

**Training Workshop on “Improving and Fostering OSH
Culture in Workplaces”**

18 October 2021, 12:30 PM Turkey Time

Opening Statement of H.E. Mr. Nebil DABUR

Director General of SESRIC

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

Excellences, Dear Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

السّلام علیکم ورحمة الله وبرکاته

Very Good Day to all of you

It is a great pleasure for me to welcome you all to this virtual training workshop on “Improving and Fostering OSH Culture in Workplaces”, which we organise jointly with the Directorate General of Occupational Safety and Health of Turkey, the Secretariat of the OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET), within the framework of our Centre’s Occupational Safety and Health Capacity Building Programme (OSH-CaB) and in line with the OIC-OSHNET Work Plan 2021-2022.

Let me, at the outset, express my sincere thanks and appreciation to H.E. Mr. Cafer UZUNKAYA, Director General of the Directorate General of Occupational Safety and Health at the Ministry of Labour and Social Security of the Republic of Turkey, for nominating competent experts from his Esteemed institution as well as mobilising prominent international experts in the field to provide this training workshop for the benefit of participants from the national OSH Authorities of the OIC member countries.

I am so grateful to the Directorate General of Occupational Safety and Health of Turkey, in its capacity as the Secretariat of the OIC-OSHNET, for sparing no effort in supporting the Network's activities since its inception in 2011 and contributing to the smooth implementation of its Work Plan.

My deep thanks and appreciation are also extended to all the participants and speakers attending from relevant OSH Authorities of the OIC member countries for their commitment and active participation in this training workshop.

Dear Participants,

Occupational accidents and work-related diseases cause massive human suffering to victims and their families, negatively impact enterprises' efficiency and productivity, and cause significant economic losses for societies as a whole. According to the ILO's most recent global estimates, at least 1.9 million people die, and around 360 million non-fatal occupational accidents occur each year, resulting in several days of absence from work.

These negative consequences, however, could be mitigated by establishing a positive safety culture within each company and workplace to ensure a safe and hazard-free environment for all employees and workers. Such a culture in workplaces contributes to the better mental and physical well-being of workers as well as higher productivity, quality and profitability with lower rates of staff turnover.

It is worth mentioning here that the OSH culture at work involves various behavioural, managerial and technical aspects of risk control and requires involvement at all management levels, from top to bottom. In particular, managers and leaders have significant roles in establishing an effective safety culture by setting relevant policies and procedures and monitoring all employees related to how activities are being conducted through providing positive feedback and rewarding positive behaviours to improve the process of engaging all workforce in the safety culture.

To promote such a prevention culture at the national level, actions are needed to be taken at the workplace level by applying engineering controls, compliance with regulations, and integrating OSH management systems, as well as managing culture change towards a positive safety one. This will reduce work-related risks and ensure the promotion of occupational safety and health both at the workplace level as well as national level.

In this context, this training workshop aims at developing and enhancing the technical knowledge and skills of the participants towards improving and fostering OSH culture at workplaces. The workshop will also provide insights into the appropriate mechanisms and tools for controlling occupational risks and better addressing the challenges faced in maintaining a safety culture in the work environment.

Dear Participants,

It has just been one year since the 4th Meeting of the OIC-OSHNET where two important documents of the Network were adopted; the “Rules of Procedure” and the “OIC-OSHNET Work Plan 2021-2022”. I am delighted to inform you that the implementation of the Work Plan is so far progressing successfully, and all the activities planned for this year are expected to be conducted by the end of the year.

Availing this opportunity, I would also like to inform you that the Training Workshop on “OSH Data Collection and Analysis” will be organised by the Tunisian Occupational Health and Safety Institute (TOSHI), in collaboration with Djibouti National Social Security Fund, in the first week of November this year. I encourage all of you to participate in this training in order to benefit from the experiences of Tunisia and Djibouti on this important topic.

In addition, the online Annual Meeting of the National Focal Points of the OIC-OSHNET will be organised by SESRIC and the Directorate General of Occupational Safety and Health of Turkey in November also. All National Focal Points are kindly invited to attend this virtual meeting to discuss the progress and the latest updates on the implementation of the OIC-OSHNET Work Plan for the year 2021 and beyond.

Before concluding, I would like to thank you once again and wish you all a fruitful exchange of experiences and successful training throughout the upcoming days.

و السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته. Thank you all for your kind attention.