

Press Release
Department of Labor and Employment
Bureau of Working Conditions
30 August 2020

Sharing OSH amidst the pandemic

The *DTI and DOLE Interim Guidelines on Workplace Prevention and Control of COVID-19* was issued in April 2020 to assist private establishment and workers on their return to work in the new normal. Very recently, the two government agencies issued Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) No. 20-04-A, entitled *Supplemental Guidelines on Workplace Prevention and Control of COVID-19*, to keep abreast with the latest development in the management of the disease in the country based on new scientific and medical discoveries and current state of the disease in the country.

The DOLE-Bureau of Working Conditions believes in the importance of the development of human capital in helping the country in achieving our goal of contributing to the lowering of cases in the country. The current state of quarantine in the country highly discourages face-to-face training, which has placed the Bureau to no other recourse other than to conduct the training online.

It is against this backdrop that a webinar was organized by the Bureau on 28 August 2020, targeting the Safety Practitioners and Consultants of Safety Training Organizations of the country. The resource person was Assistant Secretary (ASec) Teresita S. Cucueco who discussed on the practical and situational application of the JMC in different workplaces.

The webinar was attended by close to 1,000 participants in its live broadcast through Zoom videoconference and Facebook Live. The DOLE expects that the information on the guideline will have a multiplying effect as the safety officers who were the bulk of the participants are now armed with the information that they need in cascading the guidelines in their respective workplaces. The Department also expects that the webinar will reach many of the country's establishments as this is continuously being in Facebook. As of this writing, the webinar has reached more than 60,000 organic reach and increases every day.

The Bureau shall continue to organize succeeding webinars on COVID-19 related issuance of the DOLE. It also plans to produce educational videos to be uploaded in social media with the hope of reaching as many establishments as possible. In her message, Asec Cucueco asked the participating STOs to organize themselves and set up a website where they can exchange the best practices of the different establishment that they serve.

Despite the challenges of times brought by the pandemic in the world of work, the enthusiasm and commitment shown by the participants is an assurance and a great

promise for us that together with the support of the country's safety officers, we can achieve this challenging task of making every Filipino worker attain decent and productive employment amid this pandemic.

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