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▶ Advancing Safety & Health at Work



Highlights from projects funded
by Japan (2021 - 2022)

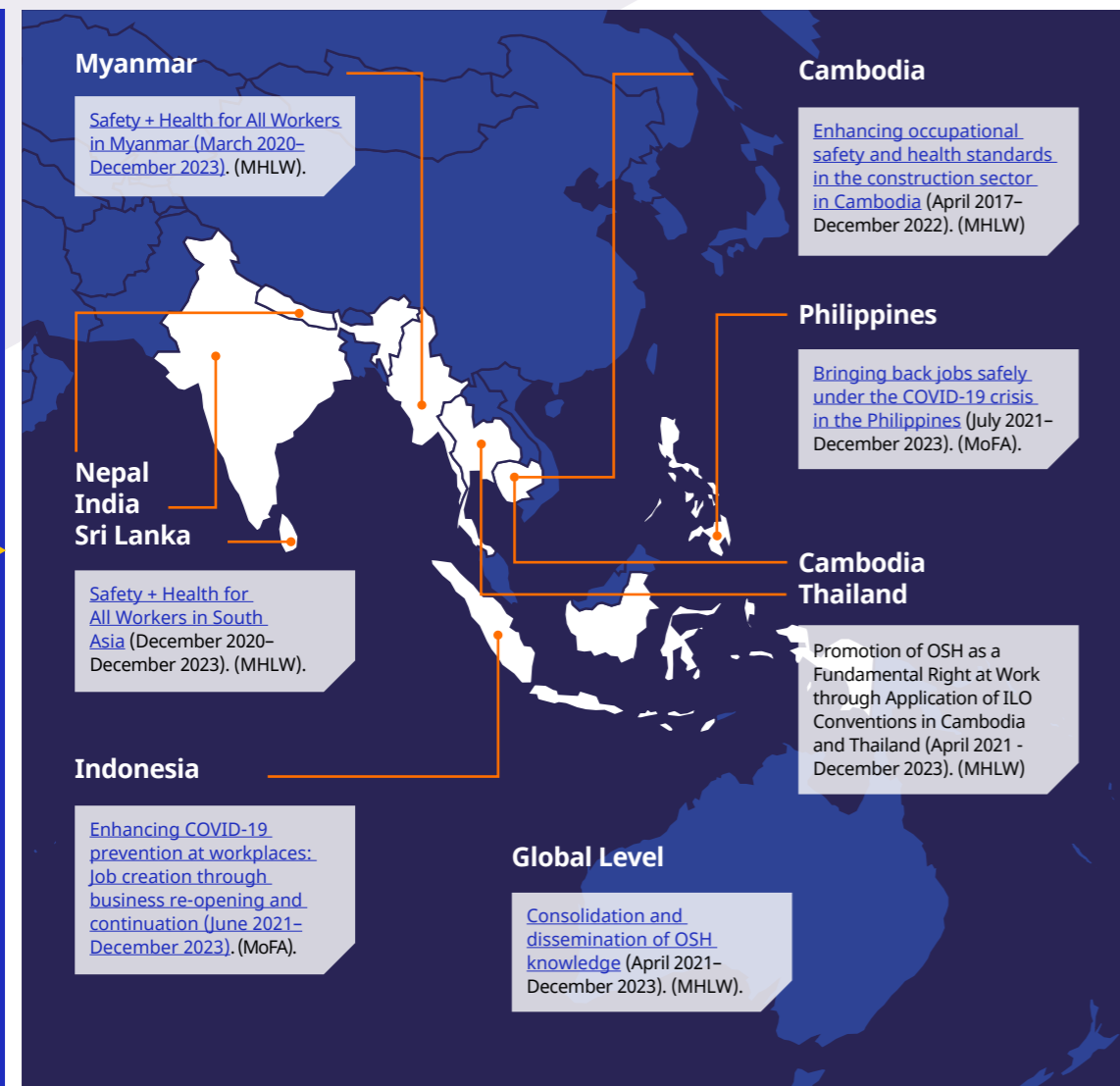
ADVANCING SAFETY AND HEALTH AT WORK HIGHLIGHTS FROM PROJECTS FUNDED BY JAPAN (2021 – 2022)

Japan is one of the ILO [Safety + Health for All](#) Flagship Programme's largest development partners. Since 2015, its continuous collaboration has enabled the ILO to improve the safety and health of millions of workers, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region.

Through the Flagship Programme, the ILO advocates globally and acts locally to promote safe and healthy work environments. Japan's participation in the Safety + Health for All Global Tripartite Advisory Committee solidifies its role as a strategic partner in shaping the strategies to address recurrent and new occupational safety and health (OSH) risks, focusing on workers in the most vulnerable conditions.

