

TRAINING REPORT

Occupational Health and Safety Training workshop

Time: 24 June 2018
Venue: Yen Trung commune, Yen Phong district, Bac Ninh province, Vietnam
Reported by: The Center for Development and Integration (CDI)

I. Background

Located in the Northern gateway to Hanoi, with only 30 km away from the capital, Bac Ninh is one of key economic zones of Vietnam. Bac Ninh has 16 industrial zones (IZs) with total areas 6.397ha, calls up to 395 FDI projects on electronics major and information technology, creates jobs for above 230.000 workers (of whom 80% are women) (2016 Report – Bac Ninh). Until now, Bac Ninh has attracted many multi-national groups in the world, such as Canon, Sumitomo from Japan; Samsung, Orion from Korea; Foxconn, Mictac from Taiwan; Tyco Electronics from the United States; ABB from Sweden; Nokia Group from Finland ... ([Source](#))

According to Ms. Nguyen Thi Nhanh, Vice President of Bac Ninh Labor Union (LU), occupational safety and health (OSH) plays an important part in ensuring the development of companies and contributing to the development of the province. However, still there are some companies that have not met the requirements of OSH standards. In 2017, a newly report of Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs shows that Bac Ninh stands up top 10 of provinces/ cities having most labor accidents with 145 cases caused 38 deaths and 107 injuries. One of the reasons is that both employers and employees do not understanding the necessary of OHS during the process of production ([Source1](#)). Among many companies operating in Bac Ninh, the major workforce is working for electronics companies. Therefore, a training course on OSH in electronics industry should be organized to provide basic knowledge on OSH for workers.

On 24 June 2018, with the support of the Developing World Outreach Initiative (DWOI), the Center for Development and Integration (CDI) in cooperation with Bac Ninh Labor Union organized a one-day training course on OHS for workers from electronics companies in Bac Ninh province. Thank to the course, 30 participants who come from 9 electronics companies (including *Samsung Electronics Vietnam, Samsung Display Vietnam, Intro Vina, Intops, ALS, Mobase, Hanoi Seowonintech, NRK, EM-TECH*) have improved their understanding on hazard control, especially dangerous chemicals used in the industry and ergonomic problems. Additional, more than 50% of participations planned to share knowledge to co-workers at workplaces and others at their living areas, apply their knowledge on daily works to identify OSH risks and report to management team at their companies.

II. Training activities

- Before the training, a simply electronics training need assessment was conducted among workers who invited to this course through Zalo – a mobile channel to keep contacts in Vietnam, providing inputs to help trainer prepare lectures. Two topics were selected, including chemical hazards and ergonomic hazards at workplace. CDI team worked closely with Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Hoan, Vice President of Vietnam Occupational Safety and Health Association, who is the trainer of this training, to prepare materials and discuss training method.

- On the day of training, after welcome session, CDI showed the pre-training test and gave each participant from 5 to 7 minutes to finish it. This is to identify the general understanding of

participants on selected topics. CDI also did a quick summary and analysis on test results, categorized level of participants' understanding and sent to trainer.

Being facilitated by CDI, participants divided into 4 groups to discuss all hazards they might face at workplace. Participants worked actively in each group, pointed out different types of hazard related to their working positions, including:

- + Chemical hazards: paint, alcohol, ink printer, silicone glue, plasma
- + Physical hazards: noise at workplace coming from machine, intensive light, X-rays, UV radiations, etc.
- + Ergonomic hazards: standing whole shift, long-time working from 8 – 12 hours, stress...

When the leader of each group presented, all participants had chance to understand better the whole process of production and discussed potential hazards.

After that, the trainer of the course shared more information on labor accidents in Vietnam, some remarks on the Vietnam OHS law No. 84/2015/QH dated by 25/6/2015, chemical use safety and ergonomic problems. He provided participants with more examples and encouraged them to speak out solutions to protect health at workplace.

By using Q&A method, the trainer helped participants review solutions applied by companies and noted a list of necessary solutions which need to be improved. He emphasized the important role of workers participating in the course to report and request companies to carry out this list.

At the end of the course, CDI's officer conducted a post-training test to see how participants change after the course. The result showed that:

- + Participants have improved their knowledge on OHS risks in electronics industry: 84.62% of them said that exposure to chemical substances at workplace compared to only 15.38% at the beginning; 92.6% of them said that disadvantage working shape can cause long-lasting injuries for workers compared to 68.75% at the beginning;
- + 59.26% of participants planned to share knowledge to co-workers at workplaces and others at their living areas
- + 59.26% planned to apply their knowledge and skills on daily works to identify OSH risks
- + 29.63% planned to report to the management team at their companies

III. Conclusion and recommendations

Most of participants showed their acknowledgement of having a chance to attend the training course. It helped them to enhance their knowledge and understanding on hazards, especially chemical, ergonomic and its impact to workers' health. They realized the fact that the Electronics industry is not as "clean" as they thought before. Although the risks of occupational diseases are clear, it is not easy to identify and to solve in comparison to working accidents. Therefore, prevention and controlling hazard is extremely important to protect the workers in Vietnam. Participants expect that these trainings will be organized for more workers in more companies in the coming time.