On May 5, 2019, the Workers Assistance Center, Inc. (WAC) through the support of the Developing World Outreach Initiative (DWOI) of the Northern California section of the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) and the Maquiladora Health & Safety Support Network (MHSSN) and the Good Electronics Network (GEN) launched and conducted a Training-Workshop on Occupational Safety & Health, “Chemicals as Work Hazards”. The activity was held at Maytinis Hall, Mount Sea Resort, Hotel, and Restaurant, Rosario, Cavite.
The training workshop was attended by 30 participants from 15 various companies in garments, electronics, automotive accessories, rubber products, and services such as golf course administration and maintenance. 17 were female and 13 were male.

Breakdown of participants and names of company:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMPANY NAME</th>
<th>GENDER</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Line Seiki Phils., inc.</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excellent Quality Apparel</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dae Duck Phils., Inc.</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lee &amp; Choi Manufacturing Apparel, Inc.</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jisoo Garments Mfg., Corp.</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippine TOEI Chemical, Corp.</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reliance Apparel &amp; Fashion Mfg., Corp/Reliance Producers Cooperative</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WGC Golf Maintenance Corp</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eagle Ridge Golf and Residential Estate</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hye Sung Industries Phils., Inc.</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Chemicals &amp; Resins Consortium, Inc.</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temcoline Phils., Inc.</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C&amp;F Mfg. Phils. Corp.</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan Nameplate (JPN)</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House Technology Industries Pte Ltd. /HRD Pte Ltd.</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Objectives of the training-workshop are to:

1. Impart knowledge & skills on basic OSH concepts and principles as well as basic chemicals used and its toxicity;
2. Know and assess the status of OSH on the ground and in each company in terms of OSH awareness and preparedness;
3. Develop and enable basic OSH practitioners on the ground preferably in each company; and
4. Develop a basic module on OSH concepts and principles including basic examples of use of chemicals and its toxicity.

It was also aimed that there should be progression in the manner and way the training-workshop are being given and also in the knowledge, skills, and attitude of the participants in the trainings.

Figure 2 & 3 Ms. Salve Valenciano, event-coordinator & facilitator discussing the objectives of the activity while the participants listened and look on.
Ms. Valenciano further introduced the resource person, Dr. Pau Michael Hernandez, MD, MOH to discuss the first topic, Basic Introduction & Orientation & Guidelines on OSH. She also made a brief introduction of the speaker in the field of OSH.

Dr. Hernandez detailed information at the annex of this report.

He discussed that the over-all objectives of his topic are:

1.) Be able to define what occupational health is
2.) Explain basic principles of OHS
3.) Identify important provisions of the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of the OSH law 2018 (DO 198-18)
OSH Scenario

- Assuming total employment of 32.2 M workers in 2006, only around 2.2M workers in medium & large-scale enterprises enjoy effective OSH protection and services.
- About 90% of Philippine workers do not enjoy favorable working condition.
After the basic introduction and orientation and guidelines on OSH, the participants as well as the organizers and resource person were shown the film documentary entitled “Complicit”. A brief introduction about the film documentary and the plight and struggle of young electronics workers in China’s Foxconn company was also discussed. The main protagonist is Yi Yeting, a migrant worker with occupational leukemia, who decides to help a group of young workers in similar situation, poisoned by benzene and n-hexane in their work. It was also noted and highlighted that workers in Cavite export processing zones use the same chemicals that the workers in Foxconn, China used and that is, benzene and n-hexane.

Figure 8 & 9 Participants watching “Complicit” film-documentary.
After the film documentary showing, participants were asked about their reactions and comments about what they have just watched. They were also asked what did you feel while watching the film?

Figure 10 & 11. Participant from Hye Sung Phils.Inc. gave her reaction about the film shown and another participant from General Chemicals & Resins Consortium Inc. also gave his comment that he could identify with the workers in the film as they are also exposed to a lot of chemicals.
This activity was also used as an ice-breaker since the participants just ate their lunch and might be sleepy. And it was used as a prelude to the workshop on hazards.
mapping wherein the participants were divided into five categories of the representative of the companies that attended.

