

ILO Influenza Project Newsletter, No.2, December 2010

ILO facilitates training in OSH and Influenza for work places utilising migrant labour

From 29-30 November, the ILO Decent Work Team Support (DWT-Bangkok) piloted two technical training sessions in Samut Sakorn, which saw migrant workers and management partner up to learn more about Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) and influenza in the workplace.

The main aim of the training was to benefit both employers and workers by identifying cost effective and practical methods to reduce the risk of OSH incidence at the work place level and to also incorporate best practices and training, to decrease the risk of influenza occurrence in the work place and at home.

Participants were from seafood processing factories; one a small-scale factory for domestic consumption and the other a large-scale commercial operation with an international consumer base.

There was considerable interest on the part of workers at both factories and requests were made for the ILO to return and train those unable to attend.

“The training was more successful than we first anticipated. The workers were very active and enthusiastic to learn and apply the knowledge gained.”

Dr Tsuyoshi Kawakami
ILO

Both work places demonstrated a strong knowledge and practice of OSH for food hygiene purposes, but benefited from technical advice to not only protect the consumer but also everyone in the work place.

Information imparted included training on materials and handling as well how to reduce the risk of catching pandemic and human influenza and what



to do if someone is infected.

Workers engaged interactively by performing a checklist of common OSH and influenza issues and proposing if any action was required. Workers were able to identify existing good practices and areas that could be improved upon.

Influenza was incorporated into the ILO's OSH training due to the still established danger of H1N1 (swine flu) and the existing danger that seasonal influenza presents to human health and business continuity. Participants were shown how to reduce the risk of infection from either types of influenza through practical and low cost improvements and practices in the work place and at home.

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The ILO Decent Work Team intends to use the experiences gained from conducting this technical pilot to inform further activity on engaging potentially vulnerable worker populations and work places.

Notably the ILO was able to observe that despite the contrast in resources and market base, that small scale and commercial scale enterprises and their workforces are able to benefit from OSH and influenza activities. The response from the workers at both factories was very positive with workers constructively engaging in the concepts, identifying existing strengths and areas that can be improved. Similarly the employer representatives of the two work places also appreciated the technical advice and its practical application.

Further action:

- Follow up visit in early 2011 to see the effects of the pilot training.
- Use information gathered to improve ILO guidance and materials aimed at migrant workers and their work places.

Below workers identify existing good OSH/Influenza practices and discuss areas that could be improved.



International Labour Organization

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