

**3rd ITUC Asia Pacific Conference
Resolution No. 10**

BETTER OHS STANDARDS FOR JUST SOCIETY AND DECENT WORK

The Conference reaffirms that Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) is a basic human right enshrined in the International Bill of Human Rights and also an indispensable workers' right stipulated directly and partially in almost half of all the ILO instruments. Thus, full safety and health at work is an essential prerequisite for a just society and decent work.

The Conference recalls a series of industrial accidents in Asia and the Pacific with growing international attentions to the region. However, it is noted with serious concerns that there is persistently high number of death toll at 2.34 million workers from work-related accidents and diseases every year as well as estimated 317 million workers suffering from work-related injuries per year. The total cost of these accidents and diseases is conservatively estimated at 4% of the world GDP.

In particular, the Conference is appalled that the rate of fatal accident in emerging and developing Asian and Pacific countries is four times higher than the rate in industrialised countries and 64% of the total estimated 317 million work related injuries in the globe occurred in South-East Asia and the Western Pacific.

Moreover, the Conference notes that increasing precarity and informality of employment with long working hours, as labour market institutions have been weakened, have raised risks to mental health and vulnerability to violence, harassment and bullying at work.

The Conference identifies OHS as a cross-cutting issue affected by national and global socio-economic contexts; not only technical progress but also social status of workers, industrial relations, social welfare system, globalization, financialisation, labour market structure, structure of enterprises, demographical change, etc. Therefore, the Conference clarifies that OHS is interrelated to major trade union issues including the freedom of association, the right to collective bargaining, working conditions, social safety nets, social dialogue, precarious employment, informal economy, inclusive and sustainable growth. Hence, OHS should be one of the top trade union priorities and, furthermore, it should be a social and economic agenda with priority.

Furthermore, the Conference highlights the importance of a trade union as the most effective tool to ensure workplace health and safety and, decent work can only be realised in safer and healthier workplace.

Therefore, the Conference commits the ITUC-AP, working with affiliates and GUFs to:

- Establish an OHS committee at all levels;
- Develop OHS audit tools identifying hazardous working conditions and substances including radiation;
- Make OHS an avenue to organizing;
- Promote ratification and enforcement of relevant ILO Conventions, including C.155 (Occupational Safety, Health), C.187 (Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health), C.81 (Labour Inspection);
- Make the best use of existing modules for OHS at workplace;
- Take up the OHS issues at all levels of industrial relations;

- Promote the world-wide recognition of 28 April as the international Commemoration Day for Dead and Injured Workers;
- Conduct solidarity campaign in the case of major industrial accidents or diseases occur, in support of victims and their families; and
- Build capacity for education and training on OHS, in particular, targeting vulnerable workers such as youth, women and elder workers.