Thanks to the contributions from the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), the ILO has been able to roll out initiatives aimed at improving risk communication, community engagement and workplace safety and health while building local capacities and strengthening national OSH legal and policy frameworks. Also, regional collaboration to address common OSH challenges has been enhanced and OSH knowledge has been built and disseminated globally.

This fact sheet highlights key results achieved through the seven projects funded by the Government of Japan in 2021-2022.



► BUILDING MOMENTUM IN ASIA

ILO projects supported by Japan have been working to assess decent work deficits at the workplace and to improve national legal frameworks on occupational safety and health



Project team in a tea plantation in Nepal

In line with the recognition of [a safe and healthy working environment as a fundamental principle and right at work \(FPRW\)](#) in June 2022, Japan-funded projects contribute to strengthening national legal frameworks on occupational safety and health (OSH) and look at their linkages with other FPRW.

In **India**, the capacities of central trade union leaders have been strengthened through training activities. The [project](#) also supported the organization of a Strategic Planning Meeting for central trade unions to promote OSH as FPRW. As a result, a Joint Trade Union Resolution was adopted calling upon the Government of India to ratify the ILO Conventions on Occupational Safety and Health, 1981 (No.155) and on the Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety

and Health, 2006 (no. 187). The resolution also highlighted the need to expand coverage to informal economy workers and to improve the Indian national OSH system by strengthening social dialogue on OSH at all levels.

In **Sri Lanka** and **Nepal**, the project tailored and rolled out the ILO methodology to assess the realization of fundamental principles and rights at work with a special focus on safety and health in tea (Sri Lanka & Nepal), Cardamom (Nepal), rubber (Sri Lanka) and coconut (Sri Lanka) plantations, including in informal settings. Findings from the assessments will guide the development and implementation of joint interventions to improve the realization of fundamental principles and rights at the workplace, with a focus on the linkages between OSH and discrimination, as well as between OSH and freedom of association and collective bargaining.

Research was conducted in **Sri Lanka** and **Cambodia** to identify gaps in the national legal frameworks related to ILO Conventions No.187 and No.155 (in Sri Lanka only). The gap analyses are instrumental to building a common understanding among tripartite plus constituents-government, employers' and workers' organizations and other civil society groups – in the context of ratification of these Fundamental Conventions. Additionally, the [project](#) supported the review of the 2nd National OSH Master Plan in Cambodia and will continue to assist with the endorsement of the 3rd Master Plan in 2023. Similar work will be conducted in **Thailand** in 2023.

► OVERCOMING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN INDONESIA

Risk assessment services provided by the Japan-funded project helped hundreds of Indonesian companies, including small- and medium-sized enterprises, survive the COVID-19 pandemic.

The [project](#) in **Indonesia** worked with constituents to develop a platform for enterprises to conduct self-risk assessments to prevent COVID-19 in the workplace. By completing the self-assessments and receiving technical assistance from 58 occupational safety and health (OSH) doctors, 1,521 workplaces

strengthened their OSH management systems, reaching more than 22,150 workers by September 2022.

One of the business owners who participated in the project, Maria Satiaputri, [highlighted the impact](#) of the services on her cosmetics manufacturer in Bali. "Previously, we only implemented OSH for production tasks, but joining the ILO programme made everybody understand that OSH should also be implemented in the office. The risk assessment made

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me realize that (...) OSH is an investment because it has a direct impact on the safety of workers. And this, of course, reduces the factor of accidents that may occur in the workplace. In addition, OSH not only ensures the safety of our main asset, but also guarantees the quality of our products."

The project also enhanced social dialogue with tripartite constituents and other key stakeholders through online events aimed at building a safety and health culture and facilitating a coherent response of the Government, employers and workers to the COVID-19 pandemic. The public dialogues reached over 14,800 people and 446 mentions in the media.



Participating students learn about the importance of OSH through E-OSH Learning and KATIGA Game

the final test earn a certificate. The project also developed the [KATIGA](#) game focusing on the prevention and control of occupational hazards and protection against them in the work environment during the pandemic. To ensure the sustainability of the actions, the ILO [handed over](#) the OSH online learning platform, e-OSH Learning and the KATIGA board game to the Ministry of Manpower.

I was not aware of OSH before I joined the workshop. Now I know different risks of safety and how I can prevent and protect against them."

