

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH IN BANGLADESH

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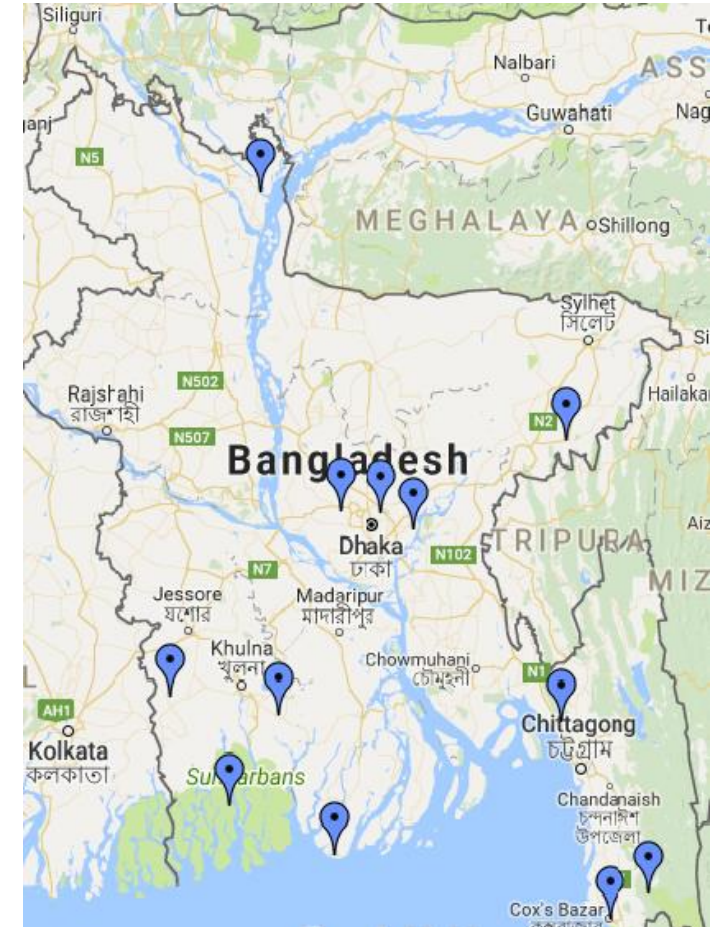
ELECTRICITY GENERATION COMPANY OF BANGLADESH LTD.

OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

- Country Population and labour Force.
- Data of occupational accidents.
- Major regulations covering the prevention of occupational accidents and disease.
- Institutional framework in charge of Occupational Safety and health
- National programmes and successful experiences in the last years.
- Challenges and planned activities for improvement.

POPULATION AND WORKFORCE

- **Country:** The Peoples Republic of Bangladesh
- **Acreage:** 147,570 km²
- **Capital:** Dhaka
- **Population:** 162.9 million people (by 2016)
- **Per capita income:** US\$ 1087.9
- **Workforce:** 106.3 million people(working age 15Yrs +)
- **Labourforce:** 72.06 million people (44.0%)
- **Labour structure by economic industries:**
 - + Services: 34.2%
 - + Industry: 20.8%
 - + Agriculture: 45%



OCCUPATIONAL ACCIDENTS IN INDUSTRIES

- In 2016: Total: 1402 (Killed – 888, Injured: 1093)
- In 2015: Total: 745
- In 2014: Total: 1288
- In 2013: Total: 7650 (including massive accident at Rana Plaza-Garments Factory)

Workplace deaths due to accidents (2016):

- **Transport worker : 249**
- **Construction : 85**
- **Fishing : 52**
- **Agriculture : 46**
- **Foil & Packaging : 39**
- **Day Labourer : 38**
- **Migrant Worker : 28**
- **Workshop Worker : 11**
- **Electric Worker : 10**
- **Rice Mill : 10**
- **RMG : 09**
- **Domestic Worker : 09**
- **Tire Factor: 08**
- **Ship Breaking : 08**
- **Others : 97**

