

Occupational Safety and Health report in Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG)

Country's brief geographical information

First of all, we are five participants come from Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG). All participants are delighted to attend JICA Counterpart Training Program “ Capacity Building for Workers in Health and Safety Management” We would like to cover all outlined criteria that you have asked us.

Iraqi Kurdistan, officially called Kurdistan Region is located in the north of Iraq, also it is located in the Middle East, and the Region is officially governed by the Kurdistan Regional Government. Due to the absence of proper census, the Population of Kurdistan is 6 million people. The Kurdistan Region is largely mountainous there are many rivers flowing and running through mountains. The mountainous nature of Kurdistan, the difference of temperatures in its various parts, and its wealth of waters make Kurdistan land of agriculture and tourism. The Climate of the Region very hot and dry in summer, cold and wet in winter. The Region's economy is dominated by the oil industry; due to relative peace in the Region it has a more developed economy in comparison to other parts of Iraq.

OSH Context includes laws, regulation and systems in KRG

The national profile on occupational safety and health in general in Iraq is an inventory which summarizes the existing situation on occupational safety and health and the progress made towards achieving a safe and healthy working environment.

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.

Country's safety conditions today most workplaces and construction projects are completely devoid of any coherent attempt to prevent accident, if anything happens it is considered by many to be simply fate.

Walking through out construction site, workers can be seen without the most pieces of personal protective equipment, it is more likely accident waiting to happen.

Structure and system of the Organization

Our Department of occupational safety and health encourages us to keep in touch with all workers, safety should be priority in any workplace and Accidents can be prevented if everyone beware of common workplace safety issue.

duties as Occupational Safety Manager

Our Duties as Occupational safety manger is to supervise and monitor all workplaces, because an effective inspection system is essential to promote and monitor OSH legislations. In addition, others duties are regular inspection of the work places and distribute the preventive culture among the workers.

Reporting hazards and accidents in the workplace. We will insure that each workplace is inspected for hazardous conditions we will post notices of unsafe or unhealthful working conditions found during the inspections for a minimum 7 working days or until the hazard is corrected.

In order to enable inspectors to take such steps they shall be empowered. Also we have a good relationship with Syndicate of workers that has a link with workers affairs.

The enforcement of Occupational Safety and Health provisions at places of work regulates that all work places are to appoint person in charge of Occupational Safety.

The major challenges in carrying out our duties

In today's rapidly changing workplace, we can do a lot to reduce workplace accidents simply by educating employees, the biggest challenges is many workers are uneducated, and absence of preventive culture among workers.

Current overall setback of (KRG) Occupational Safety and Health Management

Current setback and frailer of Iraqi and Kurdistan Regional Government(KRG) Occupational Safety and Health management is increasing the number of death accidents among workers due to the lack of preventive equipment and weak of law and absence of training and Education center.

We all participants look forward to obtain and acquire a lot of information from this program In Japan could be useful for our country because Japan has a very good record in safety and health sector.