- Sofie, a vocational student from SMKN 7 Tangerang, Banten



Yuni Lestari, owner of Karuniasari Catering in Yogyakarta

In addition, the project served as a platform to advocate for better OSH understanding and actions (with a focus on COVID-19 prevention), reaching 25,532 vocational and first-year college students through its learning programme. The [e-OSH Learning](#) is a free electronic learning site that introduces basic OSH principles. Participating students who fully complete all modules and pass

CREATING A CULTURE OF PREVENTION ON OSH IN MYANMAR

In the face of challenging circumstances resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and political unrest, the Japan-funded project successfully delivered awareness-raising activities reaching millions of people.

In 2021, in collaboration with the Vision Zero Fund in **Myanmar**, the [project](#) supported the Yangon Photo Festival with an exhibition on occupational safety and health (OSH) conditions in the construction sector. The festival is organized by the PhotoDoc Association, which builds the capacity of journalists, civil society organizations and vulnerable groups in Myanmar to investigate, document and report on social justice and environmental issues.

In 2022, the project commemorated the World Day for Safety and Health at Work through a massive social media campaign. It used [Facebook](#) to widely disseminate information on OSH management at the workplace, COVID-19 and mental health awareness at work. The campaign reached 3.1 million people.

In collaboration with other initiatives, the project also designed and delivered mental health at work sensitization sessions for 21 employers from the Myanmar Construction Entrepreneur Federation (MCEF), 13 members of civil society organizations (CSO) such as Skill for Humanity (SFH), Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business (MCRB), Labour

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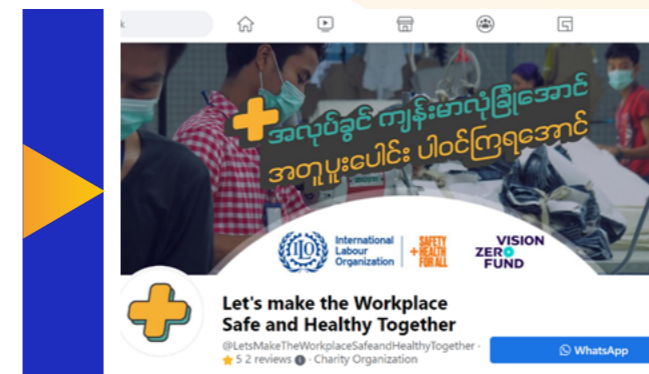


Yangon Photo Festival 2021

Rights Organizations, and 34 members of Migrant Civil Society Organizations and the Confederation of Trade Unions of Myanmar (CTUM). The successful activities led to the organization of additional training sessions for six groups between July to December 2022, reaching over 620 unemployed women workers who used to work in the garment sector.

I am grateful for the de-stigmatization of mental health & mental health at work-related support from the project, especially in the time of current crises. This has been useful in both workplace and personal life spheres."

- Participant during mental health at work information session.



BUILDING CAPACITY TO ADDRESS CHEMICAL SAFETY IN CAMBODIA AND MYANMAR

Measures to reduce workers' exposure to hazardous substances, such as asbestos, were taken with support from Japanese-funded projects.

In **Cambodia**, the first Asbestos Profile was launched in 2019 by a working group comprising 13 Ministries, including the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training (MoLVT), employers and trade unions representatives, with support from the ILO and the Union Aid Abroad (APHEDA).

The Asbestos Profile was further updated in 2021, based on the results of a construction and engineering sector employers' survey on the use of materials containing asbestos, awareness of associated issues, and industry perspectives on solutions to eliminate asbestos-related diseases in Cambodia. The survey revealed that construction, demolition, vehicle (car, truck, motorbike) maintenance, transport, power plants and power production, firefighting and waste disposal workers were at risk of developing asbestos-related diseases. In a further step, the project collaborated with APHEDA to support the Government of Cambodia in drafting a roadmap and Action Plan

to Prevent Asbestos Exposure and Diseases for Workers and Community 2023-2026. In parallel, the project supported MoLVT in drafting and launching the Guidelines on Safety of Chemical Substances at the Workplace in support of the implementation of the Strategic Development Plan on Labour and Vocational Training Sector (2019-2023) with the aim to increase risk management of chemicals in the workplace and ensure the safety of workers and chemical products.

The project also supported the [Cambodia Ban Asbestos Network](#) campaign to sensitize young workers about the deadly hazards of asbestos, its safe removal, and the importance of banning its use. Focus was on transportation, garment, and food and service sectors in Phnom Penh, Siem Reap, Kampot, Battambang and Sihanoukville. A [video documentary](#) to raise awareness among community members, workers and decision-makers on this issue was developed and disseminated.

In **Myanmar**, the [project](#) supported 14 industrial hygienists attending a 10-week training on the Globally Harmonized System (GHS) of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals. A joint follow-up webinar was then organized by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and Myanmar experts, giving participants the opportunity to discuss the applicability of GHS training in their work. In addition, datasheets on selected chemical hazards, including asbestos, were translated into Myanmar language.



