

**DATABASE OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION CLAIMS FILED  
WITH THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM, 1997- 2000**  
*Dr. Dulce P. Estrella-Gust, Dr. Marissa L. San Jose*  
*Occupational Safety and Health Center*

## **Background**

Generally, the Philippine data on work-related injuries and illnesses are sourced from surveys and research of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE); this includes the Work Accident/Illness Report (WAIR) and Annual Medical Report (AMR) of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE). The Bureau of Labor Employment Statistics (BLES) of DOLE provides the Integrated Survey on Occupational Injuries and Illnesses data (BITS). In 2003, the joint Governing Board of the ECC and OSHC recognized the importance of analyzing the databases of claims approved by the GSIS and SSS for work-connected illnesses and injuries.

## **Objectives**

The present study provides an analysis of claims for work-related injuries and illnesses approved by the SSS for workers in the private sector from 1997-2000. The study is an integral part of medium-term efforts of the OSHC to establish, in cooperation with other stakeholders, a comprehensive OSH data base for policy formulation and program development purposes.

## **Methodology**

Out of a total of **45,146** claims the study only considered only **12,779** cases which had been approved for compensation by SSS during the period 1997-2000. In the absence of ICD-10 coding for 1997-2000 SSS records, information on diseases and illnesses were coded on the basis of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 10th Revision.

## **Results**

Taking 12,779 claims as the basis, 86.7% of claimants were male. A majority of claims were for injuries (92%) acquired while at work, while 8% were claimed for work-related illnesses.

While the mean age of all claimants was 39 years, the mean age of young workers below 24 years of age accounted for an insignificant share in claims for both illness and injury. The next age groups of 25-34 and 35-45 year olds accounted for a substantial 31.7% and 36% share of all approved claims. What stands out is a fairly high share of the young 25-34 age group in claims for injury. Older workers of 55-64 accounted for only 7.3% of all claims but their health claims recorded a significant 22.2% share of all claims. On the other hand the share of older workers in claims for injury (5.9%) was only somewhat higher than that of young workers of 24 and below.

A little more than half of the workers originated from the manufacturing sector (56%), followed, as distant second and third, by workers from the construction industry (14%) and agriculture (8%). Of the 1,070 claims for illness, 24% (or 257 cases) related to diseases of the genitourinary system, followed by circulatory system illnesses 21% (222) and infectious/parasitic diseases at 17% (178). Of the 11,709 compensated claims for injury, most frequently injured body parts most injured were the wrist and hand (1st), ankle and foot (2nd ), and head (3rd). Claims for injury were primarily originating from workers in manufacturing, construction, agriculture, other community services and transportation.

## **Conclusion and Recommendations**

The survey provided valuable information on injuries and illnesses in different sectors of industry and occupations. These data must of course be seen in relation of other databases generated by the social insurance system, and other sources on work-related injuries and illnesses like DOH, DOLE, professional associations and academe.

Generally, there is a need to improve occupational injury and disease surveillance and analysis by improving full compliance with established reporting systems and procedures. It is recommended that pro-active surveillance methods be explored and applied; compliance, by establishments, with established reporting procedures should be rigorously enforced and in case of failure, be adequately sanctioned.

## **DEFENSIVE DRIVING**

Safety Control Divisions  
*Occupational Safety and Health Center*

Traffic accidents account for the number one cause of death on the job in the United States. The Philippine situation may be similar with the US owing to the country's prevailing modes of transportation. Jeepney, bus and tricycle drivers as well as drivers of private companies and government agencies comprise a major portion of the services sector.

Based on the National Statistics Office (NSO) figure on causes of traffic accidents in the Philippines, about 80 percent of the causes are attributed to driver's error and unsafe driving behavior. Unsafe driving behavior includes overspeeding, bad overtaking, bad turning, drunk driving, and using cellular phones while driving among others.

An important strategy in preventing traffic accidents is to improve driving and road safety awareness of drivers as well as the pedestrians. This learning session discusses the basic principles and techniques that need to be followed by a driver. The key focus areas of the module are the behavior and skills required from a defensive driver.

