

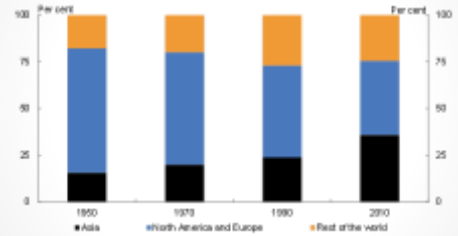
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY IN ASIA



Hazards Campaign
Conference July 29-31, 2016

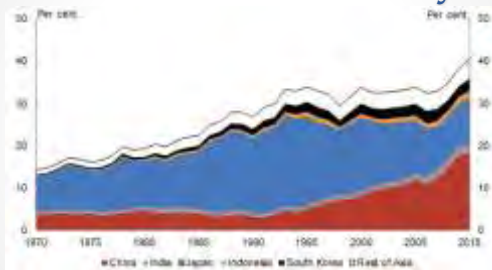


Is the 21st Century - Asian Century?



Growing share of Asia in World Output

Asia as Global factory



Asia's Share in Manufacturing

Asia Working Poor

- In 2009 Asia accounted for about 57% of the global employment and in contrast accounted for nearly 71% of the total workers in the vulnerable sector.
- Asia has largest number of working poor, earning less than US\$ 2 a day.
- Almost 71% of the global working poor live and work here.
- South Asia has almost half a billion people living under US\$ 2 a day amounting to almost 78% of the total workers in Asia.



OSH in Asia - Ground Realities

- What we need - Protective Laws+ Good Enforcement + Strong Union Participation + OSH commitment = Safe workplaces
- In reality – laws either do not exist or enforcement is not there or dismantled and replaced by self regulation



OSH in Asia - Ground Realities

- Workplaces continue to be a minefield of hazards – whether it be unsafe working practices, using chemicals, working with a combination of different hazards starting from raw materials that enter workplaces to the waste that exits it and pollutes the environment
- Workers and victims who fall sick at work remain invisible and marginalised due to lack of awareness of the deadly nature of what they are working with, intentional suppression of information on substances that workers and communities are being exposed to whether it be by employers, the industry or governments and the lack of medical support to assist those who are sick
- Working communities and workers in Asia have the odds stacked against them in terms of laws that are full of loopholes allowing dangerous practices, operations and substances to be used in the region

OSH in Asia - Ground Realities

- Laws which are archaic in terms of occupational and environmental standards and do not match international standards that need to be adhered in order to ensure workplaces and people are safe from hazards and contaminants and may not cover workers who are in the informal sector, outsourced work, contractualised work etc.
- Lack of effective enforcement mechanisms that lets the industry get away with murder and not hold them accountable for their actions. Mechanisms in place as in the case of Bangladesh where the national enforcement mechanisms are sidelined and it is externalised as in the case of the Accord and in the long term does not improve the situation within the country

OSH in Asia - Ground Realities

- Workers seek employment in Asia where majority of work takes place in the informal sector and where also women are the major workforce in most of the industries but are not seen in leadership positions and issues concerning women workers rights and health is not prioritised
- Lives of workers and victims are pushed back in the light of making profit and they come from situations of poverty where livelihood is their main focus and therefore take up hazardous work knowing the consequences



OSH in Asia - Ground Realities



- Unions are under attack and low rate of unionisation.
- OSH is not a 'priority'
- Diagnosis still a major issue
- Compensation still elusive for majority of population

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Doctors and Diagnosis

- In countries like Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Philippines, Cambodia and even Bangladesh – very few or lack of diagnosis of occupational diseases
- Health professionals have little or no knowledge of occupational diseases
- Health professionals are overwhelmed with work (few of them) that they are unable to address or even take the time to understand occupational history and diagnose correctly



For many occupational diseases, the victims cannot become fully healthy ever again – the damages on health and the ability to work are usually irreversible.

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Informal Sector -Contributory Factors

- More and more work even in the formal sector is moving towards contractual or outsourced work
- No regulation or regulatory framework
- The lack of clear employer-employee relationship also poses difficulties in defining responsibilities.
- OSH attains a very low priority
- No proper work hours and piece rate work leads to self exploitation.



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OSH problems of Women

- The impact on the health of women in informal sector is not well studied.
- Majority of home workers are women and many work with dangerous chemicals and solvents
- Many women face reproductive hazards due to hazardous work and substances.
- There is overlap between the paid and unpaid work like cooking, cleaning and taking care of children.
- This extended work hours puts tremendous pressure on their bodies and mind.