Launching ceremony of the updated **Cambodian National Asbestos Profile** (4 October 2022, Phnom Penh, Cambodia)

SCALING UP WORKPLACE INTERVENTIONS THROUGH PARTICIPATORY ACTION-ORIENTED TRAINING

Japan-funded projects use ILO Participatory Action-Oriented Training approaches adapted to specific sectors and country contexts to rapidly improve OSH at workplace level.

In **Cambodia**, the [project](#) has used the **ILO Work Improvement for Small Construction Sites (WISCON) methodology** to improve the safety and health of workers in the construction sector. In 2021, the project collaborated with the Cambodian Department for Safety and Health (DoSH) to train 15 trainers from trade unions. Together with the Provincial Labour and Vocational Training (PoLVT) officials, they trained 334 lead workers and supervisors from various construction sites. In 2022, PoLVT built the capacities of additional 334 participants from 8 provinces. In collaboration with DOSH and the Board of Engineer Cambodia (BEC), WISCON was adapted to the specificities of high-rise buildings to become **“Work Improvement for Large Construction” (WILCON)**, developing the skills of 395 engineers.

In the **Philippines**, over 5,500 micro and small enterprises (26% in the informal economy) were trained on OSH with a focus on COVID-19 prevention at the workplace using the adapted **ILO Work Improvement in Small Enterprises (WISE) for Covid Plus**. This module is being incorporated into “BOSH for SO1”, the mandatory basic OSH training programme for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) under 50 employees delivered by the national OSH Center. BOSH is a Training of Trainers designed to impart knowledge and skills on basic concepts and principles of OSH to enable future safety officers to implement their respective company’s safety and health

programme (SO1-certification). This approach ensures continuity of training delivery for workers hardly reached by current mechanisms, such as informal economy workers. Training will continue to be delivered by OSH Networks and Safety Training Organizations such as the OSH Academy of the Employers’ Confederation of the Philippines.



Trainer conducts **WISE** adapted to COVID-19 prevention for participants in the informal sector in partnership with the local government unit

In **Nepal**, 31 representatives from employers’ (NNCCI and FNCCI) and workers’ (GFont and NTUC) organizations, as well as from other stakeholders (tea grower association, cardamon companies, etc.) were trained using the **Work Improvement in Neighbourhood Development (WIND)** methodology at the end of 2022. The training programme, which aims to improve the safety and health of workers in tea and cardamon plantations, will be scaled up in 2023.

FOSTERING REGIONAL COLLABORATION AND CONTRIBUTING TO GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE OF OSH

Thanks to Japanese funding, regional activities stimulate joint responses from governments, workers’ and employers’ organizations to address occupational safety and health (OSH) challenges while building and disseminating knowledge at the global level.

Under the presidency of the Minister of Labour, Cambodia held a regional workshop with participants from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (**ASEAN**), Korea and Japan.



Workshop on Documentation and Best Practice on OSH in SMEs and Informal Economy among ASEAN Member States (ASEAN OSH-NET), 17–18 October 2022, Siem Reap, Cambodia

Participants shared good practices and lessons learned from OSH initiatives in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and in the informal economy. The meeting facilitated the definition of a common approach from the ASEAN in these areas. Following this exchange, good practices will be published in 2023.

In **South Asia**, the project rolled out a capacity-building programme on OSH for young trade union leaders from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. It helped them design an advocacy agenda that will be further supported by the South Asian Network of Young Trade Union OSH Volunteers (YTOV). A Manual on OSH for trade union facilitators and a workbook for young trade union leaders have also been developed.

At the **global level**, a Knowledge Management Platform was developed with more than 400 knowledge products on OSH and labour inspection to share information and foster collaboration among projects. In addition, a [catalogue](#) with over 60 publications on OSH produced in the framework of the flagship programme was prepared. The next step is designing a knowledge management strategy that will set specific goals, processes, mechanisms and resources to create, store and share actionable knowledge. Finally, research to fill knowledge gaps on OSH is ongoing. One initiative involves identifying good practices in national systems for recording and notification of occupational accidents and diseases, aiming to support countries in improving their own systems. Another study explores the effects of ratifying ILO’s OSH conventions on occupational fatality rates, with the aim of promoting the ratification of



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these instruments. The ILO is also documenting good practices on OSH in response to crises to learn from past experiences and inform strategies to anticipate, prepare and respond to possible emergencies (disease outbreaks, conflicts, natural disasters and other unforeseen challenges).



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