

12th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion-
Safety 2016- From Research to Implementation
18-21 September 2016, Tampere, Finland,

Thematic Conference: From Occupational Safety and Health Strategies to Practice **CONCLUSIONS**

1. **International Organisations**, ILO, WHO, ICOH and the EU have, in their new occupational safety and health (OSH) and occupational health (OH) strategies, a very parallel understanding of global situation, main challenges and needs.
2. **Much global, regional and national level data** on occupational accident and disease situation is available which demonstrates well the need for further actions for occupational safety and health, not only in the developing countries but also in the advanced economies, like the EU and emerging economies, BRIC Countries, such as China.
3. **Important new initiatives** at political level have been taken:
 - New political initiatives, like G20, G7, SDGs by UN
 - ILO ambitious Vision Zero, supported by the G7 Fund
 - Whole supply chain approach in OSH
 - WHO Strategic approach to SDGs and GPA: Workers' Health and WHO Euro Health 2020
 - EU strategy for OSH and emphasis to Work Ability (of ageing workers).

4. Opening a ***strategic window to future forecasting of work life by the EU OSHA*** as a professional research activity is a new and promising move. It included:
 - Analysing future trends of Work Life in general
 - Forecasting technology developments

5. Prevention, control and improvement of conditions of work in modern work life need more ***holistic approach; health in all policies, intersectoral collaboration and multidisciplinary approaches***. An important change is also the move in OSH-OH strategies to longer-term (life-course approach), including aspects of individual and institutional and enterprise sustainability and resilience and life-long learning and work ability of working people. The reports presented in the conference show, that International Organisations and several countries are moving to that direction.

6. Pre-requisite for evidence-based policies and practices, reliable analyses, estimates, better diagnosis and prevention and control are **dependent on objective knowledge of realistic safety and health conditions at work, on their outcomes and exposure profiles**. Surveying and analysing workplace exposures, work loads, which are behind the causation of the adverse health and safety outcomes, and worker's health surveillance provide objective, measured data basis for such evidence. Unfortunately, for example, the occupational hygiene measurements and ergonomic analyses are declining in numbers and are replaced by "soft questionnaire methods". Generation of Job Exposure Matrices, JEMs, providing essential information for occupation-specific risk profiles, start to be problematic in lack of new data. There are also remarkable gaps in recognition and diagnosis of occupational and work-related diseases (WRDs).

7. Under-reporting is due to gaps in recognition, notification and registration of adverse safety and health outcomes but also due to ***gaps in recognition and reporting of fatal and non-fatal accidents and competent and covering diagnosis of occupational and work-related diseases***. The attribution of WRDs still needs development.

Comparative analyses of data sources and methods used for analysis were found useful in getting more realistic pictures. Due to substantial under-reporting, ***the bias is likely not going to be over-estimation of risks but severe under-estimation***.

Some other sectors participating in the Safety 2016 Conference have shown better ability in provision of precise data which are based on decades-long monitoring and reporting. Should OSH-OH sector learn from strategies and methods of public health and environmental health, which are able to provide much better data?

8. Economic appraisal is found more and more important, not only for legitimation of occupational safety and health, but also for targeting preventive actions effectively. Methodologies vary, but data from different countries show the order of magnitude of calculated health impact (DALYs) and related economic loss are not varying as much as could be expected. Indirect costs are higher and more difficult to measure than the direct ones. It was presented that in order to make better appraisal, harmonization of methods and more reliable reporting and data bases are needed. New and multiple channels for data collection should be searched for. Not only costs, but also savings and profits from successful prevention should be calculated in the economic appraisal.

9. Besides economic aspects, we should also respect human dimension and ethics in working primarily for prevention of injuries, ill-health and relieving suffering of victims and families: the original mission of occupational safety and health. Results of economic analysis should be used in the spirit of Kofi Annan's statement: ..***"we must always remember that human beings are not servants of economies. Rather, economic development and production must serve men and women. Occupational safety and health is a crucial means towards that end"***.

10. ***Huge implementation gap in global occupational safety and health*** was discussed. ***The theme of this very Conference is "From Research to Implementation"***.

The gap is particularly true in developing economies, but also in the advanced economies: small scale enterprises and informal sector workers and self-employed comprising 80%, i.e. 2.6 billion of the workers of the world. In the Conference we have learned that now much political support (G7,G20, EU) is available. High numbers of strategies and programs and capabilities are available.

It is the time for action and implementation!

For all of us in the era of globalization....

Es ist nicht genug zu wissen; Man muss auch anwenden.

Es ist nicht genug zu wollen; Man muss auch tun.

Johan Ludvig von Goethe

Knowing is not enough; we have to apply.

Willing is not enough; we must also do.