## **WOMEN WORKERS IN SHIPBUILDING, A Case Study on Safety and Health**

Dr. Dulce P. Estrella-Gust, Engr. Jose Maria S. Batino, Engr. Concepcion Sto. Tomas,  
Dr. John Dale Hizon, Engr. Melba Marasigan, Ms. Jeane Mendoza,  
Ms. Charlene Parafina and Ms. Evelyn Tandayu  
Authors<sup>1</sup>

### **Background**

Shipyards are one of the most hazardous occupations, here and abroad, with accident and illness rates well exceeding those of other hazardous industries, such as general construction. In the Philippines, there are some 372 companies engaged in shipbuilding, ship repair and ship breaking. Traditionally, a preserve of males, more recently women have become engaged in several areas and activities of shipyard work. This paper focuses on the OSH of women workers in shipyard work, in particular in such activities as welding, bending and crane operations.

### **Objectives of the Study**

The study was designed to determine the safety and health status of women in shipyard work, and in particular study the demographic and occupational profile of the women workers, evaluate their level of exposure to OSH hazards and risks, and determine the company's risk control and management policies and programs.

### **Target group:**

In the company under review located in the Visayas, employing some 5000 workers, 120 women workers were included in the study, representing about 60 per cent of the female work force of 203 women. The women included in the study were involved in various operations such as bending, welding, grinding and cutting steel plates.

### **Methodology:**

The methodology includes Focus Group Discussion, Key Informant, and individual interviews using a structured questionnaire, laboratory tests, records reviews on injuries, illness and medical examinations, Job Hazard Analysis and WEM for dust, noise, metals, and gases.

### **Preliminary results:**

The main OSH concerns related to the exposure to safety hazards of women workers involved in welding and bending metals as well as in crane operations. In three cases the TLV levels of both total and respirable dust were exceeded. The ambient concentration and the workers' exposure to welding fumes at the areas monitored did not exceed their respective TLVs for copper and cadmium; zinc; for iron and for manganese.

<sup>1</sup> We wish to acknowledge the contribution of Mr. Delius M. Cueva, Safety Manager of Tsuneishi Heavy Industries (Cebu), Inc. and the OSHC Cebu staff: Dr. Easter Joy Prosia, Engr. Elena Diez, and Engr. Gines Timosa

An excessive noise exposure was recorded for the shot blasting area and the wire brushing section. At the time of measurement, the Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) Index exceeded the Screening Criteria for Heat Stress Exposure of 29.5°C for 100% work and light workload.

Various ergonomic concerns were observed and were related to improper positioning in lifting materials in welding works. Exposure to vibration was prevalent and, most likely, caused by prolonged grinding and cutting operations, as well as by prolonged use of cup brushes in wire brushing.

At the time of measurement, air (or capture) velocities of all four updraft-type exhaust hoods monitored did not meet the minimum control velocity of 0.5 meter per second\* (100 fpm), exhaust ventilation standard for hoods and process with airborne contaminants released at low velocity into moderately still air, such as for welding, plating, soldering, container filling and other similar processes.

### **Company OSH policy and follow-up**

A company-wide application of a written Safety and Health policy is being promoted through active dissemination among all employees including workers of subcontractors, for example through toolbox meetings and other safety and health consciousness campaigns.

#### *Safety and Health Committee*

The company's Safety and Health Committee (SHC) plays a central role in all OSH matters and coordinates, as appropriate, with the safety officers of the subcontractors.

#### *Safety Program*

A comprehensive package of OSH programs and activities for all workers is under implementation, including special training for women workers on rigging and crane operations. Some of them had originally applied as welders, but had subsequently opted for work as crane operators, which they preferred as being less hazardous than welding or heating works. Crane inspection is being conducted by the maintenance group once a week.

### **Expected Outcome and Recommendations**

Once completed, the study will focus, not only on OSH policy and programs for women, but cover OSH concerns in shipbuilding in general. There will be specific technical recommendations on the control of OSH hazards and risks, for example in relation to welding in confined spaces, as well as to fire, asphyxiation and toxic exposures. A DOLE Department Circular on Shipbuilding, ship breaking and ship repair is currently under preparation.

