

Report on the Training Workshop on the New Occupational Safety and Health Law (OSH) Law in the Philippines (Republic Act 11058)

February 28, 2019

Institute for Occupational Health and Safety Development (IOHSAD)-Philippines
in partnership with the Developing World Outreach Initiative and the
Maquiladora Health & Safety Support Network.



The workshop was designed for workers from different sectors such as manufacturing, services and agricultural or those who are covered by the new OSH Law. Health and Safety Committee members were prioritized to attend the training workshop. It was held last February 28, 2019 and 52 workers from various companies actively participated in the discussions.

The major topics that were discussed in the workshop were the following : (a) major provisions of the new OSH Law and its Implementing Rules and Regulations; (b) existing OSH situations and issues experienced by the workers in their respective workplaces; (c) resolutions on how to raise awareness on the new OSH Law and how to maximize it to help prevent workplace accidents, injuries, diseases and deaths.



The discussion on the major provisions of the OSH Law was led by Ms. Cha Castaño, legislative staff of Gabriela Women's Party, the primary author of the bill in the Philippine Congress. She also looked back on the timeline of the OSH Bill, from the first consultations held among the workers in 2013 until it was passed into law last August 2018. She stressed the significant contribution of the Pass the OSH Bill Advocacy Campaign launched by workers' institutions such as IOHSAD and labor unions that solidified the support of the workers and the general public which paved the way to the bill's passage.

Ms. Castaño also shared another positive news for the workers during the workshop. The Expanded Maternity Leave which increased the maternity leave in the country to 105 paid leave days was finally signed into law.

Nadia De Leon of IOHSAD also shared the current OSH situation and the health and safety standards being implemented in the country.

The attendees were divided into groups and facilitators were assigned to lead the discussion on the current OSH situations in their respective workplaces. Each group assigned a member to report the highlights of their discussions.



WORKSHOP GROUP #1

Workers from the business process outsourcing (BPO) sector and manufacturing workers (laundry and cleaning products) were together in one workshop group. BPO workers shared the various hazards that they experience in their work – mental stress, extreme cold temperature, heart and throat illnesses, urinary tract infections and more. Workers that produce laundry and cleaning products share photos of their hands affected by constant use and exposure to chemicals.



WORKSHOP GROUP #2

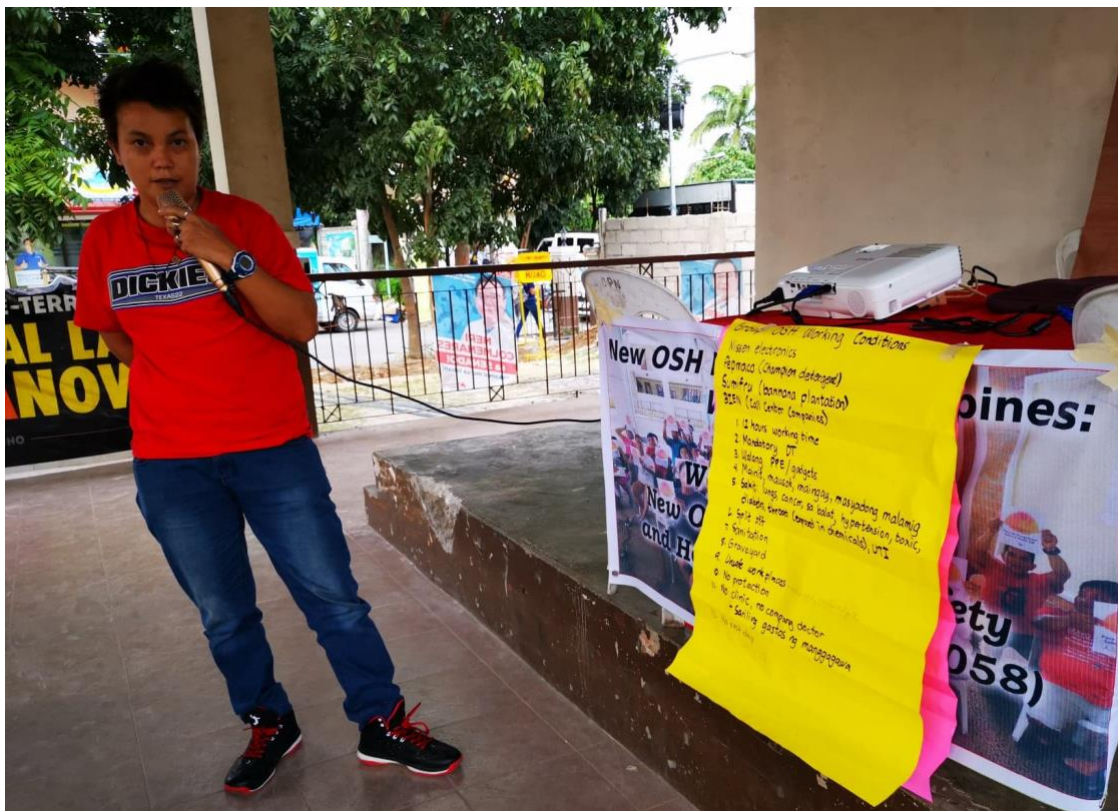
Banana plantation workers of Compostela Valley, Mindanao, together with garment workers in Manila participated in the workshop. Agricultural workers shared the various ill effects of hazardous pesticides and other chemicals to their health. They are exposed to these chemicals while doing their jobs in the banana production process (from planting, cleaning to packaging the bananas for export). Women workers from a garment factory shared why they oppose the compressed workweek being implemented by the management in their workplace. Besides fatigue and overwork, this flexible work scheme also robs them of the mandated overtime pay.



WORKSHOP GROUP #3

Workers from the electronics and lens manufacturing sector comprised the third workshop group. Workers shared that their unions have Health and Safety committees but still need to be consolidated and trained to effectively organize programs to protect workers' health and safety rights. They also pledged to organize trainings and discussions about the OSH Law to raise the awareness of their union members.

WORKSHOP GROUP REPORTS:



Thank you for your support!



