

Report on:

**“Capacity Development  
on Risk assessment,  
Occupational Safety and  
Health Management  
System”**

A presentation by the KRG Molsa staff.  
Japan, April 2017

## Outline :

- *A brief Introduction to Kurdistan Region*
- *Situation of Health and Safety*
- *System of OSH in region*
- *Problems*
- *Good practices in organization*
- *Obstacles*

In the beginning, I would like to give a brief introduction about Kurdistan region. This region is in the northern part of Iraq, and it includes Erbil, Sulaymaniya, Duhok, Kerkuk and Halabja provinces. It is a semi independent entity as it has its own presidency, government and parliament. KRG Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs is a part of the KRG government which applies or implement Iraqi laws regarding OSH.

# The map of Kurdistan region of Iraq



# KRG Ministry of Labor And Social Affairs



## *Introduction OSH in our office and the current situations:*

\* OSH has main office inside the General Directorate of Labor and Social Insurance. This main office supervises and guides the other offices in each province in Kurdistan, whether this guidance is about inspection, or following up certain cases or any other matters regarding OSH. These offices have teams made up few employees who are graduated from physics, biology, chemists, and medical assistant.

\* We focus on preventing accidents or Occupational diseases by spreading awareness among workers in work sites by distributing leaflets and safety guidance printed materials. We follow up to see to what extent the employers have applied/implemented the laws and regulations that we have adopted.

## *System of work :*

- KRG Molsa has special teams and committees for inspection of occupational health and safety that work for applying and implementation of the Iraqi labor law number (71) issued in (1987).

- We in our Department of Occupational Safety conducting inspection visits to all the economic activities to follow-up the occupational health and safety application and conditions in these activities. There are also coordinate with the representatives of all ministries. There are ongoing meetings with them and they are provided with publications and posters continuously. Public works sectors having more cooperation with us to reflect statistics than the private works sectors. We confirm all work sectors to fill the special form of these statistics within our field visits to these work sectors, also to sure identifying types, causes to be addressed and not to be repeated.

**\* Under the OSH act employers are responsible for providing a safe and healthful workplace. The employer must provide their employees with job and a place of employment free from recognized hazards that are causing or are likely to cause death or serious physical harm.**

**Among other actions some requirements, standards and regulations in part require to do the following:**

- 1. Provide well-maintained tools and equipment including appropriate personal protective equipment.**
- 2. Provide medical examination.**
- 3. Provide training.**
- 4. Keep records of work-related accident, injuries.**
- 5. Do not discriminate against employees.**
- 6. Educating the workers on the subject of occupational health and safety.**



Characteristics of the target region in terms of Occupational Accidents (types of major industries, commonly occurred work related accidents/ what types of accidents in what area, etc.).

In Kurdistan region, we don't have big industries like the advanced countries, this is because we are a developing region and we have been through a lot of depressions, despairs and difficulty time. It's only since 2003 that our region has started to boom economically and in other aspects of life. But unfortunately the developments of industries have been hindered recently due to the economic crisis and the ISIS fight which is a big burden. The work sites here are mostly small in size, it's common to see one-man shops and projects. There are several big industries in each province. To sum it up we have a few big cement, steel, ice-cream, LPG, Carbonated Drinks, Bricks and construction projects. In construction we see a lot of falling, heat shock and skin cancer. In Car painting shops we see a lot of lung diseases victims, also welding we see occurrence of body burning and sight problems. The Kurdistan Region's economy is dominated by the oil industry due to relative peace in the Region it has more developed economy in comparison to other parts of Iraq. The most accidents and injuries occur in buildings and construction projects.

## Systems in "OSH Inspection" in the region (also, Reporting duties of the company, Compensation, punishment for violation, etc.)

The accident research report should include:

### 1- Professional history of the worker Preview and analyze accidents

It is necessary to conduct research and analysis of incidents that occur, however simple, to find out the causes and develop precautions and to take the best means to prevent recurrence in the future, and should not be the goal of research and analysis of the incident is to determine responsibility to know the cause of the damage, but the main objective is to Explain the causes of the accident to determine the means of correcting the situation.

### What are the search elements in the incident?

The incident has two main parts (cause, result)

May be a severe search result resulting in a very minor injury useful as if this incident had resulted in fatal injury.

Responsible for inspecting the incident

- \* The work supervisor or head of the direct department is the first to inspect the incidents.
- \* Time of incident preview.
- \* The incident must be investigated promptly or immediately.

## How to look at the incident

The constant reason that does not change in an accident is that someone has done something that is not important or that someone has failed to do something he should have done, and this person may be the worker or the head of the department Or the manager of the establishment or the employer himself and in each case must reach the official to inspect the incident to the maximum amount of information that led to the accident:

- 1- The accident
2. The injured person himself.
- 3 - The same injury.

## Report on the incident

1. Write down all the information that can be obtained for the injured worker and the nature of his work, what he actually did, the incidents that had already occurred to him, and what he should have done or not done so that the accident did not occur.
2. Examine the machine, machine or the apparent causes of the accident
3. Outcome.

# Current problems that workers face in terms of Safe Work Environment.

Dust, exposure to excessive heat during work especially in Summer, not wearing PPE, bad posture, back pain (taxi drivers), wrist ache and eyes ache (government employees), telecom call centers get hearing problems, Fuel and Oil stations are more prone to lung cancer and asthma.

## **Current problems related to your duties in order to keep the Safe Work Environment.**

**A. Lack of awareness in both sides with employers and the employees. This is reflected in the fact that usually neither parties are willing to abide to the regulations of OSH, the employees find it difficult and unnecessary to wear gloves, Helmet, eye glasses and special clothes which supposed to wear.**

**B. Lack Of budget for OSH. This affect the frequency of filed visits that the provincial teams have to carry on. Lack of Equipment for testing work environment, percentage of pollution, noise and other factors.**

**C. Our OSH staffs are not well-trained and this leaves a big considerable gap in the knowledge base of the staff.**

**D. A portion of the employers are not cooperative which hinders the process of inspection.**

## What are some of good practices your organizations have implemented to overcome the above problems?

1. KRG Molsa prints and distributes OSH pamphlets to the employers.
2. Our ministry has a limited budget from which it allocates a small portion for OSH. In our KRG government system the budget for each Ministry is allocated by KRG Ministry of Finance. We have requested many times to increase our Budget, but still not receiving any confirmation.
3. We are cooperating with international organizations to provide OSH training courses for the staff.
4. Issue a warning to the employers who are not cooperative with OSH staff, in case they do not comply to the safety regulations we will charge them in court legally.

## What are the obstacles to overcome the problems?

1. Lack of budget has greatly affected on the activities of OSH teams that includes printing and distribution of awareness materials.

2. Outdated laws and regulations of Osh, they need to be review and adapted according the modern Industries.

3. Non-sufficient staff training.

4. The legal system takes long time to process cases of OSH violation and decision are not strict enough to set an example for other employers to take into consideration.



# Field visits of our teams



Thank-you for your attention.  
Does anyone have any questions  
or comments?

