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Moving towards Vision Zero, preventing all work-related injuries and ill health

The XXI World Congress on Safety and Health at Work 2017 will serve as an excellent opportunity to exchange knowledge and experience and set the course for further concrete progress in making workplaces safer and healthier, notably through building a global prevention culture.

Globally, an estimated 2.3 million workers die every year from occupational accidents and work-related diseases. In addition, many millions of workers suffer non-fatal injuries and illnesses. These estimates imply that every day approximately 6,400 people die from occupational accidents or diseases and that 860,000 people are injured on the job.

This represents a colossal social and economic burden for enterprises, communities and countries, not to mention an appalling human and financial problem for workers and their families. The inevitable conclusion is that we have to do better and more, and we can.

The great majority of workplace accidents and diseases is preventable and realizing our vision of zero workplace injuries and sicknesses is possible.

But good intentions have not always been implemented or sustained. While some may be tempted to cut back on occupational safety and health (OSH), especially during an economic downturn, protecting workers is not a luxury to be sacrificed in hard times. OSH is, in fact, an engagement and a responsibility which could add value and give new impetus to the process of economic recovery generating sustainable development and at the same time successful businesses.

Moreover, OSH is a basic human right as well as a labour right. It is our duty to reaffirm the right to a safe working environment for all working people.

The ILO’s standards and development cooperation are part of the important capital that we bring to 186 ILO member States to increase capacity to realize these rights.

The 2017 Congress will discuss and debate how to further instil a culture of preventing work-related ill health, accidents and death. The focus will be on finding solutions, rather than finding fault. It will draw upon milestones such as the Seoul Declaration (XVIII World Congress for Safety and Health at Work, 2008), Istanbul Declaration (XIX World Congress, 2011) and work catalysed by the XX World Congress held in Frankfurt last year.

For its part, the ILO is redoubling its focus on OSH which is at the core of its mission. Through its global development cooperation programme – OSH Global Action for Prevention – the ILO is working to significantly increase resources dedicated to creating a widespread OSH culture at the global, national and enterprise levels.

Two years from now, we will come together in Singapore and I look forward to reporting to you our progress in making the world’s workplaces safer and healthier.
Building a Global Culture of Prevention and Making Vision Zero a Reality

The world of prevention is changing. The good news is that fatalities, caused by occupational accidents, are on the decline in many countries. However, amongst the main challenges that we are facing today are the far too many diseases which are caused by work. The International Labour Organization (ILO) confirms this trend as it estimates that out of the 2.3 million annual work-related fatalities, over 1.9 million are caused by occupational diseases.

The XXI World Congress on Safety and Health at Work presents itself as a great opportunity for the international occupational safety and health community to tackle these challenges and to advocate a holistic approach to prevention, which addresses occupational accidents and work-related diseases from various angles, one of the key strategies being Vision Zero.

Together with our host, the Ministry of Manpower (MOM) of Singapore, the ILO and other ISSA partners, we believe that a world without a single work-related fatal accident or serious injury is possible. To reach this goal, Vision Zero requires a clear, coherent, concise, cohesive and comprehensive strategy as well as joint efforts at every level. Prevention must become a part of our common culture and be embraced by everyone. A cornerstone of the Vision Zero strategy must be that all work has health and safety boundaries that should not be crossed. The ISSA calls upon social security institutions to support these processes through prevention measures, incentive programmes, along with other tools that can lead to zero fatalities at the workplace.

A holistic approach to prevention also puts more emphasis on the health of workers. It takes into account that both work-related and non-work related factors are impacting the health and productivity of workers and that the workplace provides excellent opportunities to promote health and prevent diseases. That is why many companies already have workplace health promotion programmes in place. Occupational health services are to play a key role in health promotion. Not only do regular health screenings contribute to reducing the prevalence of chronic diseases, but they allow for early intervention, thus helping to avoid temporary or long-term work incapacities.

The ISSA hopes that this Congress will generate a paradigm shift so that one day, a worldwide culture of prevention and Vision Zero becomes a reality. With its Centre for Excellence, the ISSA possesses a powerful instrument to promote the values of prevention to a large community. Furthermore, the ISSA’s Prevention Guidelines, workshops and tools for social security administrations provide support and easy-to-implement solutions that can lead to significant improvements in the area of occupational safety and health, workplace health promotion and return to work.

The ISSA and its unique network of Prevention Sections are immensely proud of being the co-organisers of the World Congress. We look forward to welcoming you in Singapore.

