practitioners in nation building. The drive to realize our dreams for our organization, family, and community is nested on each one of us. I believe that every safety leader has a vital role to play in guiding our respective countries. It’s high time that we recognize how great and distinct we are in the fields of environment and occupational health and safety. I hope that what we learn from global practices, we can bring home to our respective organizations. We have excellent speakers from the country and from all around the globe who can unleash our potentials to pursue excellence in the field of safety.

On behalf of the WSO Executive Action Committee and the WSO Board of Directors, I would like to thank all the delegates, our supporting partners in the government and professional safety and health organizations, sponsors, exhibitors, volunteers, my staff at the WSO International Office, my colleagues at the WSO World Management Center and the 28th Symposium Organizing Committee this year for being part of this milestone, the 40th anniversary celebration of WSO. Allow me to also earnestly thank our resource speakers who shared their expertise with much generosity. Let me just say that it brings me great pride to have celebrated this significant milestone right here on Philippine shores. “May God, who has begun the good work in you, carry it on to completion.” (Philippians 1).

Maraming salamat po!

**Alfredo A. De La Rosa, Jr., WSO-CSE**  
*Director, WSO International Office for Philippines*



**It's more fun with Safety!**



# Message

*from the Secretary of the Philippine  
Department of Labor and Employment*

**M**y warmest greetings to the officers and members of the World Safety Organization (WSO) on the occasion of your 28th Annual International Environmental and Occupational Safety and Health Professional Development Symposium on 25-28 October 2015. I also extend my warm welcome to the delegates to the symposium and commend the WSO International Office for the Philippines for spearheading this milestone event in the promotion of culture of safety and health (OHS) in our country. My sincere thanks go to the topic presenters, especially those from abroad, for selflessly devoting time to share their vast experiences and expertise in OSH.

The focus of your symposium, “How to further improve the safety and health of workers by ensuring an accident and illness free workplace, improving their quality of life, and enabling them to have more fun being safe!” is very encouraging. In addition, the selection of your session topics is impressive, and you have first rate resource persons to guide the discussions. Thus, I have no doubt that your outputs shall be highly valued inputs for national and international legislations and advocacies in OSH.

I place great hopes in the success of your symposium: that Philippines delegates will learn much about global practices and standards on occupational safety and health in the workplace from foreign delegates and experts, even as I believe that we also have much to share with them in terms of our progress in OSH, in raising public knowledge and awareness in and understanding of OSH, and how the government, under the administration of President Benigno S. Aquino III, has focused on occupational safety and health in the workplace as a strategy to make our workers competitive and productive and to foster harmonious labor-management relations. I strongly recommend that delegates to this symposium make use of the opportunity to establish global linkages and networks on OSH similar to the national networks that we have established in the country over the last five years. The more OSH advocates and practitioners we can enlist in our ranks, the more effective our campaign will be for accident- and illness-free workplaces.

Lastly, I hope you will realize the outcomes you have set for yourselves in this symposium, one of which is a doable OSH action plan that can be replicated in our respective countries.

Mabuhay ang WSO! God Bless.

**Hon. Rosalinda Dimapills-Baldas**  
*Secretary, Department of Labor and Employment*



**It's more fun with Safety!**





# Message

*from the Bureau of Working Conditions,  
Department of Labor and Employment*

It is with great pride that I congratulate the World Safety Organization (WSO) and all the participants and stakeholders to the 28th Annual International Environmental and Occupational Safety and Health Professional Development Symposium.

This year's theme, "It's More Fun with Safety," reaffirms that the promotion and practice of a high standard of occupational safety and health in the country improves quality of life, which translates to higher productivity and optimum work output of its workforce. With the Department, the Occupational Safety and Health Center (OSHC), and partner organizations such as WSO at the forefront of spreading the culture of safety and health in the workplaces, indeed, our goal in keeping a healthful and safe world of work will be widespread and achievable.

In light of the changing trends within various workplaces, the need to intensify and emphasize importance and the call to action for austere OSH implementation is crucial. Participants to this event are fortunate to have OSH experts in the local and international scene to impart to us their respective country's/agency's OSH experiences, challenges, best practices, and success stories worthy of understanding and emulating in our own workplace.

