

**Address by  
H.E. Thaksin Shinawatra  
Prime Minister of Thailand  
on World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2005  
28 April 2005**

---

My Friends,

Thank you for joining me to observe World Day for Safety and Health at Work.

This is a day on which governments, employers and workers come together to spotlight conditions in the workplace. By joining together, we can protect our workers and save lives. We can improve the health and well-being of our peoples and families. And we can safeguard our common values and aspirations.

This year, the ILO is focusing on prevention. An age-old saying tells us that “**prevention is better than cure**”. But prevention also requires foresight and commitment. You must anticipate hazards, assess risks, and take action before the accident occurs or the illness strikes.

The benefits of doing so are clear and obvious. Prevention pays, not only in human terms but also in better performance by businesses, and national economic strength. Prevention makes sense – for workers, employers and governments.

This year, the ILO’s spotlight is on health and safety in the construction industry. In Thailand, construction generates many jobs. It is also an important indicator of our economic progress. But we want to show that economic development does not come at the price of safe and decent work. Therefore, I welcome this opportunity to re-emphasize my commitment to economic progress that is both safe and healthy.

My government is just as committed to the ILO’s second theme, namely the health and safety of younger and older workers. These groups have particular needs, and it is in our interest to understand and respect these needs. Our young workers deserve to be well-treated. That way, they can make the most of their talents, and have the best chance to remain productive members of society throughout their working lives.

Safety and health is an issue for everyone, wherever they work and whatever they do. By joining with me, you are becoming part of the solution. And your participation will encourage others. Together, we will create the culture of prevention that we need to safeguard ourselves, our families and our societies. Together, we can make sure that decent work is safe work.

Thank you.