Group 1 – golf course employees; Group 2 – garments; Group 3 – electronics 1; Group 4 – electronics 2 (microspeakers & counters, measuring instruments ); and Group 5 – chemicals (General Chemicals & Resins Consortium and Phii. TOEI Chemical Corp.)

*Figure 14 & 15. The five (5) workshop groups in a glance in Maytinis Hall of Mt. Sea Resort, Hotel & Restaurant.*
Workshop groups reporting

Garments group

Chemicals group

Figure 16, 17, & 18. Lilibeth Arel, reporting back the result of hazards mapping of garments group; and chemicals group reporting separately for their respective companies (left side – Ignacio Pangandoyon, Jr. for Gen Chem & right side – Lolito Hubahib – for Phil. TOEI Chemical Corp.)
The last input was given by Dr. Paul Michael Hernandez, “Chemicals in the Workplace”.

Objective and learning outcomes of this session are: 1.) Describe how chemicals interact with the body and vice versa and 2.) Identify good practices on chemical safety.

He discussed chemical agents and hazardous materials and substances and quoted Paracelsus, the father of modern toxicology by saying, “All substances are poisons; there is none which is not a poison. The right dose differentiates a poison and a remedy”.

He also discussed the globally harmonized system of classification and labelling chemicals which has two major elements:

• Classification of the hazards of chemicals according to the GHS rules
• Communication of the hazards and precautionary information using Safety Data Sheets and Labels
Lastly, he discussed several chemical’s safety data sheets.

Figure 20. Dr. Paul Michael Hernandez, discussing some of the chemicals being used by the workers in their workplace and their safety data sheets.

**CADMIUM OXIDE**

**SECTION 2: HAZARDS IDENTIFICATION.**

2.1 Classification of the substance.
In accordance with Regulation (EU) No 1272/2008:
- Acute Tox. 2: Fatal if inhaled.
- Aquatic Chronic 1: Very toxic to aquatic life with long lasting effects.
- Carc. 1B: May cause cancer.
- Muta. 2: Suspected of causing genetic defects.
- Repr. 2: Suspected of damaging fertility. Suspected of damaging the unborn child.
- STOT RE 1: Causes damage to organs.

2.2 Label elements.
**Labelling in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 1272/2008:**
**Pictograms:**

![Pictograms](image)

**Signal Word:**
**Danger**
**H statements:**
- H330: Fatal if inhaled.
- H341: Suspected of causing genetic defects.
- H350: May cause cancer.
- H361fd: Suspected of damaging fertility. Suspected of damaging the unborn child.
- H372: Causes damage to organs.
- H410: Very toxic to aquatic life with long lasting effects.
n-HEXANE

SECTION 2: Hazards identification

Classification of the substance or mixture:

- Environmentally Damaging
  Chronic hazards to the aquatic environment, category 2

- Flammable
  Flammable liquids, category 2

- Health hazard
  Aspiration hazard, category 1
  Reproductive toxicity, category 2

- Irritant
  Skin irritation, category 2
  Specific target organ toxicity following single exposure, category 3

STOT SE 3
Aspiration Tox. 1
Flammable Liq. 2
Aquatic Chronic 2
Reproductive 2
Skin Irritation, Category 2
STOT RE 2

Signal word: Danger
The most important things that he said regarding chemical safety, the best thing to do is to ELIMINATE/elimination of hazards and if not, there should be training & education, job rotation, labelling of chemicals, and engineering control. He does not advise use of PPEs or personal protective equipment.

Figure 21 & 22. Awarding of Certificate of Appreciation to Dr. Paul Michael Hernandez, MD, MOH by Mr. Ignacio Dinglasan, union president of Samahan ng mga Manggagawa sa Eagle Ridge Golf Course & Residential Estate.