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Export of Hazard

- Shifting of hazardous industries to the developing countries.
- This includes both exporting hazardous raw materials and hazardous wastes that are dumped into the developing countries like China, India and Bangladesh.
- Within developing countries hazardous jobs like lead acid battery recycling, are subcontracted to informal sector.

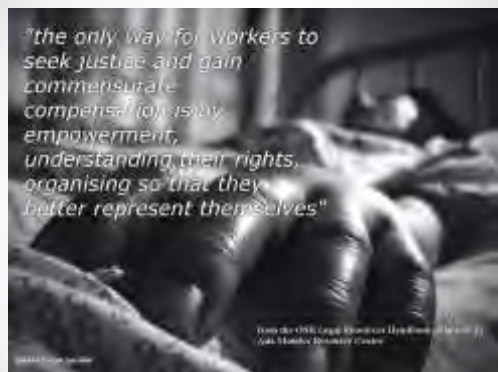


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Regional Work and Network

- Identifying marginalised workers and communities and addressing their needs in terms of diagnosis, treatment and compensation
- Working towards making workplaces safer and educate and empowering workers and trade unions on OSH issues. That includes workers and community rights to have fundamentally a safe working and living place
- Organising victims and assisting in the formation of victims rights organisations so that they can represent themselves in their struggle for a safe workplace
- Supporting and strengthening the capacity of doctors and lawyers to assist the needs of grassroots groups to assist them in attaining recognition, treatment and compensation
- Carrying out ground research, training manuals and educational material to further the OESH rights in the region from a regional perspective that will benefit groups on the ground in their struggle



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Asia Monitor Resource Centre (AMRC)

- Regional Labour NGO based in Hong Kong
- Was established in 1976 as a documentation centre and in early 1980s we started to conduct research and trainings for labour groups in Asia.
- AMRC has been involved in Popular education for workers since 1980s with the aim of empowering the workers

Mission and Vision

- Vision – to support and contribute towards the building of a stronger, democratic and independent labour movement in Asia
- Mission – to become a strategic research, education and information resource partner of the broad Asian labour movement

What we do?

As a regional Labour organization we conduct:

- Participatory Research
- Capacity Building Initiatives
- Campaigns
- Advocacy
- Networking
- Publications



Our Programmes



ANROEV Network

- The ANROEV network is a coalition of victims' groups, trade unions and other labour groups across Asia, all committed to the rights of Victims and for overall improvement of health and safety at the workplace.
- Formally constituted in 1997 post the industrial disasters of Kader and Zhili.
- Members in 14 Countries in Asia including Japan, Korea, China, India, Pakistan, Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Hong Kong SAR, Taiwan, Nepal, Vietnam and Cambodia.
- Major campaigns include Occupational Lung Diseases, Victims Organising, Electronics and Mining

ANROEV

Provides Platform for:

- Sharing Experiences
- Sharing Expertise
- Running Joint Campaign
- Forming Strong solidarity group
- Grassroots OSH movement in Asia



Caucasus region
in East
European Asia
in Russian Caucasus
Asia 10 Countries?

ZIMBABWE
PAKISTAN
KYRGYZSTAN
KAZAKHSTAN
RUSSIAN FEDERATION
CUBA
INDIA
BELARUS

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"The dust is flying along the road.
Factory chimneys change the color of the sky.
Industrial factory is being dismantled.
From air to land, Pakistan
What are you waiting for
Apartheid"

It is the report "Toxic of Chemicals in Lahore Road
and Industry" published by Asia Monitor Resource Centre

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My family used Reckitt Benckiser's
humidifier disinfectant.
I lost 4-year-old son in 2009.
Reckitt Benckiser killed my son.

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Tazreen Fashions 2012 117 dead

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12 workers dead - Koroza Mine Disaster, Philippines / May 13, 2010
117 workers dead - Tazewell Pulp Mill Fire, Bangladesh / November 26, 2004
289 workers dead - Al-Kharratun, Pakistan / September 11, 2012
81 workers dead - Zila, Haripur District, Pakistan / November 17, 1993
188 workers dead - Kanchi Tin Factory, Thailand / May 10, 1983

THE MURDERS MUST STOP



Thank you!