



VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMME  
FOR OIC MEMBER COUNTRIES

# REPORT

SECOND MEETING OF OIC OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND  
HEALTH NETWORK

OIC-OSHNET

(ANKARA, 04–06 MARCH)



Ankara, March 2013

## **I. BACKGROUND**

1. The Second Meeting of OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET) was held in Ankara, Republic of Turkey from 04 to 06 March 2013.
2. The main objectives of the Meeting were:
  - to review the progress of actions and activities accomplished since the Kick-off Meeting held in Ankara, Republic of Turkey on 16-17 May 2011;
  - to discuss the modalities of closer collaboration in on-going OIC-OSHNET projects;
  - and to draft an action plan for the coming period until the next meeting.

## **II. ORGANIZATION OF WORK**

### **A. Attendance**

3. The Second Meeting was attended by representatives of the following OIC Member Countries:
  - Republic of Azerbaijan
  - Kingdom of Bahrain
  - Brunei Darussalam
  - Republic of Indonesia
  - Republic of Iraq
  - Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
  - State of Kuwait
  - Kyrgyz Republic
  - Malaysia
  - Islamic Republic of Mauritania
  - Sultanate of Oman
  - State of Palestine
  - State of Qatar
  - Republic of Togo
  - Republic of Turkey
  - Republic of Uganda
  - Republic of Yemen

4. The representatives of the following OIC institutions attended the Meeting as well:
  - Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries (SESRIC)

(A copy of the List of Participants of the Second Meeting of OIC-OSHNET is attached as Annex I.)

## **B. Documentation**

5. The documentation of the meeting consisted of the Draft Agenda and Programme. The meeting was also provided with the Final Report of the Kick-off Meeting including Concept Paper of OIC-OSHNET.

## **III. OPENING SESSION**

6. The opening ceremony of the Second OIC-OSHNET Meeting was held on 04 March 2013. Following the recitation from the Holy Quran, Mr. Kasım OZER, the Director General of the General Directorate of Occupational Health and Safety (DGOHS), welcomed participants, and expressed his pleasure in hosting the event and bringing delegates from OIC Member Countries to Turkey.
7. In his inaugural address, Mr. Huseyin Hakan ERYETLI, SESRIC's Director of Training and Technical Cooperation Department, welcomed all participants and expressed his special thanks to General Directorate of Occupational Health and Safety (DGOHS) for hosting the Second Meeting in Ankara and for the warm hospitality. He also expressed his thanks to the delegates for accepting SESRIC's invitation and designating their time to attend the Meeting.
8. Mr. ERYETLI also underlined the significance of consolidating the existing relationships between member countries further within the context of generating common interests in protecting workers and seeking solutions to improve workplace safety in OIC Member Countries. He, thus, commended the projects in which SESRIC and public and private partners have been working together to understand the current OSH situation at the country and regional level and to expand the culture of prevention among OIC Member Countries.

(A copy of the text of the Inaugural Statement of Huseyin Hakan ERYETLI on behalf of Prof. Savas ALPAY, Director General of SESRIC, is attached as Annex II.)

9. At the opening session, Mr. Fatih ACAR, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security of the Republic of Turkey, welcomed the representatives of OIC Member Countries and expressed the Ministry's compliments regarding the establishment of the OIC-OSHNET among occupational safety and health professionals. Mr. ACAR further accentuated the importance of collaboration among OIC Member Countries in the field of occupational safety and health. He concluded his speech reiterating the importance of solidarity and taking concrete steps among OIC Member Countries as well as his Ministry's willingness to stand alongside the member countries, against the difficulties and hardships.
10. The session ended with the adoption of the Draft Agenda of the Second OIC-OSHNET Meeting and elected the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and the Rapporteur Countries. Brunei Darussalam and Qatar were elected as the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Meeting for the first session respectively. Turkey was elected as the Rapporteur Country for the Meeting.

(The Agenda of the Meeting is attached as Annex III.)

