On 26 October 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 WSO International Environmental and Occupational Safety and Health Professional Development Symposium.

In the combined efforts of the WSO members and partner organizations, the WSO announced November 8 as the official “World Disaster Preparedness Day,” which remembers the devastation wrought by the 8 November 2013 super-typhoon “Yolanda” in the Philippines.

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.

The Global Safety Roundtable Discussion at this year’s Symposium will center on ways that WSO members, National Offices and Chapters, and associated organizations can shine the light on creating disaster preparedness plans in our homes, schools, and businesses. This session will be moderated by Engr. Alfredo A. De La Rosa, Jr., Engr. James F. Porter, Jr., and Jean-Marie Alexis De La Rosa of the WSO International Office for Philippines.

When disaster strikes, will you be prepared? Join us on Monday, 19 September, 1:00–2:30 p.m., for this life-changing discussion and to help “Make Safety a Way of Life ... Worldwide.”
**Shining the Spotlight:**

**WSO International Office for Philippines**

**Update on the 2nd Occupational Safety, Health and Environment National Convention**

Submitted by **Engr. Alfredo A. De La Rosa**
Director, WSO International Office for Philippines

On 23-24 June 2016, the 2nd Occupational Safety, Health, and Environment (OSHE) National Convention was organized by the Workplace Advocates for Safety and Health of the Philippines, Inc. (WASPI), in partnership with the Occupational Safety and Health Center (OSHC) and supported by World Safety Organization and other institutional partners. In this two-day event, top notch safety, health, and environmental professionals presented papers during the convention to address the theme, “Emerging Trends and Challenges in Occupational Safety, Health, and Environment.”

At the WSO exhibit booth are from left: **Ms. Minnete Biares**, HSE Manager, Toshiba; **Engr. Noel Nocon**, VP, AG & P; **Engr. Jomar Batino**, Deputy Executive Director; **Atty. Brenda Villafuerte**, President, WASPI; **Mr. Eros Zuñiga**, National President, Safety Organization of the Philippines, Inc. (SOPI); **Honorable Law Chi-Ming**, Secretary General, APOSHO; **Honorable Ameerali Abdeali**, Chairman, APOSHO 32; **Engr. Alfredo A. De La Rosa**, Jr., Director, WSO, and member of the Board of Trustees, WASPI; **Ms. Luvilleen Saylon**, Branch Manager, WSO Cebu; **Engr. Emerson Tera**, HSE Specialist, Petron Corporation; and **Engr. Andy Ventulan**, VP-HSE, Shimizu.

**Atty. Brenda L. Villafuerte** and **Engr. De La Rosa** in front of the wall of Institutional Partners, which included WSO.

**Engr. De La Rosa** received a special gift from **Hon. Ameerali Abdeali**, Chairman of APOSHO 32.

With special guests at the WSO booth are **Honorable Law-Chi Ming**, Secretary General, APOSHO, **Mr. Eros Zuñiga**, National President, (SOPI), **Engr. Frumencio Tan**, SOPI Board Member and WSO Affiliate Member and trainer/consultant, together with WSO Cebu Staff.

Assisting with the ribbon cutting of the exhibit hall of the convention.
Shining the Spotlight:

WSO International Office for Philippines

Report on the 66th United Nations DPI/NGO Conference

Submitted by Jean-Marie Alexis De La Rosa
WSO Youth Representative to the United Nations

The 66th United Nations DPI/NGO Conference was the first in its history to be held in Asia, with more than 2500 participants from more than 100 nations worldwide. Through this gathering, all participants were given the opportunity to get to know other professionals in the NGO community.

The conference was held under the theme, “Education for Global Citizenship: Achieving the Sustainable Goals Together.” Its focus was on creating and strengthening global partnerships in support of the recently adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Hence, this event became an avenue wherein ideas of partnering with organizations from other countries were concretized into specific plans of actions.

The Hosts of the Conference were the Republic of Korea, The United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI), the NGO/DPI Executive Committee, and the National Organizing Committee of Korea. The Conference was held in the City of Gyeongju, a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site, located at the Southeastern part of Korea. The Hwabaek International Convention Center (HICO) housed the 66th United Nations DPI/NGO Conference, complete with its spacious floor area and state-of-the-art facilities that are well-suited for meetings and exhibits.

The 66th UN DPI/NGO Conference was attended by NGO representatives, including numerous youth participants. Attendees included NGOs that are associated with DPI or in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and from various learning institutions. Also, the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon joined the participants on the first day of the Youth Caucus Event and led the Opening Session of the Conference.

Being able to represent the World Safety Organization (WSO) in such a big international event was enriching and inspiring. As a first time participant in the said gathering, there are several key takeaways from my experience:

1. Constant collaboration between nations is essential to any organization.
2. Taking part in activities such as the 66th United Nations DPI/NGO Conference helps any organization to understand cross-cultural differences and problems that would have to be addressed.
3. Proactively seeking ways to support other NGOs benefits any company or organization.
4. Young people need better access to quality and affordable education and many current education systems are not meeting their needs.
5. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon’s message in the Youth Caucus: "Without compassion, the world would be strange and miserable. When everybody has only passion, passion without compassion will lead to a strange way, undesirable way, sometimes destructive way and tragic way. When you have too much passion, that’s what happens in many parts of the world. Therefore, passion should be accompanied with compassion. That’s what I’m telling you. That’s my message to you."

As an active member of the global NGO community, WSO can be of help to this cause by educating the younger generation about basic safety and health, integrating the youth in crafting the objectives of World Safety Organization, and by developing young representatives who will continue WSO’s goals for the future. For all these to be achieved, we must actively do specific measures in making this a reality, and we must also be advocates of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through online platforms such as social media to promote awareness and knowledge.

Lastly, we must set our sights on building a community spearheaded by the youth, wherein they can effectively promote our organization’s global mission. This community will serve as an avenue for them to hone their skills in becoming WSO’s new generation of safety advocates.

Additional Photos on Next Page
Shining the Spotlight:
WSO International Office for Philippines

Photos from the 66th United Nations DPI/NGO Conference

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon speaks at the opening ceremonies of the 66th UN DPI/NGO Conference.

Shake the hand of UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon

Jean-Marie Alexis De La Rosa and Engr. Alfredo A. De La Rosa, Jr., with Ms. Hawa Diallo of UN Department of Public Information

Workshop on Academia and NGOs: Stories of Partnership with the United Nations Department of Public Information by UN Department of Public Information and Lehigh University

During the Youth Representatives Caucus