On behalf of the Bureau of Working Conditions, I wish the WSO a successful and productive symposium. May this event bring about innovative and equally relevant programs aligned toward sustainable OSH programs through strengthened ties between and among the government and associates in the safety and health.

My greetings to the WSO on its 40th anniversary celebration! May your network reach greater influence and success. Rest assured that DOLE will continue to ensure the cooperation and synergy of our OSH partners and stakeholders.

Mabuhay and more power!

**Director Catherine L. Prado**  
*Bureau of Working Conditions*

A decorative graphic at the bottom of the page consisting of several overlapping, wavy, ribbon-like lines in shades of blue, yellow, pink, and purple, flowing from the left towards the right.

**It's more fun with Safety!**



# Message

*from the Executive Director of the  
Occupational Safety and Health Center,  
Department of Labor and Employment*

**M**y heartfelt congratulations to the World Safety Organization (WSO) as you hold your 28th Annual International Environmental and Occupational Safety and Health Professional Development Symposium on 25-28 October 2015 in Paranaque City, Philippines. This is another milestone in your quest to make safety and health a way of life worldwide.

This symposium is a great opportunity to share national OSH experiences, challenges, best practices, and success stories. The Occupational Safety and Health Center looks forward to meaningful exchange of information that will lead to international collaboration on the protection of workers' safety, health, and environment as well as doable plans to address OSH issues particular to each country.

As the Department of Labor and Employment is currently promoting the culture of full and voluntary compliance with the Philippine OSH Standards, we appreciate WSO's decision to choose the Philippines as the venue for this gathering of esteemed international OSH experts and advocates. Their invaluable insights will definitely help us develop programs and policies that are aligned with the international standards and geared to achieve our national objectives at the earliest possible time.

I wish you meaningful and fruitful discussions towards making safety and health a universal way of life.

Mabuhay ang WSO! Have more fun being safe!

**Ma. Teresita S. Cucueco, M.D., CESO III**

*Executive Director, Occupational Safety and Health Center  
Department of Labor and Employment*



**It's more fun with Safety!**



# Message

*from the Officer in-Charge,  
International Labour Organization  
Country Office for the Philippines*

**Warm greetings and congratulations to the World Safety Organization on its 40th anniversary!**

Through the years, the International Labour Organization (ILO) has promoted Occupational Safety and Health (OSH), a key element to ensure decent and productive work for all. In 2003, the ILO adopted a global strategy to improve occupational safety and health on preventive safety and health culture, promotion and development of relevant instruments, and technical assistance. This year, the ILO called for urgent action to build a safety and health culture. Safety and health at work is a basic human right and a decent work issue.

In the Philippines, the ILO is implementing a global project that seeks to improve the safety and health of young workers in the construction, manufacturing, and agriculture sectors, and strengthen the culture of prevention. Our effort to expand OSH initiatives to other sectors is necessary due to risks inflicted to workers. Working with the government, employers' and workers' organizations and our partners, we aim to contribute to strengthening national OSH legislation, regulations and policies; enhancing capacity to monitor working conditions and to enforce OSH laws, policies, regulations, ensuring availability and effective use of comprehensive, relevant, and quality OSH data and information; and strengthening advocacy, while raising awareness on OSH.

WSO has been a valuable partner in their effort to build a national occupational safety and health culture. We commend the WSO for its initiative to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and experience of various countries as it commemorates its founding. This is timely, because knowing where we stand globally will help us adapt to current trends, and find the most appropriate means to resolve the OSH challenges we are faced with. Having a global perspective is relevant to better promote OSH policies and programmes, raise awareness between and among partners, and strengthen global advocacy and programmes.

The ILO recognizes that decent work conditions and opportunities, respect for rights at work, adequate social protection, dialogues among government, employers' and workers' organizations, and presence of effective representation of employers and workers help increase productivity and contribute to the goal of reducing poverty and achieving sustainable and inclusive growth in the Philippines.

We express our gratitude to WSO for its contributions to achieve decent and productive work for all by promoting safety and health and environmental protection in the workplace. The work and advocacy of your organization is crucial in realizing safe and healthy workplaces that will greatly impact the lives of Filipinos and their families.

Thank you as we wish WSO continued success and all the best in future endeavours!

**Simon Robert Hills**  
*Officer in-Charge, International Labour Organization  
Country Office for the Philippines*



**It's more fun with Safety!**