

Initiation of Occupational Health Support for Developing Countries

KOSHA Wraps Up Successful WHO Occupational Health Training Program



- The Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency(KOSHA, President Ahn Jong Ju) has completed a training program for improving occupational health of developing countries in Asia.

› This was the first such session to be run after a three-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The program ran from July 25 through 29 and was attended by occupational health officials from six countries: Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Mongolia, and Laos.

- KOSHA have been carrying out various activities in an effort to promote occupational health in Asia since 2008, when the Agency was designated as a WHO Collaborating Center for occupational health.

WHO Collaborating Center (CC)

- WHO collaborating centers are institutions designated by the WHO Director-General to work on areas such as occupational health, nursing, epidemic prevention, mental health, chronic diseases and health technologies in support of WHO's programs and to build an international cooperation network.
- WHO has 193 member states, and currently over 800 WHO CCs are operating in more than 80 member states. In Korea, KOSHA and the Catholic University of Korea has been designated as WHO CCs.

- The training program theme and participants were selected by WHO's Western Pacific Regional Office(WPRO), while KOSHA developed and ran the course.

› KOSHA arranged and ran the main course under the themes of "asbestos management methods and airborne asbestos analysis," "regulations related to work environment assessment," and "practical organic & metal analysis."

› The trainees learned about Korea's experience in improving occupational health and know-how from the training and hoped to take the course regularly in the future.

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- KOSHA Vice President Song Byung Choon said: “We will continue our effort to improve Asia’s occupational health as people-to-people exchanges are becoming more active between countries, while the improvement of Asian countries’ occupational health also helps to prevent industrial accidents in Korea.”

