

**Message from Juan Somavia  
Director-General, International Labour Office  
to the  
Singapore Workplace Safety and Health Conference 2010  
"Embracing Challenges, Pushing WSH Frontiers"**

My warmest congratulations to Singapore for the leadership it is demonstrating in the field of occupational safety and health.

Singapore has been sharing its experience in improving OSH standards – from legislation, enforcement, training, and injury reporting systems to small business support and information dissemination in the ASEAN context and beyond.

The Singapore Workplace Safety and Health Conference 2010 "Embracing Challenges, Pushing WSH Frontiers" is yet another expression of its commitment to promoting the safety and health of workers.

This Conference is founded on respect for human life and the dignity of work. It offers a tremendous opportunity to give direction and leadership in expanding and reinforcing a safety culture both as a matter of the rights of workers and as a productive factor in this dynamic region.

Leaders and practitioners attending this Conference constitute an immense pool of knowledge. You will be able to reflect on complex and diverse OSH issues and to point the way towards practical and innovative approaches. Your gathering is timely. As the world strives to build and sustain recovery in the wake of financial and economic crisis, your action can serve to keep OSH on the international agenda and strengthen international commitment to act.

As you strive to push the frontiers of safe work forward, there will be formidable challenges. One of these is ensuring that all workers are able to enjoy safe work.

Advancing the threshold of worker health and safety cannot be separated from policies and strategies for sustainable growth and development. And this Conference makes that connection.

Sustainable development must be founded on the pursuit of decent work for all and safe work is one dimension of decent work. The Singapore Workplace Safety and Health Conference 2010 can be a milestone along the path to decent work for all.

I wish all participants an enjoyable and successful Conference!

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