## **Commercially Available Personal Protective Equipment: Protection or Pretension?**

**Engr. Jose Maria S. Batino**

Safety Control Division  
*Occupational Safety and Health Center*

The paper tackles the results of the study conducted by the Occupational Safety and Health Center (OSHC) on the protective qualities of commercially available Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). The PPE samples used for the study were purchased from malls, hardware stores and major PPE manufacturers and distributors in Metro Manila, Bulacan and Cebu. The samples were subjected to the standard testing procedures performed by the OSHC as part of the Center's technical services, using (1) ANSI Z41: 1999 (safety shoes), (2) ANSI Z891:1986 (safety helmet), (3) ANSI Z87:1: 1989 (safety spectacles) and (4) BS 1397:1979 (safety harness and safety belt), which are provided for in the Occupational Safety and Health Standards. However, the number of specimens for each testing procedure was limited to one (1), and not the required three (3) specimens due to budget constraint. The study revealed that most commercially available PPE were not able to comply with the standards, and users maybe able to buy compliant PPE directly from the distributors/ suppliers.

The study recommended that employers/ organizations buying PPE in bulk should have samples of their PPE tested with the OSHC. As for the OSHC, it should be able to identify all manufacturers and sources of these PPE, conduct regular tests of their products and if needed, recommend measures to manufacturers on improving the protective qualities of their products.

*(Poster Presentation)*

### **OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH (OSH) FOR WOMEN WORKERS IN SMALL ENTERPRISES AND INFORMAL ECONOMY**

The GREAT WOMEN Project

***Dr. Dulce P. Estrella-Gust, Dr. Ma. Teresita S. Cucueco***

*Occupational Safety and Health Center (OSHC)*

#### **Background**

The GREAT Women Project is a collaborative activity between the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW) the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and various GOs, NGOs, LGUs, and private organizations. The Occupational Safety and Health Center (OSHC) has been assisting informal sector workers in the Metro Naga area in applying good OSH practices in their livelihood activities.

#### **Objectives**

The general objective of the OSH program is to raise awareness on OSH among working women in the informal sector and to develop their skills for applying good OSH practices. The methods for awareness raising and capability building include research, training, and networking. This presentation reports on the case studies in the Metro Naga area.

## **Methodology**

The OSH survey was conducted in the City of Naga and in the municipalities of Gainza, Milaor, Bula, and San Fernando. More specifically, case studies of hazardous livelihood projects were designed to provide the basis for the OSH training needs assessment on OSH and practical responses; the case studies were related to pili processing, bamboo craft manufacturing including bag and picture frame making, sea grass or agas processing, slippers and bags production from sea grass, and crab paste processing. Safety and health audits were complemented by questionnaire-guided interviews of the workers as well as by focus group discussions with local government officials.

## **Results**

In the study, female workers comprised 79% of the 103 respondents. More than 75% of the respondents were 31 years and older with age-ranges between below 18 years to above 61 years. Almost 75% of the respondents had some elementary until high school education. Frequently used tools included knives, cutters and scissors for pili and sea grass processing; handsaw and "bolo" for bamboo craft manufacturing; and ladles and hand-made scooping utensils for crabpaste and pili processing. Almost all workers using sharp tools were aware of the risk in handling their tools. Frequent physical symptoms were joint pains, cough and colds and headaches. Many workers and LGU officials acknowledged the need for safety and health training for workers in the informal sector.

## **Conclusion and Recommendations**

For informal sector workers the living and working areas are usually one and the same. There is continuous exposure to occupational hazards, specifically related to tools, chemicals and other materials. A majority of the respondents stressed the need for a common service facility, close to their homes, for practicing their livelihood activities. They recognized the importance of adopting good OSH practices in their daily work based on greater OSH awareness as well as on tools, materials, facilities and work processes adapted to the needs and means of the informal sector. External support would go a long way in reducing the number of potentially costly accidents and illnesses while improving the quality of products and their sales, thereby raising general working and living conditions in the informal sector.

## **WORK ENVIRONMENT MEASUREMENT: THE PHILIPPINE SCENARIO**

**Charlene S. Parafina**

Environment Control Division  
*Occupational Safety and Health Center*

### **Background**

As of 2006, there are about 783,065 establishments present in the Philippines, ranging from an employment size of 1-4 to as high as 2000 employees and above (BLES, 2008). To ensure the safety and health of their workers and to comply with the minimum requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health Standards (OSHS), establishments need to monitor the safety and health hazards in the workplace through the conduct of Work Environment Measurement (WEM). The Occupational Safety and Health Center (OSHC) has been the sole government entity offering Work Environment Measurement (WEM) services since its inception in 1988.

