

Global Occupational Safety and Health Network GOSH



SANJIV PANDITA,
Hazards Conference,
July 31, Keele University

OSH Issues in UK

- People Continue to die due to unsafe workplaces in large numbers.
- Yet they remain Invisible, and unrecognized
- Regulatory framework is under attack
- Corporate Crimes are not punished.
- Victims do not get compensation
- The gains made by years of struggle are being taken away

Why?

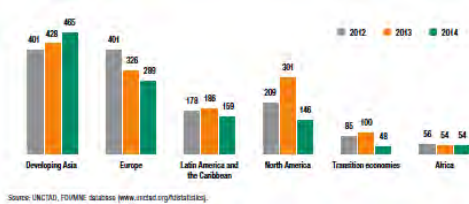
- Capital is Highly mobile and dwarfs nation states
- Manufacturing is done by global networking controlled by TNCs
- Labour is still bound by national laws
- Organizing on OSH has to be global in the new realities.

Shining Asia as Global Saviour

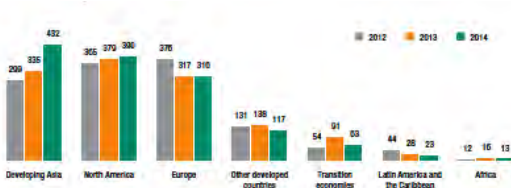
- Shining Consumptive Asia as Global Saviour
- Paradigm shift in positioning of Asia – from export led growth
- Opportunistic' analysis more to sustain the economic order.



Global FDI Inflows



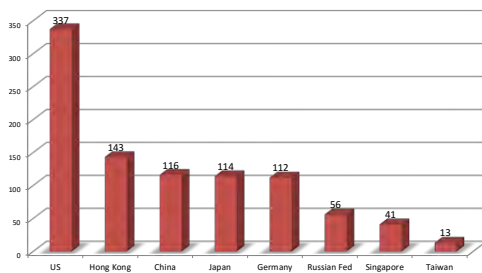
FDI Outflows



Asia is major source of outward FDI

- Outward FDI investment from Asia reached to historical high US\$ 432 billion in 2014,
- Asian TNCs/MNCs became the world's largest investing group accounting for almost one third of the total investment.
- Outward investment from East Asia also reached historical high, Hong Kong alone contributed \$143 billion of outward investment making it second largest investor after United States.

Outward FDI in US\$ Billion



Growth for whom?

- The Multinational Corporations continued to accumulate, **with cash reserves of some 5000 MNCs reaching to about US\$ 4.4 trillion**, more than double than that of 2008 pre-crisis level.
- Dispossession continued with millions migrating to cities or outside borders
- Asia continues to have largest number of working poor in the world.
- Largest population of workers working in vulnerable sector without protection with women outnumbering.







Majority workers are in the informal economy





















OSH in Asia- Magnitude

"It is thus estimated that 2.35 million people died from work-related accidents or diseases annually in 2010, of which 2 million were caused by various types of disease and 350,000 from work-related accidents. This equates to an average of more than 6,300 work-related deaths every day"

ILO World Congress, Frankfurt, 2014

- 1.1 million persons are estimated to die in Asia due to work related reasons
- This is yet tip of the iceberg as these figures are just 'estimates'
- The ILO provides global estimates every two years- Death Ritual

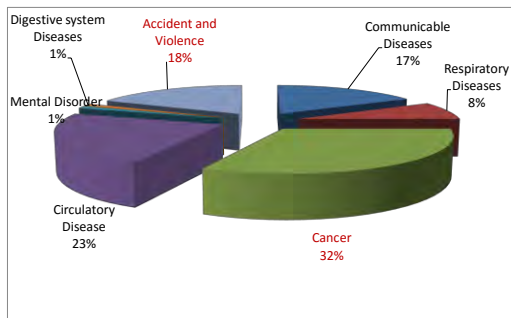


- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) estimates —6.6 million people die every year in Asia due to various environmental health reasons. This attributes to about one quarter of the all deaths in the region. [1]
- Exposure to hazardous substances at work causes nearly 900,000 deaths every year (ILO)
- Some 200 million Chinese workers serving more than 30 sectors have been exposed to various health hazards in the workplace on the mainland", Health Minister Chen Zhu November 2010



