



HR LANDSCAPES: Turkey on Safety and Health at Work



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In 2011 Turkey will host the 19th World Congress on Safety and Health at Work, to be held in the country's largest city, Istanbul. The event is organized every three years and the last one was held in Seoul in 2008. It's an excellent opportunity to exchange information about new ideas for prevention of occupational diseases and accidents at work. Participants will have access to pioneering new research on occupational safety and health as a key factor in environmentally-sustainable economic growth and development. They will also have the opportunity to connect with governments, employers, non-governmental organizations, employer representatives, employees and their organizations, as well as occupational health and safety professionals with the objective of introducing a culture of prevention worldwide.

According to International Labour Organization (ILO) studies, more than two million people die every year from work related accidents and diseases, with a cost to the world economy of up to four percent of global GDP. ILO found that in addition to job-related deaths, each year there are 268 million non-fatal workplace accidents in which the victims miss at least three days of work as a result, as well as 160 million new cases of work-related illness. Broken down by region, the figures indicate that workplace accidents have leveled off in many industrialized and newly-industrialized countries, while some countries now undergoing rapid development in Asia and Latin America are experiencing increases.

“As the global toll of illness, injury and death from occupational accidents and disease continues to remain at unacceptable levels, the Congress will underline what needs to be done to ensure that a healthy working environment can be achieved”, said Dr. Sameera Al-Tuwajiri, Director, ILO International Programme on Safety and Health at Work and the Environment.

The table below illustrates details from the last congresses:

Year	1993	1996	1999	2002	2005	2008
Venue	New Delhi, India	Madrid, Spain	San Paulo, Brasil	Vienna, Austria	Orlando, USA	Seoul, S.Korea
Organizer	Indian Safety Association	Labour & Social Safety Dept.	Brazil CIS Center (FUNDACENTRO)	AUVA	NSC	KOSHA
Period	4/4-4/8 (5 days)	4/22-4/26 (5 days)	4/12-4/16 (5 days)	5/26-5/31 (6 days)	9/18-9/22 (5 days)	6/29-7/02 (4 days)
Participant Details	1,080 persons from 50 countries	2,200 persons from 105 countries	2,000 persons from 73 countries	2,400 persons from 77 countries	3,000 persons from 111 countries	4,550 persons from 121 countries

According to Ömer Dinçer, Turkey’s Minister of Labour and Social Security: “Istanbul is a cradle of civilizations and cultures -- the only city in the world to straddle two continents, Asia and Europe with a history of over 2,500 years. It is the European Capital of Culture 2010. Istanbul and the regions nearby are also very important centers for industry and international trade. To participate in the XIX World Congress in Istanbul will be a good opportunity for decision-makers, safety and health professionals, employers' and workers' representatives and other stakeholders who are active in the field of occupational safety and health in order to ensure close cooperation in the exchange of information with experts all around the world and also to explore one of the most famous towns and cultures in the world.”

Source: <http://www.safety2011turkey.org/index.php>

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