#### **IV. WORKING SESSIONS**

##### **Working Session I: Review of the Progress in the Implementation of the OIC-OSHNET Programme since the Kick-off Meeting (SESRIC)**

11. The session started with the short introduction of the participants and continued with an OIC-OSHNET presentation focusing on the aims and importance of the programme. Mrs. Hatice Ilbay Soylemez (SESRIC) briefed the participants on the OIC-OSHNET Programme and pointed out the activities completed by SESRIC since the Kick-off Meeting including OIC-OSHNET Portal. She also informed the participants on the objectives, beneficiaries, and planned activities for the upcoming period. She ultimately stated the significance of National Focal Points (NFPs) for a better implementation and Occupational Safety and Health Capacity Building Programme (OSHCaB) for training opportunities.
12. Mr. Farouq Maita (Jordan) inquired whether the NFPs would enter the platform through the OIC-OSHNET Portal and what kind of programmes would be implemented for the employee families to raise the awareness against hazards at work.
13. Mr. Ayoub Mahmoud (Palestine NFP) requested more efficient cooperation in the field of occupational safety and health concerning capacity building and training programmes among

member countries. He further stated that joint capacity building programmes can be organized in Jordan for Palestinian experts.

14. Mr. Johari Basri (Malaysia NFP) expressed that individual uploads may not represent the country so online data sharing in OSH related issues should be monitored by National Focal Points of the Programme. He also commented that besides OSH experts in public, SMEs should be focused in capacity building programmes.
15. Mr. Sultan Hasan Sultan (Kuwait) questioned the level of cooperation with ILO in regard to occupational safety and health and stated that member countries should nominate their NFPs by taking into account that NFPs should be central and deal with all international organizations.
16. Mr. Sameer Al-Haddad (Bahrain) stated that the Meeting cannot decide on the selection criteria of NFPs and it is more important to focus on the activities that we can organize. He underlined that more participants should be invited to the training programmes and topics such as hypertension and obesity should be included into the agenda since health promotion is as important as OSH.
17. Ms. Siham Mohammed Athiab (Iraq NFP) mentioned that they have advanced OSH services in Iraq however they are in need of laboratories measuring toxicity and poisoning. She further inquired about trainings on the subject.
18. Ms. Reham Jabour (Jordan) asked whether any training category exists on the awareness of risks and dangers at work place.
19. Mr. Khalifah Ismail (Brunei) inquired about copy rights of the e-learning materials in OIC-OSHNET website.
20. Ms. Hatice Ilbay Soylemez (SESRIC) and Mr. Efe Kerem Aydın (SESRIC) responded all the questionnaires at the end of the session.

## **Working Session II: Introduction to DGOHS, Activities, Collaborations and the Framework of OIC-OSHNET**

21. In the second session of the Meeting, Bahrain and Uganda were elected as the chairman and vice-chairman respectively.
22. Mr. Nihat Eğri (DGOHS) made an introductory presentation on the vision, mission, and the goals of DGOHS and their collaboration with SESRIC within the framework of OIC-OSHNET Programme. He further informed participants on OSH services in Turkey, DGOHS's activities and capacity and their laboratories. He lastly briefed the Meeting about bi-lateral and multi-lateral cooperations and projects and new OSH law enacted in Turkey.

23. Mr. Sameer Al-Haddad (Bahrain) questioned why DGOHS categorizes the companies according to services rather than the number of working personnel. He further inquired on the number of OSH specialists in Turkey and whether the number is sufficient for the country.
24. Mr. Ismail Gerim (DGOHS) responded that the Directorate categorizes companies according to international NACE codes and they have the detailed list to share, if requested. In overall Turkey, there are 30.000 physician but 6000 are actively working, he informed. He further stated that the number is sufficient for the country however they face regional problems.
25. Mr. Ayoub Mahmoud (Palestine NFP) inquired whether private inspectors are subject to OSH law in Turkey.
26. Mr. Nihat Egri (DGOHS) and Mr. Ismail Gerim (DGOHS) informed the participants that there is no differentiation between public and private institutions regarding the inspection. Mr. Gerim further detailedly briefed the participants about the inspection system in Turkey.
27. Mr. David Mugisa (Uganda) asked whether the labour week and Labour Day is celebrated and the necessary laboratory equipment is produced in Turkey.
28. Mr. Ismail Gerim (DGOHS) informed that both labour week and Labour Day is celebrated in Turkey. Mr. Nihat Egri (DGOHS) further briefed the participants on laboratory equipment and how technical contracts are prepared in DGOHS. He also mentioned that little equipment is produced in Turkey but at this stage they can support countries in preparing contracts, risk analysis and measurements.
29. Ms. Amal Mohammed Ghazal (Iraq NFP) questioned how and what kind of health services are offered in workplaces, how these services are recorded, whether occupational diseases are diagnosed and the list of occupational diseases are available.
30. Mr. Ismail Gerim (DGOHS) explained that there are joint workouts of the Ministries of Health and Labour in Turkey in regard with OSH. From 2003, Ministry of Labour has been responsible from the services provided to workers and Ministry of Health has been in charge of occupational diseases hospitals. Currently, public health department has been established under the Ministry of Health where all workers should be registered with their occupation and occupational diseases should be reported to in 3 working days.

