Webinar on "Occupational Safety and Health Systems (OSH) during the Pandemic: The Impact and Response"

12 August 2020   11:00-12:45 Ankara Time (GMT+3)

Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic has transformed the world of work and severely impacted the economies and labour markets of the OIC member countries and the world at large. Thus, the growing concern over the spread of coronavirus and its consequences on the numbers of cases worldwide has shown the importance of the preventive measures followed by individuals and workplaces in any country.

Reasoning from this fact, governments, employers, workers and their organizations have been facing enormous challenges as they try to combat the pandemic as well as setting appropriate safety and health guidelines at work especially that the recommendations, measures and government regulations and requirements kept changing rapidly. Despite the immediate challenges caused by the crisis, there were also concerns on how to resume activity in a manner that doesn't conflict with the progress achieved in containing the spread of infection.

Since many OIC member countries have moved forward to a new phase by reactivating their economies and resuming activities after lockdowns, safe and healthy working conditions are considered fundamental for decent work and are the foundation upon which policy guidance for the return to work must be based.

OSH authorities and employers play a key role in reinforcing the progress made in stemming infection rates by setting clear guidelines and providing a safe work environment for employees in relevant institutions and workplaces within the scope of their obligation to supervise. Hence, carrying out risk assessments according to the working environment and setting appropriate control measures are essential to protect the workforce and the public during the pandemic.

On the other hand, employees must cooperate by following these measures and guidelines that generally consist of good hygiene, physical distancing, the use of personal protective equipment (PPE), and avoiding workplace when ill to help contain the spread of the virus and save themselves, their families and communities from possible consequences.

The Webinar on "Occupational Safety and Health Systems (OSH) during the Pandemic: The Impact and Response" will provide insights on the challenges faced in the field and best practices followed by OSH authorities and policy-makers in different regions of the OIC. Furthermore, it will help mitigate the negative impacts of the pandemic on different sectors by providing a platform for sharing knowledge and expertise among high level experts who will share the vital role of OSH systems in transforming institutions nationwide in these difficult times.

Objectives

The webinar is jointly organised by the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) and the Directorate General of Occupational Safety and Health (DGOSH) of Turkey within the framework of the OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET). The Webinar will feature presentations by high level representatives of the national Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) authorities from different regions of the OIC with the objective of:

- Sharing the impacts of the pandemic on OSH systems and the coping mechanisms followed to mitigate the negative effects.
- Sharing country experiences and best practices of OSH authorities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Highlighting the vital role of OSH systems in providing decent work environment for their employees and reducing the spread of the virus.
- Highlighting the importance of ensuring safety and health at work to protect workers and ensure business continuity.

Expected Results

- Promoting solidarity among national and international institutions in the field of occupational safety and health to overcome the obstacles created by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Sharing innovative country experiences among the OIC member countries and exploring the effectiveness of good strategies and guidelines in tackling the immediate and longer-term effects of the COVID-19 crisis on OSH systems.
- Strengthening partnerships for continuity of improving OSH systems during and post-COVID-19.
- Sharing recommendations on how to build more resilient, equitable and responsive OSH systems.

Target Audience

Occupational Safety and Health Authorities, relevant departments of Ministries of Labour and Health of the OIC member countries, and relevant national and international organizations.

Language

The webinar will proceed in English.

Technical Requirements and Duration

The webinar will be held on YouTube Live for the duration of one and a half hours.

Agenda

Wednesday, 12 August 2020 11:00-12:45 Ankara Time (GMT+3)	
11:00-11:05	**Welcoming Remarks** H.E. Mr. Nebil DABUR, Director General, SESRIC H.E. Mr. Cafer UZUNKAYA, Director General, DGOSH of Turkey, the Secretariat of OIC-OSHNET
11:05-12:15	**Occupational Safety and Health Systems (OSH) during the Pandemic, the Impact and Response – Panel Discussion** **Moderator:** Mr. Onur CAGLAR, Acting Director of Training and Technical Cooperation, SESRIC **Panellists**: - From **Republic of Azerbaijan** H.E. Mr. Orkhan HUSEYNZADEH, Deputy Chief of the State Labour Inspectorate Service, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population of the Azerbaijan Republic - From **Malaysia,** H.E. Ir. Hj. Omar bin MAT PIAH, Director General, Department Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH), Ministry of Human Resources Malaysia. - From **Kingdom of Morocco,** H.E. Dr. Ahmed SABIRI, Head of Workers Health Service, Directorate of Epidemiology and Disease Control, Ministry of Health Morocco - From **Republic of Turkey,** Mr. Burhanettin KURT, Deputy Director General, DGOSH of Turkey, the Secretariat of OIC-OSHNET. - From **Republic of Uganda,** H.E. Mr. Martin WANDERA, Director of Labour, Employment and Occupational Safety and Health, Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development in Uganda.
12:15-12:40	**Q&A Session**
12:40-12:45	**Closing Remarks**