Errol Frank Stoové, President
International Social Security Association (ISSA)
President of the XXI World Congress on Safety and Health at Work

Embracing Vision Zero – Where every accident is preventable

Singapore is proud to host the XXI World Congress on Safety and Health at Work from 3 to 6 September 2017. As Chairperson of the International Organising Committee, I invite you to join us in Singapore to exchange ideas, experiences and solutions to advance occupational safety and health.

At the Singapore Ministry of Manpower, we believe that attention to occupational safety and health not only makes good business sense, but is also the socially responsible thing to do. Singapore has made significant progress in Workplace Safety and Health since we revamped our national framework in 2006. A key enabler is a strong culture of safety and health. This starts with a mindset shift – from one of fault finding to one that focuses on finding solutions to prevent injuries and ill health.

Vision Zero advocates a long-term perspective of occupational safety and health. That is why we believe that every company should embrace Vision Zero - where every accident is preventable. We can only achieve this vision with the commitment of every stakeholder – employers, workers, unions and the government.

Together with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Association for Social Security (ISSA), we are committed to organising a Congress which will enlighten, enrich, and enhance the learning opportunities for all. It is important that we continue to keep ourselves updated as the working environment is ever-changing. We need to keep ourselves ahead of the curve. The Congress will cover a whole spectrum of topics from changing mindsets and paradigm shifts, to ensuring how we can meet the challenges in the future World of Work through the integration of safety and health in an efficient manner. Lastly, protecting workers is at the heart of what occupational safety and health is about and hence a people-centred approach is required.

These important topics will be discussed through a wide-ranging programme, such as keynote, technical sessions and symposia complemented by technical and social tours, a trade fair as well as many other side events. Participants will be updated on the latest global trends and developments, as well as best practices in occupational safety and health throughout the Congress. The International Media Festival for Prevention will also showcase various occupational safety and health films and multimedia products from all over the world.

We will be creating various networking opportunities to help participants meet others from across the world. Do remember to also take some time to explore our beautiful city and take in the sights, sounds as well as the various food and cultural activities that Singapore has to offer.

Join us in Singapore and I look forward to welcoming you as we work together to create a safe and healthy workplace for all.

Ho Siong Hin, Commissioner for Workplace Safety and Health  
Singapore Ministry of Manpower
The World Congress 2017

Objectives

• Provide a forum for the exchange of knowledge, practices and experience between participants with the aim of promoting safety and health at work.

• Reinforce and build networks and alliances while laying the groundwork for cooperation and strengthening relationships among all concerned.

• Provide a platform for the development of knowledge and strategic and practical ideas that can be immediately put into use.

Where do we meet?

Date
3-6 September 2017

Venue
Sands Expo and Convention Centre, Marina Bay Sands, Singapore

Who should attend?

Everyone who is interested and deals with workplace safety and health issues at work.

• High-level government officials, high-level decision-makers in the public and private sectors;
• Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) and labour leaders;
• OSH professionals such as safety engineers, safety technicians, occupational hygienists, scientists, and so on;
• Occupational physicians and others dealing with occupational medicine;
• Labour inspectors and safety and health inspectors;
• Instructors, trainers and teachers in the field of OSH education;
• Trade unions, workers and their representatives;
• Employers and their organisations, including human resource (HR) managers;
• Social security institutions;
• Public and private OSH organisations;
• International and regional organisations;
• Manufacturers and importers of safety materials and safety equipment;
• Experts in communication and public relations; and
• Media representatives and journalists.

Other information

Congress Languages
The official World Congress 2017 languages are English, French, German and Spanish. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in all keynote and technical sessions. The language of the symposia will be English. Interpretation into other World Congress 2017 languages may be provided.

Website
For more information on World Congress 2017, visit www.safety2017singapore.com

Follow us
Search for “World Congress 2017” on

Organisers
International Labour Organization (ILO)
International Social Security Association (ISSA)
Singapore Ministry of Manpower (MOM)
Motto and Main Topics

A Global Vision of Prevention

Topic 1: Vision Zero – From Vision to Reality
Vision Zero aims to inculcate a mindset that all injuries and ill-health arising from work are preventable. It calls for a paradigm shift at every level of an organisation, from one of fault finding, to one that focuses on finding solutions to prevent injuries and ill-health. To achieve this would require commitment from all stakeholders across all levels in the workforce.