31. Ms. Amal Mohammed Ghazal (Iraq NFP) questioned whether Turkey has its national benchmark and the international agreements approved by Turkey.
32. Mr. Ismail Gerim (DGOHS) stated that Turkey has basically agreed on ILO and European Social Charter laws which caused Turkey to gain approximately twenty-one regulations in the new law. He further informed that Turkey has mainly international benchmarks, USA in general however national benchmarks are on the agenda of the Ministry.
33. Mr. Muchamad Yusuf (Indonesia NFP) questioned about the standards in threshold limits labelling the chemicals in Turkey.
34. Mr. Ismail Gerim (DGOHS) stated that the Ministry has already started to work on customizing the international standards to Turkey. In the EU accession process, the Directorate renewed the laboratory and hired 120 people to work on the standards.
35. Mr. Saiful Azhar Mohammad (Malaysia NFP) questioned the ratio of accidents and the reason why Turkey focuses more on industrial health.
36. Mr. Ismail Gerim (DGOHS) responded that there is a steady decrease in industrial accidents especially in construction field. Inspectors have started regular trainings in construction areas and work in order to increase the awareness and promote the usage of modern equipment. He further stated that almost all work places have modern equipment however in order to increase the production level, rules and regulations are mostly not taken into consideration.
37. Mr. Sameer Al-Haddad (Bahrain) inquired about the effectiveness of the reporting system in Turkey and mentioned that they have a problem of reporting in GCC countries due people are not aware of the importance of reporting.
38. Mr. Ismail Gerim (DGOHS) retorted that necessary regulations have been accomplished regarding the reporting system. Accordingly, occupational diseases should be reported in three working days once they are detected. Further, the new regulations enforce physicians to raise awareness at work places. In this sense, he continued, their first target group is doctors. He concluded that the law has just been upheld and they are expecting numerous reporting within the next two years.

### **Working Session III: Discussion on Higher Involvement of NFPs and Member Countries in the Implementation of OIC-OSHNET**

39. The third session of the Meeting was chaired and co-chaired by Malaysia and Iraq respectively. In this working session, OIC Member Countries presented their capacities, current situation and expectations in occupational safety and health.
40. Ms. Siham Mohammed Athiab (Iraq NFP) made a presentation on occupational safety and health governance in Iraq, the country's strength and weaknesses and the needs to be taken into consideration.
41. Mr. David Mugisa (Uganda) made a presentation on occupational safety and health situation in Uganda. He initially addressed national facts about geography, population and demography, labor market and labor force. He further stated that Ministry of Gender is in charge of occupational safety and health in Uganda. Mr. Mugisa mentioned the mission of the Ministry is to ensure the existence of safety and health at all workplaces and work environment. He also talked about the current achievements and challenges by stating that approximately 400 workplaces are inspected annually, they face low level of staffing and training and have inadequate funding. He concluded by saying that close inter-agency coordination and monitoring should be at the apex of any nation.
42. Mr. Saiful Azhar Mohammed (Malaysia NFP) briefed the Meeting about ASEAN Regional Networking and Malaysia's Initiative in the field of OSH. In his presentation, Mr. Azhar informed participants about the development of ASEAN OSHNET, accomplished initiatives such as OSH score card, publication of OSH information for each member country on ASEAN OSHNET website, capacity building programmes, risk assessment and risk control. He expressed that the vision of ASEAN OSHNET is to foster a safe and healthy working environment in order to bring a productive and competitive workforce. He further underlined the importance of smart partnership which duties are shared by the member states accordingly. He lastly talked about ASEAN policy on national OSH framework, research activities and their impact, OSH inspection policies and best practices within the network.
43. Mr. Farouq Maita (Jordan) made an oral presentation on the situation and related OSH activities in Jordan. Mr. Maita firstly briefed the participants on the national facts of Jordan including geography, population, demography and labour force. He stated that occupational health department is in progress under the supervision of Ministry of Labour and in this sense; medical

examinations of the factory workers as well as economic establishments are on the agenda. He also informed that in every six months, the workers in Jordan have medical examination and the costs are covered by the employees.

