CHALLENGES IN BOHS PROVISION IN VIETNAM

Dr. Nguyen Bich Diep
National Institute of Occupational & Environmental Health
57 Le Quy Don Street, Hanoi, Vietnam
diepyhld@yahoo.com

The Ramazzini Days
25-27 October 2013, Carpi, Italy
I. Background information

- Area: 330.991 km²
- Population in 2010: 87 million people
- Rural population: 60.7 million people (70%)
- 63 provinces/Cities

**Social economic indicators:**
- GDP: USD 124 billions
- GDP per capita: USD 3,300
- Growth rate of GDP: 5.7%
- Average income per person: 3.2 million VND (150 USD)

*(General Statistics Office of Vietnam 2011)*
Number of enterprises and workforce

Enterprises: ~ 622,977 enterprises (SSEs & MSEs: 97%)
Workforce: 49,048,000 people (50.7% of total population)
II. OSH PROBLEMS

2.1. GENERAL OSH PROBLEMS:

- **Occupational accidents:**
  - 4,383 accidents with 4,553 injured, 498 deaths yearly.
  - 2.4 death/100,000 population
  - The number of accidents increased by 7.95% per year,
  - Many times higher than the reported number at about 40,000 accidents/year.
Situation of Occupational accidents in 10 years (2001-2010)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total cases</th>
<th>Fatal cases</th>
<th>Severe cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>3748</td>
<td>395</td>
<td>1162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>4521</td>
<td>514</td>
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<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>4089</td>
<td>513</td>
<td>1083</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>6186</td>
<td>575</td>
<td>1865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>4164</td>
<td>473</td>
<td>1026</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>6088</td>
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<td>1142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>6337</td>
<td>621</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>6047</td>
<td>753</td>
<td>1262</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>6250</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>1221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>5125</td>
<td>601</td>
<td>1260</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.1. General OHS problems (cont.)

- **Occupational diseases (OD) (2001-2011)**:
  - Increase in both the number of affected people and types of OD.
  - 1,000-1,500 new cases each year
  - There are 28 ODs in the list of compensated ODs
  - Number of OD: 10 times higher than reported.
Situation of occupational diseases

- Estimated incident cases of occupational disease every year: 1000 - 1500
- Cummulative OD cases in 2011: 27,246 people
- Estimated data on OD in fact: 10 times higher
2.2. Specific OHS problems

2.2.1. Asbestos

a) Production and usage

- About 60,000 tons Chrysotile imported annually
- The production of asbestos-cement slate: 70 million m² annually
- Companies producing asbestos-cement roof tiles: 41
- Products: roof tiles, insulators, mechanics and construction materials
Average of about 60,000 tons asbestos are consumed annually and 16,000 workers exposed to asbestos.
2.2. Specific OHS problems (cont.)

c) Asbestos-related diseases (ARD)
- No of workers exp. to asbestos: 16,000
- 1976-2007: 3 cases of asbestosis/25,000 pneumoconiosis cases reported.
2.2.2. Health care workers
(A national study in 132 health care facilities and 9,437 health care workers)

b) Working environment polluted by variety of toxic factors:
- Toxic gases: 6.7-13.1% of samples exceeding standards by 1.1-33.3 times
- Microorganism:

![Pie chart showing 41.7% meet standards and 59.3% exceeding standards]
Ionizing radiation (X-ray, therapeutic radiology): some places exceed standards by 2.8-224 times.

Meet standards 96%

Exceed standards 4%
2.2. Specific OHS problems (cont.)