Topic 2: Healthy Work – Healthy Life
Our future World of Work is becoming more challenging, complex and fast-paced. Correspondingly, the link between work environment and employees’ health is getting stronger. To improve employees’ health and ensure that they can work longer and live healthier, the interconnected issues of occupational safety and employees’ health are best managed in a comprehensive and integrated manner. The integrated approach is one where employees and employers work together continuously to sustain, protect and promote each other’s safety and health in the workplace.

Topic 3: People-centred Prevention
Protecting employees is the heart of what occupational safety and health (OSH) is about. To build inclusive workplaces for OSH to thrive, components such as demographic changes, ageing, gender, culture and education are important. To support these efforts, sustainable strategies for the promotion, protection and education of our people are critical.
## Congress Programme

### Schedule

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<td>Keynotes</td>
<td>Symposia</td>
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<td>Technical sessions</td>
<td>ILO + ISSA reports</td>
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<td>Closing ceremony</td>
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<td>Symposia</td>
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- International Media Festival for Prevention
- International Safety and Health Trade Fair
- Poster exhibition
The World Congress 2017 programme includes an opening and closing ceremony, keynote speeches, technical sessions, special events and symposia. Poster presentations, industrial visits, an accompanying trade fair and the International Media Festival for Prevention are also held concurrently as part of the Congress.

**Keynote Speeches and Technical Sessions**
Keynote speeches by speakers from different countries will introduce you to the main topics of the World Congress 2017. Technical sessions will further illustrate the three main Congress topics to provide a deeper understanding of the safety and health at work issues globally.

**Symposia**
The symposia will be organised together with organisations across the world. Participants who wish to present a paper at one of the symposia will be invited to submit an abstract online. All proposals will be reviewed by the National Scientific Committee and organisers of the symposia.

**Special Event**
This will be an interactive session for participants to share, learn and network with others from all over the world. The event will provide participants a chance to engage in discussion in a small setting that will allow them to learn more about their topic of interest.

**International Media Festival for Prevention**
The International Media Festival for Prevention is an integral part of the Global Forum for Prevention. The festival will provide Congress participants an overview of the wide range of workplace safety and health films and multimedia products from all over the world. An international jury of experts will present awards at the Congress to the best contributions.

**Industry and Cultural Visits**
Visits to companies and institutions in Singapore will be held for interested groups. Cultural and social events will also be organised during the Congress.

**Trade Fair**
A safety and health at work trade fair will be held concurrently as a supporting event for the Global Forum for Prevention. Over 100 exhibitors are expected at the trade fair.
Practical Information
Congress Venue

Sands Expo and Convention Centre, Marina Bay Sands
Marina Bay Sands is located in the heart of Singapore’s city centre, a mere 20-minute taxi ride from Changi Airport and walking distance to the Central Business District. It features a 2,561-room hotel, state-of-the-art convention and exhibition facilities, theatres, entertainment, and a wide range of shopping and dining options.

For more information about the venue, visit www.marinabaysands.com

Address: 10 Bayfront Avenue, Singapore 018956

Getting to Marina Bay Sands

By Mass Rapid Transit (MRT)
Marina Bay Sands is linked directly to Bayfront MRT Station along the Circle Line Extension. For more information on Singapore’s train route map, visit http://www.lta.gov.sg/content/ltaweb/en/public-transport/mrt-and-lrt-trains/train-system-map.html

You can either purchase a standard one-time travel ticket, or an ez-link card from any TransitLink Ticket Office in Singapore with a minimum stored value of S$10. A S$1 deposit is required for one-time travel tickets and it can be refunded at any ticketing machine or Passenger Service Centre at your alighting station.

By Bus
You can take bus numbers, 97/97E, 106, 133, 502/502A & 518/518A to reach Marina Bay Sands Hotel and Marina Bay Sands.

You can either use cash or purchase an ez-link card from any TransitLink Ticket Office in Singapore with a minimum stored value of S$10.
About Singapore

Strategically located at the heart of Southeast Asia, Singapore is a bustling cosmopolitan city and a hub of economic activity. Singapore provides a secure, stable and well-connected base for a range of industries, from logistics to biomedical services, shipbuilding and repairs to financial services, just to name a few. Home to an exciting blend of culture, cuisine, arts and architecture, Singapore is one of Asia’s most dynamic, multicultural and harmonious cities. Whether you are here for business or pleasure, you will appreciate the range of hotels, meeting venues, transport options and attractions, offering everything you need for an enriching experience.