44. Mr. Mochamad Yusuf (Indonesia NFP) briefed participants about occupational safety and health related issues of Indonesia. He talked about the challenges and threats of work environments and the needs and concerns of the country. After informing participants about 'working at height', Mr. Yusuf mentioned current improvements of Indonesia on working at height. He concluded his presentation by stating that Indonesia is ready to provide qualified and licensed 'Work at Height' workers to the international job market and 'Work at Height' trainings in and out of Indonesia.
45. Mr. Mohammad Sidatt (Mauritania) started his presentation by explaining the geography, population, official languages, governance system, economic and natural assets and labour force of Mauritania. He mentioned that Mauritanian Labor Law that is governed by the Board of Directors was re-generated in 2004 and enacted in 2006. He underlined that the workers' health, education, media, exchange of equipment and experts and promotion of OSH for every single worker are the objectives of Occupational Health and Safety Office in Mauritania. He lastly stated that regarding occupational safety and health, chemicals are the main problems in Mauritania and thus they are ready to cooperate and share experiences with all OIC Member Countries in regard to chemicals.
46. After the presentations, the session continued with discussions on how to prepare national country profiles and how to cooperate technically during the process, how to enrich OIC-OSHNET website and enhance communication among the participants.

## **Day 2: Tuesday, 05 March 2013**

### **Working Session IV: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

47. The second day of the Meeting was held in the headquarters of DGOHS. Palestine and Kyrgyzstan were elected as the chair and vice-chair of the first session respectively. After the welcome speech of Mr. Kasım Ozer, Director General of DGOHS and Mr. Nihat Eđri, Occupational Health and Safety Expert, Mr. Ahmet Ersoy (Turkey) made a presentation on 'Risk Assessment and Personal Protective Equipment'.

48. In his presentation, Mr. Ersoy (Turkey) defined PPE and stated that PPE is the last level of protecting the health, safety and welfare of people at work. He further expressed that engineering controls are vital and often more cost-effective than PPE in risk management. He lastly briefed the Meeting that PPE regulation includes procedures and principles in relation to production, importation and market surveillance. He finalized his presentation by mentioning that the control and test of PPE is quite important in order to protect human health and safety at work.
49. After the discussions on the difference between risk and hazard, possible risks of PPE itself, the effectiveness of PPE in eliminating the hazards at work, current regulations in Turkey enforcing employees to use PPE, activities to raise the awareness of PPE usage and criminal sanctions in case of not using PPEs in work environment, the session was concluded.

#### **Working Session V: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

50. The session was also chaired by Palestine. Mr. Ahmet Karakavak (Turkey) made a presentation on product safety, market surveillance and personal protective equipment regulation in Turkey. He mentioned that European Union Standardization on the free movement of products and Customs Union Agreement were signed in 1995 between European Union and Turkey. Mr. Karakavak further stated that according to this agreement, customs legislation of Turkey shall be treated in accordance with the applicable laws of EU member countries and in this sense Turkey adopted the EU's Common External Tariff in its trade with third countries. He finalized his presentation by stating the technical specifications, basic health and safety requirements and standards of the products enabling the free movement within the European market.
51. After questions and answers, the session was concluded.

#### **Working Session VI: PPE in the Field**

52. For the last session of the Meeting, Oman and Mauritania were elected as chair and vice-chair respectively.
53. Ms. Seçil Ceylan (Turkey) and Mr. Berk Atlı (Turkey) together made a presentation on Market Surveillance Laboratory for PPE in DGOHS. They informed the meeting on the necessary tests of PPEs, test laboratory building and project, the structure of the laboratory, test activities, test groups and staff. Ms. Ceylan (Turkey) stated that the aim of the laboratory project is to strengthen the

national system for market surveillance of PPEs and to build a PPE test laboratory within the Directorate that is well equipped in order to control PPEs' conformation. She briefed the participants that PPE Laboratory in DGOHS consists of six main areas as tests for eye protectors, head protectors, height protectors, foot protectors, hand protectors and protective clothing. She also mentioned that after the tests are done, test results are reported to the General Directorate and stored for a period of time. She concluded the presentation by informing that the Laboratory is working with 34 types of equipment, 35 types of methods and 20 experts.

54. Following the presentation, the discussions took place and afterwards participants visited the Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) test laboratory and Department of Market Surveillance in DGOHS where they were shown various tests of PPEs.

### **Closing Session: Wrapping up the Meeting**

55. The Closing Session of the Second OIC-OSHNET Meeting was held on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2013 under the moderation of Kuwait, Togo and SESRIC. The participants expressed their appreciation to SESRIC, DGOHS, organizers and interpreters for their organization and valuable contribution to the Second Meeting and adopted number of recommendations for future cooperation.

