

Workshop on “Addressing Challenges of Occupational Health in the Future of Work”

17 May 2022, 10:00 AM Türkiye Time

Opening Statement of H.E. Mr. Nebil DABUR

Director General of SESRIC

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

Excellences, Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

السَّلَامُ عَلَیْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللّٰهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ

Very Good Day to all of you

I am pleased to welcome you all to this virtual workshop on “Addressing Challenges of Occupational Health in the Future of Work”, which we organise in collaboration with the Ministry of Manpower of Indonesia and the ASEAN Occupational Safety and Health Network (ASEAN-OSHNET) within the framework of the OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET) and its Work Plan 2021-2022.

Let me, at the outset, express my sincere thanks and appreciation to Her Excellency Mrs. Haiyani Rumondang, Director General of Labour Inspection and Occupational Safety and Health Development at the Ministry of Manpower of Indonesia and her team for their efforts and hard work in jointly organising this important workshop with SESRIC for the benefit of OSH authorities in the Member Countries of the OIC and ASEAN.

My deep thanks and gratitude are also extended to H.E. Engr. Hj. Mohd Hatta bin Zakaria, Deputy Director General of Occupational Safety and Health at the Ministry of Human Resources Malaysia, in his capacity as the Chair of the ASEAN-OSHNET, for their close cooperation and collaboration with SESRIC not only on the organisation of this virtual workshop but also for their continued support and contribution to the OIC-OSHNET and its activities.

I would also like to thank H.E. Dr. Muhittin BİLGE, Director General of Occupational Safety and Health at the Ministry of Labour and Social Security of the Republic of Türkiye for accepting our invitation to address this workshop in their capacity as the Secretariat of the OIC-OSHNET and also for mobilizing a distinguished expert to share the experience of Türkiye in the relevant technical session of this workshop.

Also, many thanks to the participants who have joined us today for their commitment and dedication towards enriching their knowledge and expertise in this crucial subject.

Dear Participants

Working life, including working environment and systems, rapidly evolves due to many factors such as new technologies, shifting demographics and climate change.

Such factors bring new challenges and concerns related to safety and health at work. Anticipating the emerging occupational safety and health (OSH) risks has, therefore, become more important than ever before. The effective addressing of the new emerging challenges and risks is needed for fostering resilience and building a preventative OSH culture.

In fact, to ensure a ready robust OSH system for any unforeseen circumstances there is a need for an effective adaptation mechanism to maintain a timely identification of emerging issues and appointed solutions based on adequate responsive strategies.

In addition to the essential elements, such as standards, principles, rules and guidelines, such a well-functioning system requires a great deal of knowledge and capability to address the OSH concerns in the future.

In the case of the OIC member countries, we believe that the issue of addressing the challenges of OSH in the future of work needs more cooperation among the relevant national institutions working in the domain of OSH through facilitating the sharing and exchanging of knowledge and best practices.

In this context, and in its capacity as the OIC Technical Coordinator institution of the OIC-OSHNET, SESRIC has always spared no effort in collaborating with national, regional and international partners to facilitate the exchange of knowledge, experience and best practices in the domain of OSH for the benefit of the OIC member countries.

To this end, we have initiated in 2011 the SESRIC Occupational Safety and Health Capacity Building Programme (OSH-CaB) with the aim of supporting and contributing to the efforts of the member countries towards strengthening the human and institutional capacities of their national OSH institutions.

Within the framework of this programme, we organise short-term training courses, training workshops (like this one), and technical study visits on a wide range of technical topics related to the work field of OSH, such as labour inspection, OSH standards, OSH culture in workplaces, etc.

Dear Participants

SESRIC contribution to the efforts of the OIC and its member countries in the domain of OSH is not limited to training and capacity building.

In its mandated area of the socio-economic research, SESRIC has been regularly preparing the technical background report titled “OIC Labour Market Report” since the year 2015. The Centre prepares this report to be submitted to the regular Sessions of the OIC Conference of Labour Ministers.

The “OIC Labour Market Report” provides an overview of recent labour market developments in OIC countries, including subjects related to occupational safety and health. The report also provides a set of policy recommendations and serves as one of the main technical documents for the OIC Conference of Labour Ministers.

SESRIC also prepared the OIC Labour Market Strategy 2025, which was submitted and adopted by the 4th OIC Conference of Labour Ministers held in 2018 in Saudi Arabia.

This strategy includes 21 strategic goals with 162 actions under five different priority thematic cooperation areas, one of them is “Protecting the Workers’ Safety and Well-being”, where improving the OSH is a critical “strategic objective”.

In this context and according to the first SESRIC survey on the implementation of the OIC Labour Market Strategy, it has been observed that many OIC countries have made significant progress in actions related to legislation and inspection mechanisms to reduce work-related accidents, but more efforts are still needed in mainstreaming OSH into vocational education and training (VET) programmes as well as supporting firms for establishing safer workplaces.

Dear Participants

Before concluding, I am pleased to welcome you once again to this jointly organised workshop with the Ministry of Manpower of Indonesia and the ASEAN-OSHNET. I believe that this workshop will make a positive impact and add value to the work and experience of all the participants.

I wish you all a fruitful exchange of experiences and successful deliberations throughout the upcoming days.

Thank you all for your kind attention.

والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته