

Meet With The Court Symposium 3

Situating Occupational Safety and Health in the context of Decent Work

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ILO and Decent Work

Decent Work comprises the core policies and principles of the ILO established since its inception:

- 1919 – ‘Universal and lasting peace can be established only if it based on social justice’
- Tripartism embedded in its Constitution
- 1944 – Renewal of constitutional commitment in the Declaration of Philadelphia:
 - Labour is not a commodity
 - Poverty anywhere constitutes a danger to prosperity everywhere

ILO and Decent Work

- 1998 – Adoption of the Declaration of Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work:
 - No Child Labour,
 - No Forced Labour,
 - No Discrimination at Work,
 - Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining
- 1999 – Launch of the Decent Work concept
- 2008 – ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization

The Decent Work Agenda

ILO's four Strategic Objectives reflect the core values, core policies and principles of the ILO:

1. Promotion and application of standards, and the Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work
2. Creation of greater opportunities for women and men to secure decent employment and income
3. Enhancement of the coverage and effectiveness of social protection for all
4. Strengthened tripartism and social dialogue

Decent Work in Practice

Putting the Decent Work Agenda into practice is achieved through:

1. Guaranteeing rights at work
2. Creating opportunities for decent employment
3. Ensuring **social protection**
4. Promoting social dialogue and tripartism

Decent Work globally accepted

At the national level:

DWCP in almost 100 countries, incl. the Caribbean (explicit mention in T&T Manifesto 2010)

At the regional level:

Approved by 4th Summit of the Americas 2005, CARICOM 2006, IACML 2007, European Union 2006, African Union 2007, etc.

At the global level:

Supported by the UN, ECOSOC, World Bank, G8 and G20, and a renewal of commitment for Decent Work through the ILO Global Jobs Pact at the ILC 2009.

Situating Decent Work at the Regional Level

Article 73 (Industrial Relations) - Treaty of Chaguaramas, provides that:

‘COHSOD shall, in consultation with COTED, formulate proposals and adopt appropriate measures for the promotion of harmonious, stable and enlightened industrial relations...’

and shall promote the ‘objectives of full employment, **improved living and working conditions**; adequate social security policies and programmes; tripartite consultation among government, workers’ and employers’ organizations; and cross-border mobility of labour.’

Decent Work and Occupational Safety and Health

The ILO estimates that occupational accidents and work-related diseases cause worldwide over 6,300 deaths every day or **2.3 million fatalities a year** ! Work-related diseases account for approx. 85% of these.

Non-fatal accidents affect a much larger number yet – over **313 million workers** are injured every year ! What are the figures for Trinidad and Tobago ?

This is a devastating toll on many: on the affected workers, their families, communities, employers and economies. It is not limited to low income and emerging economies.

Decent Work and Occupational Safety and Health

- ILO's assistance is offered to develop an effective OSH strategy at the national level; but also to promote successful OSH management systems at the enterprise level.
- This requires above all the commitment of top management to a **CULTURE OF PREVENTION** (training, resources), but also the participation of workers (recognizing hazards, complying with laws).
- The goal of any OSH strategy is to prevent workplace death, injury and disease. But when it happens, workers and their dependants must be supported and the ILO advocates for full extension of coverage of employee injury insurance to all workers.

Thank you !