(The Agenda of the Meeting is attached as Annex IV.)

Annex I

List of Participants to the Second Meeting of the Occupational Safety and Health Network

(OIC-OSHNET)

Annex II

Opening Statement by Mr. Hüseyin Hakan Eryetli, Director of Training and Technical Cooperation  
Department, SESRIC

Annex III

The Agenda of the Second OIC-OSHNET Meeting

Annex IV

List of Recommendations Adopted at the Second OIC-OSHNET Meeting

## Annex I

### List of Participants to the Second Meeting of the OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET)

04-06 March 2013  
Ankara, Republic of Turkey

#### A. OIC MEMBER COUNTRIES

**REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN:** *Mr Zaur Aliyev*- Head of Division for Relations with Foreign Countries / Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population

**KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN:** *Mr Sameer Al-Haddad*- Head of Occupational Health Group

**BRUNEI DARUSSALAM:** *Dr Pg Mohammad Khalifah*- Director General of Health Services/Ministry of Health

**REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA:** *Mr Yusuf Muchamad*- Section Head/Ministry of Manpower and Transmigration, *Mr Amarudin*- Section Head of Man Power Healthcare Norm Supervision/Ministry of Manpower and Transmigration

**REPUBLIC OF IRAQ:** *Dr Amal Mohammed GHAZAL*- Associate of the Director General of National Occupational Safety and Health Centre/Ministry of Labour, *Dr Siham Mohammed Athiab*- Director of the Arab & International Relations Section/Ministry of Labour

**HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN:** *Mr Farouq Maita*- Director Assistant Occupational Health/Ministry of Health, *Ms Reham Jabour*- Head of Community Based Initiatives/Ministry of Health

**STATE OF KUWAIT:** *Mr Sultan Sultan*- Controller of Labour Inspection Dep. For Assessment and Follow-Up/Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, *Mr Fadhel Albahrani*- Controller of Labour Inspection Dep. Hawally Governnorate/Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour

**KYRGYZ REPUBLIC:** *Mr Maksat Sekenovich Abduldaev*- Deputy Head of Ecological Safety Department, *Mr. Taalaibek Spartakovich*- State Secretary-Deputy Director

**MALAYSIA:** *Mr Basri Johari*- Director General/Department of Occupational Safety and Health,  
*Mr Saiful Azhar Mohd Said*- Director/Department of Occupational Safety and Health

**ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA:** *Mr El Moustapha El Gazwany*- Director of Occupational Health and Safety Officer, *Mr Mohamed Sidatt*- Head Technical Officer

**SULTANATE OF OMAN:** *Mr Abdullah Ali Al Sharji*- Senior Health Superintendent/Ministry of Health, *Mr Mohammed Saleh Al-Salti*- Public Health Specialist/Ministry of Health

**STATE OF PALESTINE:** *Mr Ayoub Mahmoud*- Director of Inspection and Labor Protection/Ministry of Labour

**STATE OF QATAR:** *Mr Khaled Abdullah Al-Ghanim*- Director / Labor Inspection Department-

**REPUBLIC OF TOGO:** *Dr Dadjo Soukouna*- Physician Labor Inspector

**REPUBLIC OF TURKEY:** *Mr Fatih Acar*-Deputy Undersecretary of Turkish Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MoLSS), *Mr Kasım Özer*-Director General of Occupational Health and Safety, *Mr Nihat Eğri*-Occupational Health and Safety Expert, *Mr Ahmet Ersoy*- Occupational Health and Safety Expert-*Aykut Karakavak*- Occupational Health and Safety Expert Assistant, *Seçil Ceylan*- Occupational Health and Safety Expert Assistant,*Berk Atlı*- Occupational Health and Safety Expert Assistant

**REPUBLIC OF UGANDA:** *Mr David Mugisa*- Assistant Commissioner/Occupational Safety and Health Department

**REPUBLIC OF YEMEN:** *Dr Mohammed Muthanna Salem*- Environmental and Occupational Health Coordinator/Ministry of Public Health and Population

## **B. OIC INSTITUTIONS**

**SESRIC:** *Hüseyin Hakan Eryetli*- Director of Training & Technical Cooperation Department, ,  
*Hatice İlbay Söylemez* – Researcher at Training and Technical Cooperation Department ,*Efe Kerem Aydın*- Researcher at Training and Technical Cooperation Department, *Syed Tahir Mahmud* – Researcher at Training and Technical Cooperation Department, *Mansur Boydaş*- Researcher at Training and Technical Cooperation Department