### **Objectives**

This research study has been designed to determine if the motivation of the OSHC clientele in availing of WEM services is merely to comply with the provisions of the Occupational Safety & Health Standards (OSHS), or for workers protection through workplace improvement. This begs a further question whether companies are implementing necessary changes and improvements needed after receipt of the WEM results.

### **Methodology**

Included in the study were companies which had received WEM services for three to four consecutive years between 2003 and 2007. The study focused in particular on the frequency and nature of requests, parameters monitored, and on the number of OSHC recommendations actually implemented by the companies.

### **Results**

The increase in the number of requests reflected an increased awareness on WEM by stakeholders; the results of the study also showed that WEM was an essential tool for initiating improvement in many workplaces. However, a number of establishments had failed to make significant improvements as a follow up to WEM recommendations.

### **Conclusion**

Annual conduct of WEM may only be opportune where there is a commitment, on the part of the company receiving WEM services, to implement improvements in line with WEM recommendations. OSHC will need partners capable of providing WEM services to its clients. Regarding accreditation of potential WEM service providers is also critical to ensure their competency and capability, according to criteria and qualifications set by OSHC and Bureau of Working Conditions (BWC). This study also revealed the need to review the Rule 1077 of the OSHS concerning annual WEM monitoring.

**Preventing Chemical Incidents**  
**Engr. Nelia G Granadillos**  
Environment Control Division  
*Occupational Safety and Health Center*

**Background**

The many incidents in recent years, caused by toxic chemicals underscore the urgency of instituting essential preventive strategies that will protect workers and the population at large against the adverse impacts of harmful chemicals.

**Objective**

The paper will discuss preventive strategies, based on cases of past chemical emergencies in the Philippines and indentify hazardous chemicals in use, or accidentally released into the atmosphere.

**Methodology**

The paper covers a review of cases related to the mercury spills and chemical accidents in schools, to chlorine and ethanol spills in tanks, to chemical leaks and pollution; and to endosulfan and pesticides transported by a ferry that capsized in Romblon. Emergency preparedness and response procedures are being discussed.

**Results and Recommendation**

Sound management of chemicals throughout their life-cycles will lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment. There is an urgent need to review and up-grade existing policies and regulations on chemical management, emergency responses, emergency personnel or authorities, health and safety measures, air monitoring and incident command systems.

**DOLE and Industrial Peace and Productivity Councils,  
Partners in Mainstreaming Occupational Safety and Health**

– Case Study of DOLE Bataan  
**Engr. Eduardo E. Dela Cruz**

Provincial Director  
DOLE Bataan Provincial Office

Given today's competitive global market, DOLE firmly advocates for occupational safety and health (OSH) practices to be integral parts of the business process. Current business scenario demands enterprises to continuously strive toward the triple bottom line concept of economic, environmental and social reporting as keys to sustainable growth. Organizations are being driven to empower their managers with the tools that will enhance productivity and reduce cost through occupational safety and health program setting and implementation.

In the Province of Bataan, DOLE has been continually addressing OSH issues and concerns by going beyond the normal compliance procedures and requirements. DOLE Bataan recognizes primarily the need to establish and strengthen the organizational footholds to anchor the realization of safe and healthy workers and workplaces. The revival of the Bataan Economic Zone (BEZ) Industrial Peace Council and Area Productivity Council, which became DOLE's partner, opened direct communication with key stakeholders in the province.

DOLE Bataan and the local government units in the province work hand in hand towards mainstreaming sustainable OSH advocacy campaigns anchored on interventions from a social vantage point. This has led to organized resolution of labor-management issues and strengthened facility support interventions toward enterprises' productivity and global competitiveness.

Pursuing this pro-active OSH practice aims to contribute to the sustainable growth and development of the organization by addressing critical areas like workers protection and support benefits. OSH practices empower management to make vital decisions leading to key advantages like reduced work related accidents, reduced absenteeism, reduced work stoppage, increase in productivity, increased profits and most of all exemplifying the intrinsic dignity in jobs.

The DOLE Bataan initiatives on OSH implementation and compliance take full circle in covering all aspects and sectors in the community that have been missed before. Anchoring on a social vantage point gives everyone a shared responsibility and a chance to achieve healthy, safe and secure workplaces.

