

## World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2009



World Day for Safety and Health at Work is an international annual campaign to promote safe, healthy, and decent work held on 28th April of each year. Since 2003, the ILO observes World Day stressing the prevention of accidents and illnesses at work, capitalizing on its traditional strengths of tripartism and social dialogue. It is an integral part of the SafeWork's Global Strategy, as documented in the Conclusions of the International Labour Conference in June 2003. One of the main pillars of the Global Strategy is advocacy, and World Day for Safety and Health at Work is a significant tool to raise awareness about how to make work safe and healthy and the need to raise the political profile of occupational safety and health. 28th April is also a day the world's trade union movement has long associated with commemorating victims of occupational accidents and disease. This year, as in previous years, tripartite events will be taking place world wide.

The theme for this year's World Day for Safety and Health at Work is:

### **Health and life at work: a basic human right**

There is nothing more important than life. There is nothing more evident and compelling for a human being than the right to life. A majority of the world's population spends more than one-third of their adult life at work, contributing actively to the development of society. It is universally accepted that people have the right to the highest attainable standard of health. Without health at work a person cannot contribute to society and achieve her or his own well-being. If life at work is threatened, there are no grounds for productive employment and socio-economic development.

The ILO was the first to proclaim the indivisible character of human rights which encompass civil and political rights with economic, social and cultural rights as reflected in the preamble of its constitution. The right of workers to the protection of their health and life at work is not only a labour right but a fundamental human right. ILO standards' rights apply to all workers, and all workplaces. By virtue of its mandate, its tripartite structure and firm approach since it was born and the challenges we have to confront at this time of crisis, the ILO has a special responsibility to promote Decent Work. The 28th of April highlights one of ILO's core convictions: Decent work is Safe work.

Safe work is at the heart of the ILO's Decent Work Agenda. It is essential to achieving all four of the ILO's strategic objectives. Many of the *international standards* created since the ILO was founded in 1919 address issues related to occupational safety and health. *Work* can only be decent if it is safe and healthy.

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Last year over 100 countries celebrated World Day for Safety and Health at Work. Events ranged from speeches held by leaders from government, employers' organisations and trade unions to exhibitions focusing on occupational safety and health and displays of traditional dancing. There were also podium discussions and workshops and extensive media coverage. For more information see the web site:

[www.ilo.org/safework/safeday](http://www.ilo.org/safework/safeday).

The ILO Report for the World Day for Safety and Health at Work, as well as various related products and promotional material in English, French and Spanish, will be available on the Web for downloading shortly. We invite you to visit our Web site and to use our products.

This year, SafeWork would like to encourage you to begin preparing activities in your region or country. Events can be organised by ILO offices, or by constituents or as a collaborative effort. ILO Headquarters will provide a downloadable (pdf) version of this year's substantive report, and the graphic files for the SafeDay poster, as well as possibly other products, in English, French and Spanish. You are welcome to adapt the materials by putting them into local languages.

We invite you to join with us in promoting this important day.