## Annex II

### Opening Statement delivered at the Second Meeting of OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET)

Ankara, Republic of Turkey

04-06 March 2013

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

**Respected Undersecretary,**

**Distinguished Delegates,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

*Assalamu Alaykum we Rahmatullahi we Barakatuhu*

I am honored to address the Second Meeting of OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET) which we have the pleasure to jointly organize it with Directorate General of Occupational Health and Safety. Let me, at the outset; express my sincere appreciation and thanks to all of you for accepting the invitation and designating time to attend this very important meeting. Taking this opportunity, I also would like to extend my sincere thanks to the Directorate General of Occupational Health and Safety operating under the Ministry of Labor and Social Security of the Republic of Turkey for their logistic support and hosting this significant meeting at Ankara.

As you all know, we are here to review the progress of the actions and activities accomplished since the Kick-off Meeting held in Ankara, Republic of Turkey on 16-17 May 2011 and discuss the modalities of closer collaboration and cooperation in on-going OIC-OSHNET projects-specifically share ideas, leverage resources, and find common solutions to address occupational safety and health hazards that concern all of us, as well as to draft an action plan for the coming period until the next meeting. During the Meeting, we will also discuss the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Regulation, Risk Assessment in Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) and Market Surveillance of Personal Protective Equipment.

In this meeting, we expect to consolidate the existing relationships between member countries further in order to generate common interests in protecting workers and seeking solutions to improve workplace safety in OIC Member Countries. Therefore, as an important step towards this ultimate goal, we are sure that our gathering here today will take place in a fruitful and most productive atmosphere. I would also like to mention that it is promising to see number of participants and also interest and support of the Member Countries to the Network have been increasing each year. In this regard, once again I would like to thank all the respected representatives for their participation and invaluable contribution to this meeting.

As we are all aware, the world of work is changing rapidly due to globalization, demographic trends as well as technological and organizational innovation and the issue of occupational health and safety has been on the agenda of many countries in the world more than half a century. It is a fact that, in a time of multinational corporations and interconnected economies, global approaches to promoting and maintaining the highest degree of physical, mental and social well-being of workers in all occupations, preventing of workers in their employment from risks resulting factors adverse to health and improving workplace safety and health are not only better for workers; they also reduce barriers to trade among nations and promote economic growth.

Stating the importance of well-being of employees hundreds of years ago, The Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him), said that “Do not burden your employees with what overpowers them. If you do so, then help them” and advised to humanity “to consider their employees as their brothers”. Especially, in the era of new technologies, changing work patterns, and knowledge-based and service economies, occupational health and safety is in front-page on the agenda of many countries; and over the last decade we have seen significant progress in the prevention of work accidents in developed and also emerging economies. These progresses include the attempts to improve the effective prevention structures, to eliminate occupational hazards through measures such as process automation and the replacement of dangerous substances, to introduce new safety and health standards and to better enforce legal provisions and guidance through labor inspections.

In this regard, OIC-OSHNET targets to establish an international network for systematic sharing of information and experience in occupational safety and health issues among professionals, to build public awareness of occupational safety and health in OIC Member Countries, as well as to improve the quality of the service in this area. In other words, OIC-OSHNET not only aims to provide a platform to discuss the ways and means of effective collaboration towards understanding of the current situation at the country and regional level, but also expands the culture of prevention and thus occupational safety and health.

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you may recall, in line with the recommendations adopted during the Cooperation Project in Ankara in May 2010, and in continuation to the efforts already exerted in the area of occupational safety and health, SESRIC proposed to establish an OIC Network for Occupational Safety and Health (OIC-OSHNET) among similar local, national and regional institutions operating in public and civil domain, in the OIC Member Countries. The proposal has been widely welcomed by member countries and OIC-OSHNET was kicked off with a meeting, jointly organized by SESRIC and Directorate General of Occupational Health and Safety in Ankara, Turkey, on 16-17 May 2011.

With the guidance of member countries and continuing support and involvement of the National Focal Points of the Network, since then, SESRIC has worked towards the successful implementation of the various projects under the framework of OIC-OSHNET. To this end, I am very proud to say

that, successful projects have already been accomplished and have become full-fledged programmes such as OIC Capacity Building Programme for Occupational Safety and Health (OSHCaB).