2.2.2. Health care workers

c) Stress and violence risks

- Stress: 16.1-54.4% had occupational stress symptoms
- Violence risk: 29.2%

The graph shows the following stress causes and their percentages:
- Working environment: 71.9%
- Overworkload: 54.8%
- Difficult cases: 15.8%
- Patent contact: 41.7%
- Patent's family contact: 33.5%
2.2. Specific OHS problems (cont.)
2.2.2. Health care workers

d) Health status
- Needle injury: 34.7-57.3%
- Low back pain and neck pain: 93.4% and 49.5% (HCWs in hospitals)
- HbsAg (+): 19.7%
- Chronic diseases (stomach ulcers, chronic hepatitis, etc.): 25.9-28.3%
III. BOHS PROVISION ACTIVITIES
LEGISLATIVE DOCUMENTS RELATED TO BOHS PROVISION IN VIETNAM
2. OH System providing BOHS in Health Sector

- National Institute of Occupational and Environmental Health (NIOEH)
  Department of Occup. Health in
  + Nha trang Pasteur Institute,
  + Ho Chi Minh City Hygiene and Public Health Institute,
  + Tay Nguyen Hygiene & Epidemiology Institute.

Provincial Health Dept. in 63 provinces

Occupational Health Division in 55 Provincial Preventive Medicine Centers

Center for Protection of Health & Environ. in 8 Provinces/Cities: HoCh Minh; Can Tho; Kien Giang, Dong Nai; Binh Duong; Vinh Phuc, Bac Ninh & Hanoi

Ministries/Branches Occ. Health Center (Transportation, Construction, Industry & Trade, Agriculture, Railway Garment, Aviation, Post & Communication, ...)

Factories, enterprises

Cooperatives, small and medium enterprises

Public Health Section in District Health Centers

COMMUNE HEALTH STATIONS
Working environment monitoring

Graph showing working environment monitoring from 2001-2011, with rate of WE samples exceeding TLV and total WE samples.
About 10% of enterprises organized health check up and 50-60% of workers were examined their health periodically. Number of workers under the annual health check up is also increasing by year from 496,931 in 2006 to 766,217 workers in 2011.
Detection of Occupational diseases

More than 1,800 enterprises at high risk of occupational diseases over the country organized occupational disease detection for more than 60,000 workers suffering from 19 types of occupational diseases (ODs) in 2011.

No. of people suffering from occupational diseases

- 1976-1990: 5497
- 1996-2000: 7424
- 2001-2005: 6123
- 2006-2010: 26928
- 2011: 27246
Situation of occupational diseases

- Estimated incident cases of occupational disease every year: 1000 - 1500
- Cumulative OD cases in 2011: 27,246 people
- Estimated data on OD in fact: 10 times higher
BOHS PROVISION TO SOME TARGET GROUPS OF WORKERS:

- ABESTOS EXPOSED WORKERS
- HEALTH CARE WORKERS
- TRADE VILLAGE WORKERS
- AGRICULTURAL WORKERS
Develop diagnostic criteria and medical expertise criteria of Occupational Asbestos Related Diseases (ARD)
Development of the national profile on occupational health related to asbestos in Vietnam

- It consists of 20 items:
  - Describe the import and use of asbestos
  - Sectors related to asbestos in Vietnam;
  - Legislation documents, Vietnam standard ratified concentration of asbestos dust;
  - The total number of workers with asbestos exposure and asbestos related diseases.

- Proposed mechanism cooperation among agencies to collect and update information for the national profile
Develop guideline on safety in using asbestos

- It consists of 04 chapters and 01 annex.
  - Chapter I: Using asbestos in Viet Nam
  - Chapter II: Monitoring of working environment
  - Chapter III: Prevention of asbestos exposure
  - Chapter IV: Controlling asbestos exposure in some specific occupation such as A-C proof production, mining and serpentine processing, and repairing houses...
CAPACITY BUILDINGS:

- Several training courses on working environment monitoring and workers' health surveillance and prevention of occupational diseases have been organized by NIOEH to build capacity for occupational health staffs in OH network over the country.

