

## **The 21<sup>st</sup> ASEAN-OSHNET Coordinating Board Meeting (CBM)**

Virtual, 15 October 2020, 11:30 AM-12:30 PM Turkey Time

**Statement of H.E. Mr. Nebil DABUR**

**Director General of SESRIC**

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

**Excellencies, Distinguished Participants,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ

**I wish you all a very Good Day**

It is my great pleasure to address the 21<sup>st</sup> ASEAN-OSHNET Coordinating Board Meeting today. I am glad to witness the efforts of the ASEAN-OSHNET member countries in realizing this meeting despite the global challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Let me, at the outset, express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to the ASEAN Secretariat for extending the invitation to SESRIC to participate in this important meeting.

As we all know, the developments over the last two decades in the field of occupational safety and health have played a crucial role for the well-being of workers, employers and the society in general. It is now well recognized that a well-structured OSH system that includes good policies, standards, records, and clear rules and regulations is essential in any workplace in order to maintain a safe working environment.

In this context, especially during these challenging times due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, decent and safe workplaces are considered basic elements to ensure the sustainability of production and well-being of societies. The right of having a safe and healthy working environment is recognised as a fundamental human right, especially for workers. This has been stipulated under Goal 8 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals and Goal 2.9 of the OIC-2025 Programme of Action.

**Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is indeed a great coincidence to join the ASEAN-OSHNET Meeting today, which comes exactly one week after the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET). We at SESRIC, in our capacity as the OIC technical coordinator institution of the OIC-OSHNET together with the Secretariat of this network (the Directorate General of OSH of Turkey, have successfully organized virtually the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of OIC-OSHNET last week with the participation of the National Focal Points and delegates of 37 OIC member countries.

As you may all know, the OIC-OSHNET is the only cooperation forum at the OIC level in the field of occupational safety and health. This Network was launched almost a decade ago with the aim of establishing an official OIC platform for closer cooperation and sharing of knowledge,

experience and best practices among the national OSH institutions in OIC member countries.

During the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the OIC-OSHNET, we adopted two main documents; 1- the new version of the Rules of Procedure (RoP), which aims at elevating the Network into a more structured and institutionalized forum in order to ensure the development and sustainability of the joint efforts of all partners and stakeholders. We also discussed and adopted the two-year Work Plan 2021-2022 with the aim of mapping the Networks' activities for the next two years considering the capacities and needs of the OIC member countries under four main thematic areas.

In this regard, I am delighted to inform you that we have already incorporated 2 activities from the ASEAN-OSHNET Work Plan into the OIC-OSHNET Work Plan to be implemented during the next two years within the framework of the bilateral collaborations between the two Networks.

**Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

On behalf of the OIC-OSHNET, please allow me to take this opportunity to express our readiness and willingness to further collaborate and enhance the already existing partnership ties with the ASEAN-OSHNET and the OIC-OSHNET.

I believe we should make the most of each party's expertise in the field of OSH and strategically guide them towards the achievement of both Networks' ambitious targets and objectives. This is the time to show our solidarity in this important area to respond to our member countries' development needs and improve the quality of their OSH systems through South-South Cooperation mechanisms and facilitate the transfer of experience, know-how and best practices.

I would like also to inform you that in 2010, SESRIC has initiated and started to implement the SESRIC Occupational Safety and Health Capacity Building Programme (OSH-CaB), based on the needs and capacities of the OSH institutions in the OIC member countries. The aim of this programme is to support and contribute to the efforts of our member countries towards improving their OSH systems through using different modalities such as short-term training courses, training workshops and study visits.

It is also my great pleasure to inform you all that we at SESRIC, have recently launched the new version of the OIC-OSHNET Portal, which our Centre has initiated and hosted in its website as an active platform and knowledge hub for all national OSH institutions and professionals in our member countries.

Before concluding, let me, once again, express my deep thanks and appreciation to the organisers of this event for inviting SESRIC to this important meeting. I am confident that this important Meeting will result in fruitful outcomes as usual and SESRIC will continue to cooperate with ASEAN-OSHNET as a long-standing partner.

Thank you all for your kind attention, stay safe and healthy. والسلام عليكم  
ورحمة الله وبركاته