In the second quarter of the 2011, the Centre organized the Kick-off Meeting of OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET), where experts and directors of occupational health and safety from 15 OIC Member Countries have participated in the workshop to exchange their best practices and to share their experiences and projects in the field so that OIC Member Countries would enhance their capacities in this important area. The Centre has further established the OSHNET Portal in line with the recommendations taken during Kick-off Meeting of OIC-OSHNET in order to facilitate the systematic sharing of information and experience in occupational safety and health issues among professionals as well as to increase the effectiveness of the OIC-OSHNET Programme. The Centre has respectively organized the follow-up meeting of OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET) on 14 September 2011 during the World Congress on Safety and Health at Work. The meeting reviewed the progress since the kick-off Meeting of the OIC-OSHNET, including the Draft Terms of Reference of the Network and discussed some potential collaboration opportunities.

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have also organized the Meeting of Labor Ministers of OIC Member Countries in collaboration with OIC General Secretariat and Ministry of Labor and Social Security of the Republic of Turkey on September 10, 2011 in Istanbul, Turkey on the side-lines of the XIX World Congress on Safety and Health at Work. The Ministerial Meeting has provided a platform for the Labor Ministers of the OIC Member States for the first time to come together and discuss the issues of common concern in their countries.

Moreover, within the framework of OIC-OSHNET, the Centre was organized a symposium on 'International Partnership in OSH Training' in cooperation with Directorate General of Occupational Health and Safety (DGOHS) during the XIX World Congress. Speakers to the symposium included experts from International Labor Organization (ILO), public sector, private companies, and some OSH organizations around the world. The Symposium took place with the participation of experts and directors of occupational health and safety, besides deputy secretaries of Ministries of Labor from 15 OIC Member Countries.

I would like to express here that our Centre were invited to the 26th Occupational Safety and Health Week of the Republic of Turkey and were awarded the plaque of appreciation by Turkish Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (DGOHS) to acknowledge SESRIC's efforts in organizing various meetings on the side-lines of the XIX World Congress on Safety and Health at Work.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Within the framework of Occupational Safety and Health Capacity Building (OSHCaB) Programme, which has been initiated in early 2010 to address the outstanding needs and ways for improving

workplace safety and health in OIC member countries, we are currently organizing short-term occupational health and safety training programmes according to the needs and capacities of the occupational health and safety institutions in the member countries. So far, we have organized 5 capacity building programmes in Malaysia, Oman, Brunei, Pakistan and Turkey in different subjects. And in the upcoming period, we are planning to organize training programmes in Albania, Bangladesh, Yemen and other member countries who have responded our questionnaire.

These are some of the accomplishments that were realized under the OIC-OSHNET Programme since our last meeting. I would like to express that this Second Meeting would present us with an invaluable platform to discuss further how to improve our existing programmes, besides identifying new potential areas for further collaboration. We will share our experiences and our recommendations for reaching the better. We believe that through close cooperation and networking among member countries, this Network has already started to establish a larger community of beneficiaries since its launch, in a short period of time.

It is my belief that as the owners of the Network, support of the Member Countries and National Focal Points are the two main assets of this Network. And it is my hope that open and inclusive dialogue will be the hallmark of this meeting and its concrete outcome will pave the way for future collaborations. I am confident that the work you are about to accomplish would, ultimately, approximate and contribute significantly to the collective welfare for the Islamic world. As we all look forward to the successful outcome of this meeting, I wish you all the success in your deliberations.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Wassalamu Alaykum we Rahmatullahi we Barakatuh.

### Annex III

## Agenda of the Second Meeting of OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET)

04-06 March 2013

Ankara, Republic of Turkey

### Sunday, 03 March 2013

Arrivals

### Day 1: Monday, 04 March 2013

9.00 – 9.30 Registration

9.30 – 10.30 Opening Session

- Recitation from the Holy Quran
- Welcoming Statements
  - Mr. Kasım Özer, Director General of DGOHS
  - Mr. Hüseyin Hakan Eryetli, Director of Training and Technical Cooperation Department, SESRIC
  - Mr. Fatih Acar, Undersecretary of Ministry of Labour and Social Security of the Republic of Turkey
- Adoption of the Draft Agenda and Programme

10.30 – 11.00 Coffee Break

11.00 – 12.30 Session I: Review of the Progress in the Implementation of the OIC-OSHNET Programme since the Kick-off Meeting (SESRIC)

- Presentation on Implemented Activities within OIC-OSHNET Program
- Comments / Proposals of National Focal Points & Member Countries

