

2010 World Day for Safety and Health at Work: Panelists



MARIA NEIRA

Director, Public Health and the Environment Department, World Health Organization (WHO)

Dr Neira is the Director of the Department of Public Health and Environment at the World Health Organization (WHO). Previously, between September 2002 and August 2005, she was President of the Spanish Food Safety Agency and Vice Minister of Health and Consumer Affairs in Spain. Dr Neira was appointed in 1999 as Director of the Department of Control, Prevention and Eradication at WHO. Prior to that, Dr Neira had been working for WHO in Geneva since 1993, as Coordinator of the Global Task Force on Cholera Control.

Before joining WHO, Dr Neira worked as Public Health Adviser in the Ministry of Health in Mozambique from 1991 to 1993. Earlier, in Kigali,

Rwanda, she was a UN Public Health Advisor/Physician on assignment from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). From 1987 to 1989, Dr Neira was in Salvador and Honduras as Medical Coordinator for Médecins sans Frontières. Dr Neira started her professional career with three years in endocrinology and nutrition in the Necker Hospital and Hôpital Saint Louis in Paris from 1984 to 1987.

Among other distinctions, Dr Neira has been awarded the Médaille de l'Ordre national du Mérite by the Government of France.

ARMANDOTALAMANTES EDITOR IN CHIEF CNNMÉXICO.COM

He joined CNNMéxico.com after working for three years as the editor in chief of *CNNExpansión.com*, an economic information site created in 2007 by CNN and Grupo Editorial Expansión.

For six years, he served as the co-editor and journalist of the newspaper *Reforma*, where he was in charge of the coverage on macroeconomic information and multilateral and financial organisms.

As a journalist, he collaborated between 1994 and 2000 with newspapers and journals such as *El Financiero*, *Siglo 21* and *Público*, and with international news agencies like *Reuters* and *Agence France-Presse*.

During his 15 years of professional experience, he has interviewed important personalities like Nobel Prize in Economics, Joseph Stiglitz; President and CEO of General Electric, Jeff Immelt; Mexican businessman Carlos Slim Helú and former secretary of treasury, Robert Rubin.



He has covered special events such as the World Economic Forum in Davos, and International reunions in the UN, the Inter American Development Bank, the Group of Rio and the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC).

He was selected by the Balboa Program of Latin American Journalists in 2003 to work on an academic and work internship in Madrid, where he worked as a journalist and editor for the Spanish economic Journal *Cinco Días*.

Armando graduated from the Communications School at the University of the Atemajac Valley in Guadalajara. He received a seminary on Precise Journalism at the Autonomous University of Madrid/El Pais in Spain and he received a diplomat on economic and enterprises given by the Center of Economic Teaching and Research (CIDE).

ANTONINO GERMANO, Project Manager, Occupational Health and Safety Area of SESI Brazil



A native of Italy, Dr. Germano graduated as a Medical Doctor of the University of Messina, Italy, received his Master of Science degree in Health Management (2002) and in Occupational Medicine (1997) from the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. Also he received a Master of Science degree in Public Health from the University of Sao Paulo, in 1992. He is a Specialist in Health System Analysis and Epidemiology, focusing on health management in the Brazilian and international context, with special reference to the management of private health services for workers. Dr. Germano was a Consultant on Workers' Health at the Pan American Health Organization (2005), and currently, is a Project Manager of SESI – Industry Social Service, Regional Department of the State of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, where he is working in key projects for the development and implementation of healthier, safer work environments and work practices in the Brazilian industrial sectors.

ABEYTUNGA, Vice President and Director General of the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS), a departmental corporation of the Government of Canada.

Dr. Abeytunga, who has been with CCOHS since the inception of its operations in 1980, initiated and directs the development and implementation of CCOHS' wide spectrum of services providing instant access to current knowledge, training and educational programs, and tools to support the management of essential health and safety programs and activities in the workplace. A web based system facilitating the implementation of a comprehensive Healthy Workplace Program is one of the additions to the broad spectrum of CCOHS' services. These services rely heavily on the innovative application of new information technologies, and collaboration with leading institutions in Canada and throughout the world.

Dr. Abeytunga is an experienced strategic planner and senior executive with a proven track record in the conceptualization, development and effective implementation of many programs and projects of international repute.



Dr. Abeytunga has been an active member of the WHO Collaborating Centres' team responsible for the development and promotion of the WHO Healthy Workplace Framework and Model.