- OH technical regulations and national standards on occupational hygiene and occupational diseases have been developed and reviewed by NIOEH and submitted to MOH for approval and promulgation (120 standards).
254 medical staffs were attended 09 workshops and training courses in domestic and international on diagnosis of ARDs
Monitoring working environment in asbestos enterprises
Health examination and providing masks against dust to workers
BOSH PROVISON ACTIVITIES FOR HEALTH CARE WORKERS

Development of several training materials on OSH for HCWs

- The book and training curriculum framework on OSH and occupational diseases prevention in health facilities.
- Basic occupational health services and working conditions improvement in health facilities.
- "Specific Working Conditions and occupational Health among HCWs in this Period"
Implement pilot model of occupational diseases prevention for HCWs in 21 district hospitals of 03 provinces (Bac Ninh, Thai Nguyen, TT. Hue)

Organized 24 training courses on risk factors in health facilities for 840 HCWs
Health examination for 2.168 HCWs
Using needles safety boxes
Working conditions improvement

Setting up biological safety cabinets and the local ventilation when using chemicals
BOHS ACTIVITIES IN HANDICRAFT VILLAGES
Some work improvements in handicraft villages

Rearrange workplaces

Before

After
Taking advantage of sunlight by opening sky windows
Using personal protective equipment

Before

After
Some BOHS Activities in Agriculture

Practices on working conditions improvement in agriculture
Training and group discussion on hazards in agriculture
Health examination for farmers
Shielding agricultural machinery

Before

After
ISSUES AND CHALLENGES
The coverage of BOHS provision to enterprises (< 20% in over the country)
The coverage of BOHS provision to enterprises (15-35% in industrialized provinces)
IV. ISSUES AND CHALLENGES:

- Now there are > 600 thousand enterprises, >97% of which are SSEs and MSEs with backward technologies = result in risks of increased occupational diseases and accidents;

- Importing and using new machines, technologies and materials → new types of occupational diseases;
- The development of such new industries as oil extraction, construction and electricity, etc. that increase the risks of occupational accidents and diseases/ environmental pollution (account for 50% of total number of occupational accidents);

- The development of the informal economy (trade villages, household business...) increase the risks of environmental pollution;

- Increased workforce without proper training → increased risks of occupational accidents and diseases.
Forecast - Occupational accidents and diseases (by 2015)

- Occupational accidents:
  > 100 thousand people
  > 1,000 deaths,
  economic loss of 900 billion VND;
- Occupational diseases
  At least 10 more types of new diseases;
  > 30,000 people newly contracting occupational diseases.
National target programme on OSH
(2011-2015)

1. Objectives:

a. General objectives:
   ○ To improve working conditions; reduce working environment pollution;
   ○ To prevent occupational accidents and occupational diseases; to provide health care for workers;
   ○ To raise awareness, ensure the compliance with Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) laws, and protect physical safety and life of workers, assets of the State, of the business, of the organization, contributing to the sustainable development of the country.
b. Specific objectives:

- Reduce annually by 5% frequency rate of fatal occupational accidents in highly hazardous sectors of mining, construction, use of electricity, metal and chemical production;

- Increase annually by 5% medical units providing periodical medical check-ups for workers, increase by 5% number of workers who are examined to detect occupational diseases, and increase by 3% number of units having work environment monitored and supervised;

- Increase annually by an average of 2,000 small and medium sized-enterprises (SMEs) which apply effectively the OSH management system
- Provide OSH training to an average of more than 40,000 people who are working in occupations, jobs with strict OSH requirements; to 10,000 people who are doing hard, hazardous or dangerous occupations and jobs and to 40,000 OSH officials in enterprises per year;

- Disseminate appropriate OSH information to more than 1,000 craft villages, 5,000 cooperatives and 30,000 SMEs by 2015;

- 100% of workers certified with occupational accidents and diseases are provided with health care and rehabilitation in line with laws.

- 100% of fatal occupational accidents are investigated and settled in compliance with laws.
Plan of BOHS provision
reach the goal of covering 80% workers

Strengthening BOHS provision to workers in:
- Underserved people groups, such as informal sectors, SSEs & MSEs, traditional villages, agriculture, household business, etc.
- Hazardous industries and at high risk of occupational diseases and injuries, such as mining, construction, chemical, etc.
- Health care workers
- Asbestos exposed workers
- Etc.
THANK YOU!