



The First National Occupational Safety and Health Conference in Palestine

“Workers' Safety and Health, their Productivity are our Collective Responsibility”

28-29 \4\2008

Reference paper

Today, Palestine witnesses a weakness in the availability of a unified charter of policies and procedures concerning to occupational safety and health in various workplaces. Despite the efforts taken on part of the national and international parties to improve the reality of occupational safety and health in this country, these efforts have not yet achieved the necessary coordination between the different parties, hence their effect on the occupational safety and health of workers in workplaces in intangible.

In light of the past attempts done by different local organizations, including various communication between all sponsoring and organizational parties of the conference, the direction was towards celebrating the **international day of occupational safety and health for the year 2008**, through organizing a **national conference** to search for the best path towards improving the reality of occupational health and safety in Palestine. The outcome of these meetings that were recently conducted between the different parties was the establishment of the preparatory committee for the conference, made up of all parties concerned with the subject of occupational safety and health.

The preparatory committee of the conference:

The preparatory committee of the conference is made up of the following organizations:

- **Ministry of Health**
- **Ministry of Labor**
- **National Ministry of Economy**
- The National Union Committee for Occupational Health and Safety**
- The Palestinian General Federation of Trade Unions**
- The Federation of Palestinian Workers Union**
- Federation of Independent Unions / Palestine**
- The Democracy and Workers Rights Center**
- Palestinian Engineer Center**
- Federation of Insurance Companies**

The officials who expressed interest in supporting the conference

In addition to the organizational parties of the conference, many local and international organizations have also expressed interest in supporting the conference, whom we are extremely thankful for, hoping that the conference may lead to a collective partnership in preparing, executing, and following up on the recommendations of the conference.

Goals of the Conference:

The preparatory committee specified several primary goals for this conference, aside from the fact that it will unite all efforts toward cooperative organizational work, it will also launch an initiative to improve the reality of occupational safety and health in workplaces, through shedding light on the importance and priority of this issue in Palestine, in both the short and long run.

The preparatory committee specifies the following goals for the conference:

- Specifying the features, orientation, and the vision of a new strategy to improve the reality of occupational safety and health in Palestine

- Strengthening coordination between active parties in the field of occupational health and safety
- Raise public awareness on the importance of providing occupational safety and health conditions in workplaces
- Encouraging research, education, and training on the subject of occupational safety and health.
- Strengthening the role of international and local sponsors in funding the current joint efforts aimed at improving the reality of occupational safety and health in workplaces

The core subjects of the conference include:

1. **Evaluating the Palestinian reality: (the level of implementation of occupational safety and health conditions in workplaces, and the role of the concerned organizations)**
2. **Education and academic, occupational, and technical training, in appropriation to national needs.**
3. **International experiences and Arab and International cooperation in the field of occupational safety and health.**
4. **Legislations specific to occupational safety and health: what is present and what is necessary**
5. **The strategic vision for improving the reality of occupational safety and health in Palestine**
6. **Insuring work related injuries and occupational diseases: its importance and means of development**
7. **Surveillance system of occupational injuries and diseases.**

Invitees

We hope that the conference is attended by a large group of organizational parties whether for covering the different topics, or participating in the conference sessions. Legislative organizations in Palestine will also be invited, in addition to other international organizations central to occupational safety and health. Discussion will take place with several international

organizations in order to urge them towards their active participation. In addition, different official, popular, and national organizations will be invited, as well as civil society organizations and a private sector to participate in the conference sessions.

Location: the conference will be held in the headquarters of **the Palestinian Red Crescent Society**, close to Al Am'ari Camp, in Ramallah, Palestine.

Date:

A suggestion was made to parallel this conference with the international day for occupational safety and health, which takes place on the 28th of April every year. In order to fulfill all of the topics of the conference, a suggestion was made to continue the conference sessions for two or three days. The conference will be anteceded with a national campaign for a week on the topic of occupational safety and health, which will include a media awareness campaign, an exhibition of the protective equipments and measures from occupational risks and the related medical mechanisms of protection, as well as awareness and research based brochures.

Occupational safety and health exhibition:

During the same time, a specified exhibition on awareness and educational materials related to occupational safety and health will be available, in addition to personal protective **equipments** and measures and related medical equipment.

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