

Short review of IOHSAD activities for the year 2011-2013

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The Institute for Occupational Health and Safety Development ([www.IOHSAD.org](http://www.IOHSAD.org)) has started to increase capacity to address disasters by starting a Community-based Disaster Preparedness Program for vulnerable communities. Starting from the last quarter of 2011, IOHSAD develop several training modules, along with training workers and community members, establishing four Community-based Disaster Preparedness Committee (CDPC) in four Barangays in Quezon City, Philippines.

During the monsoon rains in 2012 which brought flooding to various parts of the Philippines, the four CDPC's were active in assisting their affected communities. The Community-based Disaster Preparedness Program is on-going initiative of IOHSAD and Mock Evacuation Exercises are currently in the pipeline for 2013.

Last March 2012, during the celebration of Womens Month, IOHSAD conducted a forum discussing Occupational Health and Safety Issues in the service sector. On March 2, 2013, workers from the Business Process Outsource (BPO) sector and the Banking and Finance Sector attended the forum "Women and Well-being" forum. Participants raised various issues, with special interest on work-related diseases like occupational cancer due to shift work and cardio-vascular ailments.

Workers Memorial Day 2012 was commemorated by IOHSAD by launching a new documentary on victims of work-related accidents. The film "Piyon" (peon) tackled the lives of families who lost their love ones from the tragedy at the ETON Residences and the Keppel Shipyard. A Critics Night was organized to raise awareness among film makers on the struggle of workers for health and safety. This was followed by a public screening on April 28, 2012 of the documentary, which had two screenings attended by around 300 individuals. There was media coverage for the said activity, which included the release of the OHS Statistics 2011.

For Workers Memorial Day 2013, IOHSAD has launched a photo contest depicting the working conditions of workers in the Philippines. Entitled "Litrato Obrero" (images of workers), the contest aims to crowdsource photos of working conditions in various workplaces and provide the general public powerful images to underscore the issue of OHS. This is first part of the project "Workingcast" where IOHSAD will be training workers to become citizen journalists, providing them skills in photography, news writing and social media. IOHSAD also released its OHS Statistics 2012 which gathered media attention and was able to raise awareness on OHS.

IOHSAD is currently working with another labor NGO, Ecumenical Institute for Labor Education and Research, to develop a minimum labor standards for the BPO workers, providing OHS perspective for the said standards. Since the initiative started last 2012, five round-table discussions with BPO workers have been conducted to help in the creation of the document.

IOHSAD regularly releases statements to the media to provide alternative and independent analysis on health and safety issues. Aside from the public information campaign, IOHSAD is currently developing legislative measures, together with other stakeholders, to improve labor laws relevant to OHS.

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