

**Good News**  
**Department of Labor and Employment**  
**Bureau of Working Conditions**  
**29 September 2021**

**Governance in the new world of work amidst and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic**



Various Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) advocates all over the country were brought together during the 17th National Occupational Safety and Health (NOSH) Congress on September 28-30, 2021 via Zoom, The Congress aims to showcase OSH strategies on building resilient enterprises that will thrive in the face of the pandemic and other future crises.

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) leads the administration and enforcement of policies and programs on OSH, including COVID-19 mitigating measures in the private sector. Assistant Secretary Ma. Teresita S. Cucueco underscored the importance of governance in ensuring that policies and programs on OSH are not neglected as we are slowly returning to normal operations. Timely issuance of OSH policies and compliance to the minimum public health standards for COVID-19 through enforcement are two essential elements of governance during this pandemic and beyond.

Parallel to this regulation is the need for collaboration between workers and employers in self-regulating their workplaces to build and sustain collective motivation and advance OSH at the plant level. The current challenges of technological advancements and the pandemic in terms of new forms of work, workers, employers, workplaces, and working relationships necessitated the importance of government regulation intertwined with collaboration.

In all of these, the fundamental principles and other international labor standards provide a solid foundation for the formulation and execution of national-level measures to address the impact of the COVID-19. The DOLE guarantees that it will never cease to promote the critical role that social justice, social dialogues, and respect for workers' rights play in crisis coping and recovery.

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