

Introduction to the ASEAN-OSHNET

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The ASEAN-OSHNET (ASEAN Occupational Safety and Health Network) has its origin in the ILO Programme for the Improvement of Working Condition and Environment (PIACT), which was launched in 1976. At an ILO seminar held in 1984 for the ASEAN countries, it was recommended to establish a regional center to collect and disseminate information within ASEAN and to manage research and training for the improvement of working condition and environment

The idea to develop a project network in improving condition was agreed by the First ASEAN Labour Technical Working Group Meeting held in October 1984 in Manila, and then proposal was approved by The 5th ASEAN Labor Minister Meeting held in Manila at the same time.

In 1995, the ASEAN Secretariat obtained UNDP funding of conduct a feasibility study to establish an ASEAN Training Center/network for Improvement of Working Condition and Environment. The feasibility study was conducted in 1996, and workshop to review the feasibility study was convened in Manila in October 1996. The workshop attended by headed of National OSH Center and national experts from seven ASEAN member countries, agreed to the following five recommendations:

1. To establish the ASEAN-OSHNET among the National OSH Centers in ASEAN members countries

2. To form an ASEAN-OSHNET Coordinating Board comprising the heads of National OSH Centers or their equivalent, which report directly to ASEAN Subcommittee on Labour Affairs (ASCLA). The Board will oversee the operation of the ASEAN-OSHNET, the planning and implementation of its Plan of Action.

3. The ASEAN-OSHNET Coordinating Board will meet twice a year, and its immediate task will be to establish the secretariat of the network.

4. That the ASEAN-OSHNET was considered as a flagship project of ASCKA, and,

5. To include six projects under the Proposed Four Year Plan of Action (FYPA).

The Organization of the ASEAN-OSHNET

The organization of the ASEAN-OSHNET comprises a Coordinating Board and Secretariat. The Coordinating Board decides policy direction, plan of action and designates the Secretariat.

The Secretariat represents the ASEAN-OSHNET in administrative and operational matters, and manages the programme implementation.

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