Major regulations covering the prevention of occupational accidents and disease

The National Occupational Safety and Health Policy include a number of provisions/obligations to **prevent accident** at workplace. These are:

- Necessary measures to ensure workplace safety and health protection in light of international Conventions/Declarations/Recommendations/Instruments (Article 3.a.1).
- Implement national laws and regulations in relation with workplace safety and occupational health (Article 3.a.2).
- Setting up national standards on OSH (Article 3.a.14)
- Review and updating of all laws relating to OSH (Article 3.a.15, Art. 4.a.20)
- Development and implementation of national policies and legal framework (Art. 4.a.2)
- Developing Strategy and Action plan to ensure proper implementation of national laws and regulations (Art. 4.a.3).
- Inclusion of OSH issues in the policies and programs of all related Ministries and agencies (Art. 4.a.13).
- Establish labour courts in the industrial zone as the workers and trade unions can have easy access to the courts for implementing the mandatory provisions of OSH (Art. 4.a.15).
- Impose mandatory terms and conditions upon the Construction agencies to follow the OSH polices during govt. run construction works (Art. 4.a.22).
- Providing financial support to the establishments that maintain and practice the rules and regulations of OSH (Art. 4.a.24).
- To ensure maximum safety standards during factory construction and implement all standards and regulations on internal safety environment (Art. 4.d.1)

Major regulations covering the prevention of occupational accidents and disease

The National OSH Policy has made some mandatory obligation regarding **disease prevention** and safeguard which include to

- a) identify the risk of health and safety [clause .a.3],
- b) give orientation to the persons engaged with formal and informal workplace on the risk of possible accident, health risk and safety issues (Clause 3.a.4), and
- c) make specialist who can identify the occupational diseases and to ensure health service in the factory and establishment [Clause 3.a.10]

Institutional framework in charge of Occupational Safety and health

OSH Institutions and Collaborative Mechanisms:

a) Labor Administration and Departments with OSH Functions

- Department of Labour
- Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments
- Labour Courts
- Department of Disaster Management
- Department of Public Health Engineering
- Fire Service and Civil Defense
- Government Committees
- National Tripartite Committee for fire and Building safety in RMG Sector
- Compliance Forum

Institutional framework in charge of Occupational Safety and health

b) International Initiatives on OSH

- International Labour Organization
- Alliance for Bangladesh Worker Safety
- Accord on Fire and Building Safety in Bangladesh
- Solidarity Center

c) Civil Society and Trade Union Initiatives

- Sramik Nirapotta Forum
- Chatal Sohailota Committee
- Ship Breaking Workers' Trade Union Forum
- Domestic Workers' Rights Network

National programmes and successful experiences

“Dhaka Summit on Skills, Employability and Decent Work 2016” held on 11-13 December, 2016 organized by Ministry of Labor and Employment (MoLE) of Bangladesh.

Agenda:

- Importance of the skills development in the context of Bangladesh
- To take steps to ensure labour rights alongside creating more job opportunities.
- To take steps to improve workplace environment, increase the welfare of workers, their occupational health and safety, and employ more women.

National programmes and successful experiences

Dhaka Summit on Skills, Employability and Decent Work 2016



National Occupational Safety and Health day 28 April every year



Planned activities for improvement of OSH

- Ensuring RMG factories are safe
- Strengthening the labour inspectorate
- Strengthening the fire service
- Enhancing occupational health and safety
- Supporting rehabilitation & Compensation for accidental survivors
- Establishment of an Employment Injury Social Protection Scheme
- Enhancing workers' rights
- Coordination and collaboration with ILO.

Challenges for improvement of OSH

- The Bangladesh Ready-Made Garment(RMG) industry has grown to become the second largest in the world.
- The RMG sector has become a key driver of the Bangladesh economy and the nation's development.
- RMG exports totalled US\$24.5 billion (2013-14) accounting for over 80% of the nation's export earnings and employing around 4 million workers, an estimated 55-60% of whom are women.

To maintain OSH in RMG factories are main challenges of Bangladesh

You are welcome to visit beautiful Bangladesh

Thanks to ITC and all participants