**WORKPLACE INTERVENTIONS ON HIV AND AIDS**  
**2007-2008**  
**Dr. Dulce P. Estrella-Gust, Dr. Maria Pureza A. Fontelera**  
*Occupational Safety and Health Center*

**BACKGROUND**

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infection and Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) may pose a problem in the country because of the following: the relatively high prevalence of sexually transmitted infections (STI) among those at risk/ those involved in commercial sex, there is a low condom use among Filipinos, a relatively young sexually active population, there is casual sex prevalent among the youth, there are still misconceptions on STI, HIV and AIDS. The general population and the 35 million Filipinos of the labor force are vulnerable. A public health concern as well as having socio-developmental issues, this may threaten occupational safety and health of workers, put pressure on the health and social security systems, create unnecessary stigma and discrimination and gender inequalities in the workplace. Recognizing this problem and in line with the Medium Term Philippine Development Plan and the Millennium Development Goals, the DOLE-OSHC initiated STI, HIV and AIDS prevention responses with the development of the DOLE National Workplace Policy, the Republic Act 8504 with specific provisions for the workplace. The OSHC coordinates the DOLE inter-agency committee on STI, HIV and AIDS and the labor inspectorate through the DOLE regional offices in enforcing and monitoring compliance to RA 8504, as well as providing technical support to companies. In 1998, the OSHC surveyed companies to document workplace programs, the response was initially low.

**OBJECTIVES**

To document initiatives of Philippine companies in the implementation of HIV and AIDS workplace programs.

**METHODOLOGY**

In 2007 and 2008 to update on HIV and AIDS responses, companies attending OSHC training programs were asked through a structured questionnaire on their implementation of HIV and AIDS workplace initiatives based on RA 8504 and the DOLE National Workplace Policy. Participation to the survey was voluntary.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Of 448 companies surveyed in 2007 to 2008, 60% reported of having HIV and AIDS prevention policy and program. Components of their policies and programs include training, education and information (40%), advocacy (26%), and non-discriminatory practices (12%). Their prevention program is integrated into other programs such as reproductive health and family planning programs (31%), and maternal and child health program (19%). Preventive activities include training of safety and health personnel (35%), information dissemination (31%), counseling (14%), condom promotion and provision (11%) and STI diagnosis and treatment (9%). Most companies that reported having STI, HIV and AIDS prevention programs are located in the major economic hubs in the country (NCR, Regions 4A, 6, 7, 9 and 10). For those companies with no policies and programs, they cited the following reasons: HIV and AIDS is not a priority nor relevant in their companies, they do not have a budget to implement the program and lack of awareness and manpower to do the program. For companies with policies and programs, they reported some limitations such as lack of management and workers' support to run the program, focal persons have other things to do and STI, HIV and AIDS remain a topic not well accepted by both management and workers.

Addressing HIV and AIDS as part of the occupational safety and health needs the joint efforts of workers and management. Policies and programs should be put in place for the ultimate goal of creating a safe and humane workplace.

### **Active Surveillance of Work-Related Illnesses** *Occupational Safety and Health Center*

#### **Background:**

Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) surveillance generates information and data necessary for the formulation and implementation of policies and programs on the prevention of work-related injuries and illnesses. OSH statistical data originate from various sources such as the Work Accidents and Injuries Survey and the Annual Medical Reports (AMR) of the Bureau of Working Conditions (BWC), the Occupational Injuries and Illness Survey of the Bureau of Labor Employment Statistics (BLES). The Occupational Safety and Health Center (OSHC) carries out analyses on work-related diseases and injuries based on claims of private sector employees approved for compensation by the Social Security System (SSS).

#### **Objective:**

This survey was aimed at: developing a database on the prevalence of work-related diseases and injuries reported for 2007 by private sector establishments; encouraging the development of establishment-based systems of continuous reporting on work-related illnesses and injuries; and facilitating the further development of an national active OSH surveillance system on work-related diseases.

**Methodology:**

Covering the period from January 1 to December 31, 2007 the questionnaire-based study has served for collecting and analyzing information received from company physicians. The self-administered questionnaire was designed to generate data on the profile of respondent establishments, and on the diseases and injuries recorded by them during the period under review.

