



**IMPLEMENTING OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY
AND HEALTH STANDARDS GLOBALLY**

SUMMARY REPORT

IALI/ILO DWCP-Workshop



IALI



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Workshop participants

- I- This workshop was dedicated to IALI's role in supporting the decent work agenda and participating in the implementation of the Decent Work Country Programmes (DWCPs) with the focus on labour inspection and OSH strategies.
- a. The first session was chaired by Ms. Michele Patterson, IALI President and it was entitled "IALI, ILO, Social Partners Statements and Norwegian Labour Inspection Project".
 - b. Ms. Patterson welcomed everybody and explained why labour inspection and occupational safety and health need to be more integrated in DWCPs. She went through the main items in IALI's "Action Plan for the Future". In particular she underlined the importance of "The Global Code of Integrity for Labour Inspection" which was adopted in 2008 at the General Assembly. It underpins signatory nations' commitment to ILO Convention 81, and it protects labour inspectors and the role of labour inspection. IALI is also working on the development of Principles of operation for Labour Inspection. As to the co-operation between IALI and ILO she explained the ongoing work on a new "Memorandum of Understanding" between the two organisations. Other examples are a project on Forced Labour and Human Trafficking, the Norwegian project on "Enhancing labour inspection effectiveness", development of tools for measuring the effectiveness of

labour inspection and plans for the provision of technical expertise.

- c. This was followed by a presentation from Ms. Maria-Luz Vega who replaced Mr. Giuseppe Casale, and she spoke about developing and implementing DWCP priorities and outcomes.

DWCP was established in 2004 and is a tool for the promotion of Decent Work at the country level. The programmes comprise four strategic objectives:

- Fundamental principles and rights at work
- Employment and income opportunities
- Social protection and social security
- Social dialogue and tripartism.

The country programmes are meant to establish frameworks to determine national priorities, to ensure commitment both from governments and from the social partners and to align ILO's activities with national needs.

Challenges for ILO will be to dedicate resources to country priorities, to support the expansion of labour inspection network and to monitor the inspection programmes in member States.

- d. This was followed by a presentation from Mr. Seiji Machida, from SafeWork, ILO, on DWCPs and national OSH strategies.

- e. Dr. Asherson from the IOE then explained how the employer organizations can influence the priorities and outcomes of DWCPs.

She said that OSH is a key component of decent work and all businesses are affected by OSH. Failures can be costly. Employers have responsibility for OSH compliance and need the authority to manage OSH. Employers should influence legal transposition to be implementable, practical and enforceable.

Dr. Asherson underlined that EOs can provide access to experts and sectors to make guidance relevant, using language of business; they can help authorities identify priorities and align them with other current initiatives

There will always new companies and changes she said, and constant changes provide opportunities for EOs to assist members. EOs can provide training courses on OSH laws and technical and practical issues, toolkits to help managers and also another important issue: help benchmarking companies' performances

She warned that authorities should not have too many initiatives thrown at business at the same time. Coordinate them with other initiatives.

She advised countries to look at other DWCPs and see what tools they have used, what has worked and what hasn't.

f. Mr. Amuko Omara, ITUC, talked about how the Trade Union Organisations can influence the priorities and outcomes of DWCP.

He underlined the necessity of the promotion of employment opportunities for all, the promotion of rights at work, extension of social protection for all and application of wider social dialogue.

He said that decent work deficits are evident in all four areas that comprise the Decent Work agenda. As

examples of such deficits he mentioned inter alia denial of trade unions rights, lack of employment opportunities for women and precarious employment

Mr. Omara underlined the possibilities for trade unions to influence outcomes of WDCPs. It will be necessary to extend network consultations, to use the social dialogue more efficiently and to work closer together with management in promoting decent work different activities.

- g. Carmen Bueno and Dr. Amin Al-Wreidat then shared a presentation where Carmen described the obstacles in implementing DWCPs and enhancing labour inspection in Europe and Central Asia as covered by the Norwegian project and Dr. Al-Wreidat explained the obstacles faced in the Middle East Region also for the countries covered by the Norwegian project.
- h. The following session continued with examples and experiences from the different regions and was chaired by Mr. Siong Hin Ho from the Ministry of Manpower in Singapore.
- i. The session began with a summary of DWCPs and Labour inspection and social dialogue presented by Ms. Maria-Luz Vega. This was followed by a description of the country programme in Vietnam given by a representative from the Ministry of Labour in Vietnam. Then Mr. Pedro Contador described the DWCP in Chile. Dr Manal Azzi then shared the challenges faced in Lebanon in terms of OSH implementation. This was followed by further country examples from Tunisia, Argentina, Russia and Zimbabwe.

- j. A round table discussion on DWCPs with a special focus on OSH and labour inspection followed and was moderated by Mr. Kevin Myers from the HSE. The participants discussed the latest issues concerning labour inspection and DWCPs. Mr Seiji Machida, Mr. Wolfgang von Richthofen, Dr. Janet Asherson and Ms Maria-Luz Vega all debated on these concerns.
- k. Mr. Myers thanked all the speakers in the workshop. He emphasized that they had given a very good description in different ways about examples of the scale of the challenge and examples of the way in which way those challenges are being addressed.
- He said that there is actually a very common set of principles that sometimes are over elaborate and over complicated. And one of the things that can be done working between IALI and ILO is to simplify those things but to simplify them with the sense of place to make sure that they are fit for the context of the place in which they are being carried forward.
- Mr. Myers said that we have got mutually complimentary responsibilities: IALI and ILO should convert the international conventions to help people to convert them into national legislation and policies and to make them grounded and rooted in practical measures to control and manage risk in the different parts of the world.
- He also suggested that if we are trying to improve or change what we are doing it is best to do that in collaboration with colleagues that face similar challenges. One should therefore try and get alliances in different parts of the world where people can share expertise and experience which is catalyzed and stimulated and assisted by the work of the IALI and ILO. DCWPs and the regional networks that the

ILO/IALI has set up are mutually complementary in terms of doing that.

One needs to be careful about raising expectations we cannot meet. There are differences in terms of means but there is a common agenda in terms of ends.

IALI has been working in collaboration with ILO for a number of years and it seems as if this collaboration is developing and enhancing, partly as result of lots of drivers.

He said that synergies are often used as a cliché but in a real sense of the word if we can maximize the use of our resources and act as a catalyst to do things there are opportunities to reinforce each other objectives in order to help people across the world.