*Chair: Brunei Darussalam, Vice Chair: Qatar, Rapporteur: Turkey*

**12.30 – 14.00 Lunch Break**

**14.00 – 15.30 Session II: Introduction to DGOHS, Activities, Collaborations and the Framework of OIC-OSHNET**

- Presentation on the Vision, Mission and Goals of DGOHS and the Framework of OIC-OSHNET
- Comments / Proposals of National Focal Points & Member Countries

*Chair: Bahrain, Vice Chair: Uganda, Rapporteur: Turkey*

**15.30 – 16.00 Coffee Break**

**16.00 – 17.30 Session III: Discussion on Higher Involvement of NFPs and Member Countries in the Implementation of OIC-OSHNET**

- Presentations by NFPs / Member Countries
  - Mrs. Amal Mohammed Ghazal (IRAQ)
  - Mr. David Mugisa (UGANDA)
  - Mr. Saiful Azhar Mohd Said (MALAYSIA)
  - Mr. Farouq Maita (JORDAN)
  - Mr. Yusuf Muchamad (INDONESIA)
  - Mr. Mohamed Sidatt (MAURITANIA)
- Comments / Proposals of National Focal Points & Member Countries

*Chair: Malaysia, Vice Chair: Iraq, Rapporteur: Turkey*

**Day 2: Tuesday, 05 March 2013**

**9.30 – 11.00 Session IV: Personal Protective Equipment**

- Risk Assessment in Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Personal Protective Equipment Regulation (National & International)

*Chair: Palestine, Vice Chair: Kyrgyzstan, Rapporteur: Turkey*

**11.00 – 11.30 Coffee Break**

**11.30 – 13.00 Session V: Personal Protective Equipment(PPE)**

- Market Surveillance of PPE in Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MoLSS)
- Questions/Answers

*Chair: Palestine, Vice Chair: Kyrgyzstan, Rapporteur: Turkey*

**13.00 – 14.30 Lunch Break**

**14.30 – 17.00 Session VI: PPE in the Field**

- PPE Laboratory Activities (Presentation)
- PPE Test, Laboratory Visit and Test Examples

*Chair: Oman, Vice Chair: Mauritania, Rapporteur: Turkey*

**17.00 – 18.00 Closing Session: Wrapping up the Meeting**

- Closing Remarks & Wrap-up the Meeting

*Chair: Kuwait, Vice Chair: Togo, Rapporteur: Turkey*

*Moderator: SESRIC*

**19.30 – 21.30 Closing Dinner**

**Day 3: Wednesday, 06 March 2013**

**Social Visit**

**Departures**

**Annex IV**

**Recommendations Adopted at the Second Meeting of OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET)**

The participants adopted the following recommendations in the Second Meeting, which was held on 04-06 March 2013, in Ankara, Republic of Turkey;

1. The participants **expressed** strong satisfaction with the implementation of OIC-OSHNET Programme and **urged** Member States to actively support the network and participate in the implementation process for the exchange of knowledge and experience in the field of occupational safety and health.
2. The participants **called upon** the Member States that have not done so, to designate their National Focal Points (NFPs) for the OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET).
3. The meeting **urged** NFPs and Member Countries to prepare their OSH country profiles for OIC-OSHNET according to the template which will be developed by Bahrain with support of Oman until July 2013.
4. The participants **agreed upon** strengthening their capacities through exchange of experts, training programmes, joint projects and field and study visits in the field of OSH.
5. The participants **requested** SESRIC to establish an e-mail group in order to enhance the communication among NFPs and participants of the Meetings.
6. The participants **recommended** establishing a working group to work on OIC-OSHNET Terms of Reference (ToR), vision and five years plan of action for the period of 2014-2019 to be prepared by the end of 2013 under the supervision of Malaysia with the support of Kuwait, Mauritania, Turkey and Yemen.
7. The participants **agreed** to share the experiences and technically cooperate in establishing infrastructure and preparing legislation under the umbrella of OIC-OSHNET with a focus to low-income OIC Member Countries.

8. The participants **requested** SESRIC to review the questionnaire for OIC-OSHCaB and enrich OIC-OSHNET website by getting the feedbacks of NFPs and participants.
9. The participants **recommended** advertising OIC-OSHNET and raising awareness among OIC Member Countries by using social media channels effectively.
10. The participants **expressed** its thanks and strong appreciation to Directorate General of Occupational Health and Safety (DGOHS) and Ministry of Labor and Social Security of the Republic of Turkey for hosting the Second Meeting of OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET), in collaboration with SESRIC, on 04-06 March in Ankara, Republic of Turkey.