

**Access to Occupational Health Services
for Health and Safety of Workers in Industrial and Service Sectors**

The 4th National health Assembly,

Having considered the report on Access to Occupational Health Services for Health and Safety of Workers in the Industrial and Service Sectors,

Recognizing that economic expansion in the industrial and service sectors without regard to negative impact on workers' health and safety results in injuries, disabilities and deaths of a large number of workers;

Recognizing that access to occupational health services for health and safety of workers is a basic right and a provision of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand, B.E. 2550; the Occupational Safety, Health and Environment Act, B.E. 2554, and several other laws including conventions of the International Labour Organization;

Acknowledging that the government has made the workers safety and health policy a national agenda;

Recognizing that, to resolve this problem, consideration must be given to participation of all the parties involved (government agencies, employer organizations; entrepreneurs, employee organizations, labour unions and workers) and a safety culture must be cultivated in these organizations;

Acknowledging that workers in the industrial and service sectors are entitled to occupational health services for their health and safety, but that most workers still have problems gaining access to such services due to several factors, especially substandard and inadequate assessments of exposure at work, health risk assessments and occupational medicine;

Resolves that:

1. The Ministry of Labour shall be the key agency in implementing the following:

1.1 Expedite the implementation of provisions of section 3, paragraph 2, of the Occupational Safety, Health, and Environment Act. B.E. 2554, which stipulates that the central administration, regional provincial administration, local government administration and other enterprises designated in the prescribed ministerial regulations shall have in place occupational health, safety and environment standards at their respective agencies at least equivalent to those set forth under this Act.

1.2 Collaborate with workers networks, employer organizations, and other associated networks such as the Thai Health Promotion Foundation, educational institutions that produce/train occupational health and safety personnel, Office of the Vocational Education Commission, Office of

the Basic Education Commission, and local administration organizations at all levels to develop an occupational health and safety model that will lead to “safety culture” at work places.

1.3 Collaborate with the Ministry of Public Health and relevant networks and agencies to prepare a guideline and set occupational health standards based on the Occupational Safety, Health, and Environment Master Plan No. 3 (2011-2016), regarding the following matters:

- 1.3.1 Quality control of occupational health services of the private and public sectors;
- 1.3.2 A guideline for inspections and assessments of occupational exposure;
- 1.3.3 A guideline for workers’ health examinations based on risk factors;
- 1.3.4 A guideline for examination, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of those with occupational health problems;
- 1.3.5 Development of an occupational health and safety information system.

1.4 Allocate funding from interest earnings of the Workmen’s Compensation Fund to support provision of occupational health services so that small and medium enterprises will have the capacity to help their workers to gain access to these services in accordance with section 28, paragraph 2 of the Workmen’s Compensation Act, B.E. 2537 (1994)

1.5 Collaborate with the Ministry of Public Health and related agencies to set up a process to receive opinions, review information, and make preparations to consider the appropriateness in ratifying ILO conventions listed below that are essential for occupational health and safety services, i.e.

- No. 155, the Safety and Occupational Health Convention, 1981 (B.E. 2524)
- No.161, the Occupational Health Services Convention 1985 (B.E. 2528)
- No. 187, the Convention on the Framework for Promotion of Safety at Work and Occupational Health 2006 (B.E. 2549)

2. Request the Institute for Promotion of Occupational Safety, Health, and Environment, in its capacity as a public organization established under the Occupational Safety, Health, and Environment Act, B.E. 2554 (2011) to support the strong development of labour organizations and civil society to serve as mechanisms to promote greater access to the right to occupational health services.

3. Request the Ministry of Public Health, by the Disease Control Department and the Health Department, to be the key agency to implement the following:

3.1 Develop a model for occupational health and occupational medicine services that are comprehensive and easily accessible;

3.2 Support or cooperate with universities and related professional organizations to develop occupational health personnel, industrial health personnel, occupational health doctors, and occupational health nurses to have the knowledge and ability to perform their duties in monitoring occupational environment and health.