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Amphitheater Maroussi Plaza



3rd Occupational Health & Safety Conference

Conclusions of the Conference

The 3rd Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Conference, held in Athens, was organized in four Sections covering all aspects of OHS. They were:

- Towards a healthier, safer and more productive working environment.
- Recommended practices for “zero” working accidents and minimization of diseases.
- Risk assessment, formulating safe and hygienic working environments with the participation of all concerned.- Training and the creation of a “prevention’ culture.
- Challenges and opportunities for OHS in today’s continuously changing working environments.

The important conclusions following 22 oral presentations and more than two hours of discussions among the participants are summarized as follows:

1. There is a strong connection between the health and well-being of people and their work environments. When people feel valued, respected and satisfied in their jobs and work in safe, healthy environments, they are more likely to be more productive and committed to their work. When the workplace is unsafe, stressful or unhealthy, ultimately both the organization and the employees are hurt. Everyone can benefit from a healthy workplace and the dignity of the workforce must be respected. The National Policy should promote the right of workers to decent, safe and healthy working conditions and environment.
2. Incentives must be provided for business such as cuts in compulsory employment accident and occupational disease insurance premiums, and training measures for workers. The latter must be properly informed of hazards and adequately trained to carry out their tasks safely.
3. Legislation is adequate but the government must play a more active role as both facilitator and regulator. National efforts to tackle OSH problems are often fragmented and as a result have less impact
4. It is necessary to implement OSH through risk management and the management of risky practices.
5. It is necessary to enhance the role of professional organizations, universities, practitioners in improving the understanding, attitude, ability and behavior associated with OSH culture.
6. It is necessary to enhance the integration of OSH in all scientific disciplines. Universities must develop more OHS courses in both undergraduate and postgraduate programs.
7. The Ministry must establish more efficient policies in order to provide faster and accurately targeted responses to OHS demands.
8. The Greek Institute of OHS (ELIN-YAE) must be supported in several ways by the State and Universities in order to keep up with all latest developments in OHS. Continuous improvement of OHS must thus be promoted. This is necessary to ensure that laws, regulations and technical preventive standards are adapted periodically to progress and other changes in the world of work.
9. Efforts must be focused above all on primary prevention at the workplace level.
10. Workers and employers must be made aware of the importance of establishing safe working procedures and of how to do so.
11. Policies must be enforced. A system of inspection must be put in place to secure compliance with OHS legislation.