

## Report of the Seminar from the Pakistan Labour Federation (PLF)

On the occasion of International Workers Memorial Day on the 28th of April, a national seminar was organized by the Pakistan Labour Federation (PLF) with the collaboration of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the World Asian Workers Organization (WAWO) at Hotel Sindbad Multan Pakistan at 2:00 p.m.. 80 Participants from all over the Country participated, including Syed Ahmad Mujtaba Gallani (Brother of Excellency) and Syed Yousaf Raza Gallani (Prime Minister Islamic Republic of Pakistan). In charge Prime Minister Secretariat Multan was the Chief Guest. Divisional Superintendent of Pakistan Railways, Multan Sh Manzur Hussain, also attended the Seminar as the guest of honour.

**Haji Muhammad Saeed**, Secretary General, welcomed the Participants and Chief Guest for their valuable participation and acknowledged that every year on the 28<sup>th</sup> of April, trade unions around the world organize seminars/events to celebrate International Workers Memorial Day. The purpose is to highlight the prevention of accidents at the workplace and to raise the awareness of workers to improve. He said that 28<sup>th</sup> of April is also a day to remember all workers who lost their lives while performing their duty at workplace. He appreciated the Assistance of Mr. Dongli LI, Director of the ILO office for Pakistan and Mr. Peter A Newns, President of WAWO, for holding this National Seminar. He said that each year hundred thousands workers are killed on site and thousands are injured and disabled due to bad and illegal working conditions at Workplace.

**Mrs. Atia Saleem**, Chairperson, said that trade unions should highlight the urgent need for the safety of the workers. She said that in increasing occupational safety and health awareness amongst workers, trade unions can play a very effective role. She said that in rural areas, women work more than 16 hours per day, they have no right to form trade unions, and they are not given the old age benefits, pensions, or social security. She said that the female workers are facing difficult working condition both in the private and public sectors.

**Mr. Abdulla Jan**, President PLF Baluchistan, said that it is honour for the PLF Occupational Health and Safety Center to provide training and knowledge of safety rules. This training will enable them to increase safety at the workplace. He called for the assurance of a safe and secure environment for workers.

**Rana Muhammad Akram**, Dy Secretary General, demanded the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and the provision of equal rights for women and men before the law. He appreciated that the Executive Board of PLF decided to increase female participation in decision-making and responsibility for the main leadership of the PLF.

**Mr Waheed Ahmad Ch**, Advocate Legal Advisor of the PLF, said that workers' participation should be encouraged by the trade unions as an important contribution to the prevention of accidents. He said that the Government should ratify the ILO Conventions

on Occupational Health & Safety. Trade unions have long history of struggling for social and economic rights, equal opportunities and human dignity. He said that in the PLF, the number of female officials has increased. The PLF is also making full use of female trade unionists' skills and experience in all areas of activities. He said that in our society the women has full influence on her children and can play a very effective role in stopping suicide attacks and the killing of innocent peoples.

Honourable Chief Guest **Syed Ahmad Mujtaba Gallani** said that His Elder Brother Prime Minister of Pakistan, **Syed Yousaf Raza Gallani**, has great sympathy for the Workers' Community of Pakistan. In his first speech as Prime Minister he announced the restoration of trade union activities and the withdrawal of all amendments made in IRO 1969 in 2002. He also proclaimed that the Labour Policy should be framed in the light of the ILO Conventions. He assured the participants that the safety rules should be adopted strictly in all over the Country and that safety equipment should be provided to all workers. He said that trade union representatives are to be actively involved in all decision-making at every stage of the planning of occupational safety and health. PLF should plan to organize seminars at the city level, district level, regional level and provincial and central level. Lastly, it should raise awareness amongst the workers on safety rules.

**Malik Zulfqar**, President PLF Multan, appreciated the efforts of the ILO and WAWO for organizing this seminar, providing information on health and safety and carrying out a health and safety training programme.

**Ms Shamila Sadiq** said that a large number of peoples of Pakistan were living below the poverty line. She said that we should continue our activities for the social protection and stop the harassment and violence against women.

Mrs Naheed Akhtar, Mrs Rukhsana Nahid, Mrs Yasmeen Khakwani, Mrs Zahida, Muhammad Rafiq Qureshi, Mirza Riaz Ghalab, Ghulam Rasool, Muhammad Aslam Kodo, Muhammad Rasheed, Molvi Muhammad Aslam, Malik Khalid Mahmood also addressed the Seminar.

The Chief Guest distributed the Certificate amongst the participants