

Press Release

**Department of Labor and Employment
Bureau of Working Conditions
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DOLE 2018 WORLD DAY FOR SAFETY AND HEALTH AT WORK CAMPAIGN

The World Day for Safety and Health at Work is held on 28 April each year to promote safe, healthy and decent work as well as the prevention of occupational accidents and diseases globally. It is an annual awareness-raising campaign intended to focus on emerging trends in the field of occupational safety and health (OSH) and on the magnitude of work-related injuries, diseases and fatalities worldwide.

This year's theme for World Day for Safety and Health at Work centers on "OSH vulnerability of young workers." The campaign aims to fast track the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target 8.8 which provides for the safe and secure working environments for all workers.

Local studies indicate that young workers less than 24 years old, with less than one year of service are prone to accidents. The lack of training and working on unfamiliar territory are two reasons that were cited as probable reasons for this.

Aside from the lack of work experience and lack of trainings, other factors that can increase youth vulnerability to OSH risks are their physical and psychological stage of development, limited awareness of work-related hazards and a lack of bargaining power that can lead young workers to accept dangerous tasks or jobs with poor working conditions.

For the year 2017, there were a total of 72 work-related reported incidents throughout the 16 regions. A total of 212 victims were affected by these incidents, 45% of whom died while 55% were injured. Among the industries, workers in the construction sector are most vulnerable considering that majority of the incidents came from this industry (36 out of 72 incidents or 50%). Likewise, workers in manufacturing companies are also at risk based on actual data, with 26% of incidents coming from this industry. Thus, the DOLE considers establishments from these two industries as priorities for inspection since year 2004. Special attention is being given to OSH in these workplaces.

The DOLE has lined up its activities for the 2018 World Day for Safety and Health at Work Day campaign which will highlight the importance of addressing OSH challenges and improving safety and health for young workers to promote decent youth employment. These activities are part of the SafeYouth@Work Project, a global project focusing on the safety and health of young workers which is implemented by the International Labour Organization (ILO) along with its tripartite partners, including DOLE. The Project's main objective is to increase knowledge and awareness of the hazards and risks faced by young workers, specifically those aged 15-24 years old.

In line with the Project, an OSH Caravan was held on 25 April 2018 at Laguna Technopark Association Inc. (LTAI) at Sta. Rosa, Laguna in celebration of 2018 World Day for Safety and Health at Work Day with the theme “Generation Safe and Healthy” to enable an effective yet enjoyable educational experience and to build enthusiasm and a proactive stance on occupational safety and health culture and practices.

The Caravan which consisted of seven (7) activity areas aimed at enhancing workers’ OSH awareness were visited and completed by the participants with an estimate of 1.5 up to 2 hours. Activity Areas included (1) Kiosk (E-learning with On-line games); (2) Mini Theater (Videos from OSHC, ECC, ILO c/o Media Competition); (3) Games/Contest (PPE Relay Games); (4) Themed Room A (PPE Exhibit and Background Scenes); (5) Photo Exhibit (Spot the Not, OSH is not); (6) Art Exhibit (OSH in my Eyes, Hugot Corner, Freedom Wall); and (7) DOLE Help Desk. The activity targeted schools, workplaces, and communities to introduce consciousness of OSH among the youth, and to shape at an early stage a habit or an accustomed way of reacting, willing and doing, leaning towards the observance of workplace safety and health. The said activity was participated by adult and youth workers from various companies located at LTAI and facilitated by DOLE-BWC, OSHC, ECC and ILO together with partners from the Project Steering Committee (ALU, FFW, KMU, SENTRO, TUCP, ALLWIES, IndustriALL, NACUSIP-TUCP-ITUC, at CWS, ECOP, CIU, PGEA, PIPSEA, PSLINK, PRC, BSP and NYC).



The Department perceives these activities as significant tools to emphasize and instill among the youth the useful life skills and knowledge associated with OSH and the importance of OSH in the world of work. It is also believed that learning from this activity may increase the employability, professionalism and competitiveness of the youth so as to prepare them for their entry and participation in the labor force.