[1] <http://www.environment-health.asia/>

Breakdown of Global Fatalities



Work-related Fatalities – World						
2.99 billion economically active, 2008 (some data 2003)						
Region	Economically active population	Fatal accidents reported to the ILO (2008) ¹	Fatal accidents best estimate 2008	Accidents causing at least 4 days' absence Average est. 2008	Work-related diseases Work-related mortality	Deaths caused by dangerous substances
OME	427,681,309	11,210	15,159	14,252,505	269,989	285,140
RSE	193,354,716	2,111	14,519	13,650,601	170,166	184,685
CHN	740,792,400	180	97,542	91,706,292	334,138	431,680
IND	473,300,000	179	46,928	44,120,055	355,863	402,791
OAS	457,166,678	1,247	80,567	75,746,706	269,541	350,107
SSA	273,414,298	15	37,771	54,314,626	364,551	422,322
LAC	222,632,385	2,196	31,165	29,300,625	107,180	138,345
MEC	128,010,251	929	14,296	13,441,062	73,687	87,984
All 2008	3,297,585,516	21,802	322,554	317,422,474	3,022,570	3,543,146
USA	154,287,000	5,214	5,370	5,594,188	95,808	101,179
EU-27	237,997,300	4,708	5,900	7,374,297	161,970	167,870
Singapore new	3,340,000	61	61	57,000	1,388	1,449
Finland	2,726,000	41	49	42,708	1,693	1,734

¹ or latest relevant and available data

Responses in Asia



Gross Under-reporting

Country /Region	Fatal Accidents Reported to ILO in 2001	Estimate by the ILO	Fatal Accidents Reported to ILO in 2003	Estimate by the ILO
China	12736 (12%)	90295	180 (0.18%)	98000
India	222 (0.55%)	40133	179 (0.32%)	48000
Rest of Asia	3051 (4%)	76886	1247 (1.5%)	81000

Using Hazards Data

- 50,000 estimated deaths in UK with Population of 62 million
- ??? Estimated work related deaths in China with population of 1.3 billion nearly 20 times more.
- Million deaths in China and India alone
- Asia would be about 4 million?

Kader Fire 1993 May, Bangkok Killed
188



Ali Garments Pakistan -2012 Over 250
Killed



Tazreen Bangladesh 113 killed 2012



Jilin Fire China – 2013 Killed 119



Rana Plaza Collapse 2013





Worker Sweeps Asbestos Fibers

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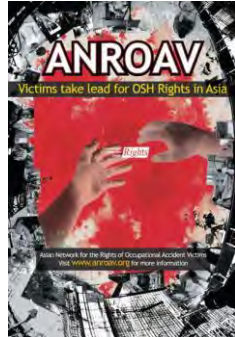
Occupational Disease

- Countries is still in 'Accident Prevention Mode'
- ILO maintains occupational diseases are major cause of work related fatalities nearly 80%.
- In Asia the occupational diseases remain underreported
- India reported a total of 7 cases in for year 2005
- Cambodia and Indonesia report none at all.
- China has recorded 749,970 from 1949 to 2010



Victims' leading networking

- New forms of organising have to be looked at.
- Victims organising has helped to raise OSH awareness in this sector
- Asian Network for the Rights of Occupational and Environmental Victims (ANROEV)



AIMS

- **Preventing workers and communities getting exposed to hazards at the work.** That includes workers' and community right to have fundamentally a safe working and living place.
- **Right of workers and community members exposed to hazards,** to have treatment, just compensation and rehabilitation in society.
- **Penalise responsible organisations and individuals** responsible for the harm.



ANROEV Provides Platform for:

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



Global Network

- European Work Hazards Network
- ANROEV
- COSH Network US
- Africa?
- Latin America?



- Recognize that **health and safety at the workplace is a fundamental human right** of workers and that existing problems are due to the institutional failures and denial of these fundamental rights not because of the '**carelessness of the workers**' which is often promoted by the corporate sector.
- support actions to develop 'good work': work that is safe, meaningful, socially just and environmentally sustainable; work that enables workers to develop skills and knowledge and have a reasonable life/ work balance; work where workers are treated with dignity and respect



Thank You

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