

WORLD DAY FOR SAFETY AND HEALTH AT WORK 2012

“Promoting Safety and Health in a Green Economy, Searching for Solutions to Workers’ Health in the Informal Economy: A Dialogue in the Americas”

27 April 2012 – Room B



Introduction

The International Labor Office (ILO) declared April 28 World Day for Safety and Health at Work. Each year this date is observed in commemoration of the workers who suffered injuries, diseases or were fallen; and to celebrate those that were effectively prevented. At the same time, it aims to promoting prevention of occupational injuries and diseases. Since 2003 this celebration has taken place involving all stakeholders at global, regional and national levels through a multipartite approach and social dialogue. In some countries such as Argentina and Peru, it has been extended to be a whole week celebration.

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) joins once again in 2012 to improve and promote workers’ health and wellbeing in the Americas.

Background

Day by day more is spoken about the importance of creating new jobs to cover the needs of unemployed and informal working people around the world. Green Economy is envisioned as a powerful pathway to Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication (ILO/UNEP, 2011). Its increasing growth has the world and societies shifting to a greener and more sustainable economy. As it develops, it is essential that safety and health at work are integrated into green jobs policies. This implies integrating risk assessment and management measures in the life cycle analysis of all green jobs. A true green job must integrate safety and health into design, procurement, operations, maintenance, sourcing and recycling policies, certification systems and occupational safety and health (OSH) quality standards. This is especially relevant for sectors such as construction, waste recycling, solar energy production and biomass processing. However, “green” jobs and technologies used may protect the environment, but not necessarily be safe and healthy at all.

To raising awareness and promoting a preventive culture on OSH in the Green Economy, the ILO launched a campaign on the 2012 World Day for Safety and Health at Work, 28 April 2012. The World Health Organization (WHO) is supporting this initiative and jointly working to improve workers’ health in this sector.

In support to this initiative and taking into account the context of the Regional Workforce of the Americas, in which a vast majority of workers struggle daily to survive in the informal economy, PAHO unites to this campaign focusing to search safe, healthy and safe work green solutions for those workers in the informal economy.

For further information, you can consult ILO at: <http://www.ilo.org/safework/events/safeday/lang--en/index.htm>

Event

A Regional Webinar on Green Economy and Informal Work will be held on Friday, 27 April 2012 to celebrate the World Day on Safety and Health at Work.

Illuminate connections:

English <https://sas.illuminate.com/m.jnlp?password=M.B8BC17DB1871CE5E44188434465B5E&sid=1110>

Spanish: <https://sas.illuminate.com/m.jnlp?password=M.8825EF54D6AA535C57DF214A8CEF42&sid=1110>

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*“Promoting Safety and Health in a Green Economy,
Searching for Solutions to Workers’ Health in the Informal
Economy: A Dialogue in the Americas”*

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Participants:

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr. Leslie Nichels, NIOSH/CDC 2. Soc. Walter Varillas, Health and Safety Net for Latin America (RSST/LAC) 3. Dr. Pedro Mas Bermejo, PAHO/Jamaica | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Eng. Lelys Archila Escorcia, Agrarian Foundation University of Colombia 5. Ms. Ana Quan, PAHO/Dominican Republic 6. Dr. Luz Maritza Tennessee, former Senior Advisor on Workers’ Health, SDE/PAHO |
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Agenda:

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| 10:00 | <p>Welcome and Introduction</p> <p>Dr. Luiz Augusto Galvão, Manager, Sustainable Development and Environmental Health Area, SDE/PAHO</p> <p>Dr. Carlos Santos-Burgoa, Coordinator, Environmental and Occupational Risks (ER), SDE/PAHO</p> |
| 10:15 | <p>Workers’ Health in the Green Economy, Informal Work and Sustainable Development</p> <p>Dr. Julietta Rodríguez-Guzmán, Regional Advisor on Workers’ Health, SDE/PAHO</p> |
| 10:30 | <p>Understanding the Needs of Workers in the Informal Economy of North America</p> <p>Dr. Leslie Nichels, Senior Health Communications Fellow, NIOSH/CDC</p> |
| 10:50 | <p>Understanding the Needs of Workers in the Informal Economy of South America</p> <p>Dr. Walter Varillas, Moderator, Health and Safety Net for Latin America (RSST/LAC)</p> |
| 11:10 | <p>Understanding the Needs of Workers in the Informal Economy of the English Caribbean</p> <p>Dr. Pedro Más Bermejo, PAHO/Jamaica</p> |
| 11:30 | <p>Searching for Solutions to Informal Work in the Green Economy</p> <p>Eng. Lelys Archila Escorcia, Agrarian Foundation University of Colombia</p> |
| 11:50 | <p>Faces, Voices and Places: Approaching People’s Needs in the Dominican Republic</p> <p>Eng. Ana Quan, PAHO/Dominican Republic</p> |
| 12:10 | <p>Comments</p> <p>Dr. Luz Maritza Tennessee, former Senior Advisor on Workers’ Health, SDE/PAHO</p> |
| 12:25 | <p>Questions and Answers</p> |
| 13:00 | <p>Closure</p> |

Moderators:

- Dr. Julietta Rodríguez-Guzmán, Regional Advisor on Workers’ Health, SDE/PAHO
- Dr. Carlos Santos-Burgoa, Coordinator, Environmental and Occupational Risks (ER), SDE/PAHO