Good Practices in Safety, Health and Working Conditions

Home workers, farmers, construction workers in Cambodia, Mongolia, and Thailand

Edited by Tsuyoshi Kawakami
Preface

This book presents best practices in safety, health and working conditions made by home workers, farmers, and construction workers and managers in Cambodia, Mongolia, and Thailand. They attended participatory training workshops to improve safety, health and working conditions; WIND (Work Improvement in Neighbourhood Development) for farmers, WISCON (Work Improvement in Small Construction Sites) for construction workers, and WISH (Work Improvement for Safe Home) for home workers, and implemented improvements by using locally available, low-cost materials. These training activities were supported by the ILO’s Informal Economy, Poverty and Employment Project with the financial support from the Government of the United Kingdom.

Countries in Asia are taking strong actions to provide adequate safety and health protection to informal economy workplaces. The ILO has supported these efforts to extend decent work to all workers. Best practice approaches focusing on local existing efforts and initiatives have been widely applied as a practical methodology to facilitate actions at workplace level.

The best practice photos in this book were collected by the team consisting of Dr. Tsuyoshi Kawakami, Senior Safety and Health Specialist of the ILO Subregional Office for East Asia, and the project coordinators, Mr. Tun Sophorn of Cambodia, Ms. Shurenchimeg Zokhiolt of Mongolia, and Ms. Rakawin Leechanavanichpan of Thailand. Ms. Sandra Yu, Chief Technical Advisor of the Informal Economy, Poverty and Employment (IEPE) Project, and Ms. Ginette Forgues, Senior Specialist on Local Strategies for Decent Work of the ILO Subregional Office for East Asia provided valuable technical advice and supervision. Mr. William Salter, Senior Advisor, Conditions of Work and Employment Programme, ILO Geneva, gave us useful technical comments. A special acknowledgement must go to Ms. Paveena Eakthanakit and Ms. Sayamol Saiyot for their excellent secretarial support.

I hope that this book will provide practical ideas for many home workers, farmers, and construction workers and managers to further improve safety, health and working conditions.

Christine Evans-Klock
Director
ILO Subregional Office for East Asia
Bangkok, Thailand
Home workers in Cambodia

Training by local trainers

Showing good examples by using photo sheets

Checklist exercises

Presenting ideas for improvements

Effective use of natural airflow and daylight

Height-adjusted workstation

Space-saving multi-level rack

Adjusted workstation for a disabled worker

Bamboo ceiling to prevent heat

Safe drinking water

Rubbish bin

Good Practices in Safety, Health and Working Conditions
Village home workers in Cambodia

Workstation adjusted at elbow height

All materials within easy reach of the home worker

Storage to keep bobbins

Efficient workstation placing all materials within easy reach

Convenient inclined worktable
Home workers making furniture in Mongolia

Machine cover for safety

Before improvement

After improvement

Wheeled device to carry materials

Safer chemical storage

Before improvement

After improvement

Home for tools

First aid kit

Before improvement

After improvement

Sand container to extinguish fire

Good Practices in Safety, Health and Working Conditions
Home worker community in Bangkok, Thailand
Bronze manufacturing

Improvement examples

- Space-saving multi-level racks
- Finger protection
- Carts to carry heavy materials
- Wall to protect living quarters from work areas

Checklist exercise
Group work to discuss improvements
Presenting ideas for improvements
WISCON Training in Cambodia

Photo sheets showing good examples

Demonstrating safety devices

On-site training

Hand truck carrying heavy materials

Use of safety belt for working at height

Shade against sun heat

Guard to prevent accidents

Multi-level rack to store chemicals

Good Practices in Safety, Health and Working Conditions
Hotel construction site in Cambodia

Carrying heavy materials together

Safety net

Wooden passageway for using hand trucks smoothly

Rubbish bin

Screen to prevent debris

Safety belt
Workers repairing a temple in Siem Reap, Cambodia

Safe work platform

Helmet storage

Fixing ladders for safety

Moving heavy stone materials by using local, available methods
WISCON training in Mongolia

Checklist exercise

Proper use of protective devices

Ladder with a handrail
Locker room
Canteen for workers
Improvements after training
A construction site
in Mongolia

Clear passageway
Guardrail
Safety signs
Materials storage

Safety instruction written in local language
Use of personal protective equipment
WISCON training in Thailand

Training with construction workers

Checklist exercise by construction workers

Group discussion and presentation of improvement ideas

Improvement examples carried out after the training

Hand truck to carry materials

Use of safety rope

Resting area
Rice farmers in Cambodia

Harvesting rice together

Convenient tool for rice reaping

Safer bridge over a canal

Blowing away debris from rice

Drinking water in the rice field

Community resting area

Short break after harvesting rice
Protecting children from accidents
Ideas from Cambodian villages

Fence around a pond

Guard covering a moving belt of a rice mill machine

Cover on the well

Handrail attached to the stairs

Lattice attached to the window to prevent falling down accidents
Low-cost ideas of Cambodian farmers to improve safety and health

- Grips and shoulder belt attached to a hand truck
- Height adjusted workstation to avoid bending
- Platform to work at height (rubber plantation)
- Keeping utensils in order
- Easy-open cover
- Designated area to collect used pesticide bottles
- Washing hands and arms after using pesticides
WIND training in Mongolia

Training in the community hall

Visiting a farm for the checklist exercise

Checklist exercise

Group discussion based on the checklist results

Equal participation of women and men

Presenting improvement ideas
Animal husbandry in Mongolia

Ramp for smooth entrance

Clear passageway

Carrying materials on snow

Parking area of an agricultural vehicle

Resting corner

Multi-level rack to place milk containers

Stool for comfortable work posture
Living in a “ger” is warm and comfortable

Wooden fence to protect houses from strong wind

Spring device to close the door

Opening for ventilation and daylight

Steps to enter a house

Resting corner in the garden
WIND training in Thailand

Training in a temple

Checklist exercise

Group work to develop low-cost improvement ideas

Discussion for prioritizing actions

Presenting group work results
Improving working conditions

Farmers in Thailand

Replacing pesticides with organic farming methods

Working at elbow height

Safe parking of agricultural vehicles

Storage area of fertilizer

Waste storage area for reuse

Personal protective devices

Short break during work
Improving living conditions
Thai farmers

Space-saving multi-level racks to keep materials

Cooking tables with appropriate heights

Workstations adjusted to elbow height
Good Practices in Safety, Health and Working Conditions
This book presents good practices in safety, health and working conditions made by home workers, farmers, and construction workers and managers in Cambodia, Mongolia, and Thailand. They took participatory steps to find practical solutions, and implemented improvements by using locally available, low-cost materials. The book will help workers and managers in small and informal economy workplaces to build safe, healthy and productive work environments.

This publication was supported by the Informal Economy, Poverty and Employment Project, which is implemented by the ILO Subregional Office for East Asia, Bangkok, and funded by the UK’s Department for International Development (DFID).