For more information, visit www.yoursingapore.com
About the Organisers
International Labour Organization

The International Labour Organization (ILO) is the UN agency that specialises in the world of work. It was founded in 1919 as part of the Treaty of Versailles that ended World War I to reflect the principle that universal and lasting peace can only be achieved if it is built on social justice.

The ILO is the only “tripartite” United Nations agency that brings together representatives of governments, employers and workers to shape policies and programmes for social justice and decent working and living conditions for all women and men. For this it was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1969.

The protection of workers against sickness, diseases and injury is a primary task of the Organization, which is also responsible for drawing up and overseeing international labour standards (Conventions and Recommendations) — many of which address occupational safety and health. This unique arrangement gives the ILO an edge in incorporating “real world” knowledge about employment and work.

In 2008, the ILO constituents adopted the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization, which articulates the contemporary vision of the ILO’s mandate in an era of globalisation. In 2009, the ILO adopted the Global Jobs Pact, which serves as a policy framework for measures centred on investment, employment and social protection to accelerate jobs recovery in a time of crisis. In 2012, the ILO adopted a Recommendation concerning national floors of social protection (No.202), which advocates for the establishment of social protection floors as a fundamental element of social security systems and the progressive extension of social security to as many women and men as possible.

The ILO works towards ensuring a shift from the global challenge of decent work deficits towards the achievement of sustainable development. Today, there are 185 ILO member States, and the ILO convenes a yearly general assembly — the International Labour Conference, an executive council — the Governing Body, and comprises a permanent secretariat — the International Labour Office, based in Geneva, Switzerland.

To learn more about the ILO, visit www.ilo.org

International Social Security Association

The International Social Security Association (ISSA) is the principal international institution bringing together social security agencies and organisations. The ISSA’s aim is to promote dynamic social security as the social dimension in a globalising world by supporting excellence in social security administration. Prevention has been on the ISSA’s agenda since its creation in 1927. Bringing together social security and prevention experts from over 340 social security institutions in more than 140 countries, the ISSA offers a global platform and a unique network for all those in social security that are concerned with the health of workers.

The ISSA has its headquarters at the International Labour Office, in Geneva. Beyond the traditional focus on occupational safety and health, the ISSA supports social security policies that foster preventive approaches to protect and promote workers’ health and employment in all branches of social security. The ISSA provides access to information, expert advice, business standards, practical guidelines and platforms for members to build and promote dynamic social security systems worldwide.

The vision of dynamic social security provides a framework for the ISSA’s action. It refers to social security systems that are accessible, sustainable, adequate, socially inclusive and economically productive, and that are based on performing, well-governed, proactive and innovative social security institutions. The ISSA promotes investments in workers’ health, by providing good practice information, research, expert advice and platforms for members and other stakeholders to exchange on innovation in workplace health promotion, active employment policies, rehabilitation and reintegration. To implement a range of projects and activities, the ISSA Secretariat works closely with its Technical Commissions, and the Special Commission on Prevention and its unique network of International Prevention Sections.

To learn more about the Special Commission and its Sections, visit www.issa.int/prevention
Guided by our Vision of “A Great Workforce A Great Workplace”, the Singapore Ministry of Manpower (MOM) works to achieve a globally competitive workforce and great workplace for a cohesive society and a secure economic future for all Singaporeans.

The Ministry seeks to enable Singaporeans to meet the challenges of the global economy in the 21st century, to have the skills and opportunity to realise their potential, have rewarding careers in quality work environments, and enjoy economic security. A great workplace goes beyond a safe, healthy and harmonious organisational work environment, to include a strong tripartite framework and relationship between the government, employer organisations and worker organisations.

The Occupational Safety and Health Division (OSHD) is the division under MOM that regulates workplace safety and health (WSH) in Singapore. Its vision is a safe and healthy workplace for everyone; and a country renowned for best practices in WSH. OSHD works with employers, employees and other stakeholders to identify, assess, and manage WSH risks to eliminate death, injury and ill-health.

OSHD is also the World Health Organization’s Collaborating Centre for Occupational Health, the International Labour Organization (ILO) CIS National Centre for Singapore, the current Secretariat for the ASEAN Occupational Safety and Health Network (ASEAN-OSHNET). MOM’s Commissioner for WSH also serves as the current Secretary-General of the International Association of Labour Inspection (IALI).

To learn more about MOM’s initiatives in WSH, visit www.mom.gov.sg/workplace-safety-and-health for more information.
Contact

Congress Secretariat

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For more information on the congress, visit
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To register your interest for World Congress 2017,
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