



## MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

# WORLD DAY FOR SAFETY AND HEALTH AT WORK



**B**hutan joins the international community to observe the World Day for Safety and Health on April 28, 2014 with the theme 'Safety and health in the use of chemicals at work.' It is an occasion to raise awareness on Occupational Health and Safety, encourage employers'

participation in designing and implementing preventative and protective policies and programs to prevent work related injuries and illnesses.

The ILO estimates that annually 2.34 million people in the world die from work-related accidents and diseases. From these fatalities, the majority of 2.02 million are related to occupational and work-related diseases. It is estimated around 160 million workers suffer from non-fatal work-related diseases which are preventable. Besides causing immeasurable human suffering to victims and their families, such diseases cause major economic losses for enterprises and society, including reduced productivity and work capacity. Around 4 percent of the world's gross domestic product (GDP) is lost due to work-related accidents and diseases in direct and indirect costs.

With an unprecedented economic development and industrial growth, wide range of materials, equipment and chemicals are brought into the workplace - some of which are hazardous to the health and safety of workers. The Ministry of Labour and Human Resources aspires to transform Bhutan into a nation with safe, healthy and happy working environment free from exposure to occupational hazards. The Ministry has been endeavoring

hard to prevent avoidable mishaps and injuries in the workplaces through development of OHS policies, strategic plans and programs. However, despite our efforts the Ministry has observed that the number of work related injuries and illnesses have been increasing over the years. Accidents and injuries are detrimental to the lives and livelihoods of employees, profitability of employers and economy of the country.

Therefore, I urge everyone to join the employers and employees in promoting safe enabling working environment.

*(Ngeema Sangay Tshempo)*  
*Minister*