**Results:**

There were 42 establishments that responded to the survey, with a majority of the respondents from the manufacturing sector, 22 companies (52%), followed by the electricity, gas and water sectors (15%) and the service sector (12%). Work-related musculoskeletal disorders (WMSDs) were the most frequent cause of workers health complaints. Low back pain was the leading reason of musculoskeletal pains. Lung diseases were reported for 20% (45 of 221) of the establishments, with a high frequency of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and work-related asthma. 35 cases of skin disorders were the 3<sup>d</sup> most frequent type of reported disease. Other frequently diagnosed illnesses were: cardiovascular diseases, eye diseases and injuries and kidney disorders.

**Conclusion and Recommendations:**

Active OSH surveillance can be a very useful complementary tool, to generate necessary information on occupational diseases, otherwise not available. The present study is a step in the right direction by documenting the illnesses, and their underlying causes, which company physicians frequently encounter. The OSHC should step up active OSH surveillance by strengthening effective and sustainable mechanisms. This would include the issuance of appropriate Guidelines for OSH practitioners on the reporting of work-related illnesses to the OSHC.

## **Implementing GAP for safety and health**

***Prof. Calixto Protacio, PhD***

UPLB Prof. of Horticulture, Chair, IFARM

Using the cultivation and enhancement of mango production as a take-off, relates the practice of GAP (Good Agricultural Practices) as regards safe and effective farming methods to produce likewise safe and nutritious food for consumer use. Because of mango's export capabilities, the added dimension of internationally acceptable levels of pesticides and other agricultural enhancements is discussed.

Because GAP principles should be refined and adjusted towards geographic and cultural specifics, the need to understand the research as it applies to other crops (such as in vegetables in Baguio and its environs) will also be explained in the presentation. As currently observed, abuse of dosage (too much agricultural inputs) and wrong handling may be inimical to both handler and the consuming public – hence the need to understand “safe and proper use”.

### **S.A.F.E. – an advocacy for communicating science-based agriculture towards food security and safety**

By IFARM (Initiative for Farm Advocacy and Resource Management, Inc.)

***Prof. Calixto Protacio, PhD***

UPLB Prof. of Horticulture, Chair, IFARM

Proceeding from the thesis that agriculture or farming is an economic activity with profound social and economic impact on the production of food and other products, this presentation of S.A.F.E. (Science-based Agriculture for Farm Enhancement – and advocacy) discusses the need to communicate science-based agriculture to stakeholders, both of handlers (farmworkers and others) and the consuming public, to ensure safety and health to both while sustaining optimal production and gainful livelihood. The presentation focuses on the need to communicate science so as to socially mobilize stakeholders towards safety and health in the farm areas as well as in the markets and advocate their practice.

### **Mr. Alex Montes**

Business Segment Manager

*MOOG*

A key challenge in aircraft component design is to balance safety (i.e., strength of material, durability, redundancy, etc.) vs. cost (i.e., weight, size, etc.). At Moog, all Flight Control System Component Designs are subjected to very rigid set of tests on the ground that simulate worst case conditions when the Aircraft is actually flying (take-off, landing, cruising) and when it is sitting on the ground exposed to the elements (e.g. maintenance and pre-flight check). This presentation will describe some of the basic requirements for qualifying a flight control component as "certified for flight" which contributes to a very high margin of flight safety for Commercial airplanes.

**Learning Session on Globally Harmonized System (GHS)  
Engr. Melba F. Marasigan**

Environment Control Division  
*Occupational Safety and Health Center*

GHS is an international standard for chemical classification and hazard communication. It is a basis for establishing comprehensive national chemical safety program. Adopting GHS will enhance protection of humans and environment, will facilitate international trade of chemicals and will assist countries and international organizations to ensure the sound management of chemicals. In the Philippines, the National GHS Implementation Committee is headed by the Board of Investments. Agriculture Sector is headed by Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority, Industrial Workplace by the Occupational Safety and Health Center, Transport Sector by the Department of Transportation and Communication, and Consumer Products Sector by the Bureau of Product Standards. There are challenges in the national implementation includes lack of resources, additional cost for chemical industries, limited information dissemination strategies and not standardized training modules.

**Learning Session: Confined Space  
Engr. Lauro C. Canceran**

Environment Control Division  
*Occupational Safety and Health Center*

Confined spaces pose such risks as suffocation or death to workers entering and working in such spaces. Identification of hazards and preventive measures are necessary to keep workers out of harms way. Preventive action includes prior testing and evaluation as well as a monitoring of hazards when work is in progress.

The Learning session covers appropriate procedures, measures and controls that ensure the safety of workers in confined spaces.