

## PRESS RELEASE

The ILO marks the World Day for Safety and Health at work on the 28<sup>th</sup> of April every year to promote prevention of Occupational Accidents and Diseases globally. The Theme for the 2019 World Day for Safety and Health at work is: “***Safety and Health and the Future of Work***”. This year, inspired by the ILO Centenary Anniversary, the World Day attempts to take stock of a 100 years of work in improving Occupational Safety and Health and celebrating and building on the wealth of knowledge accumulated over 100 years as we get ready to face and appreciate the changes brought forward by the future of work we want.

Every year, the Ministry of Labour and Human Resources (MoLHR) joins the ILO and the International Community to observe the Day to promote Safe, Healthy and Decent Work since 2015. This year, the World Day for Health and Safety was observed in Phuntsholing with participation from the office of JICA, Ministry of Health and Safety & Health Officers of various Private Enterprises. It is an annual event to recognize Enterprises with Good Safety practices and more so to urge poorly performing Enterprises to adopt Safety culture. The assessment for good Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) practice for the year 2018 was conducted by the MoLHR in collaboration with the Department of Public Health, Ministry of Health.

Of a total of 84 enterprises assessed in 2019, the MoLHR would like to congratulate those 49 Enterprises for scoring 70% and above. The Ministry would also like to encourage those 35 Enterprises who scored below 70% - poor OHS practice to put in more effort. This year, the first ever Progressive Award was presented to those Companies having continuous and increasing efforts in embracing OHS at their workplaces. The Findings of OHS assessment since 2015 till date have presented growth in adoption of good OHS culture and also, there is an increase in numbers of Enterprises establishing Safety Committees annually.

Safety is paramount important to any workplaces. No job should take away the Safety, Health and Wellbeing of the lives of the workers. Sadly, every day in the World, 7500 people die due to unsafe and healthy working environments, 6500 per day are due to work-related diseases and 1 million people get injured at work. These have a major impact on workers and their families economically, emotionally and physically but also on Enterprises and their productivity. The Ministry has officially recorded 39 work-related injuries and 14 work-related deaths from July 2017-June 2018. However, many accidents remain unreported, though the employers are required to report to the Chief Labour Administrator of any accidents at workplaces.

It is urgent for all Enterprises, employers and workers to stand by the Ministry of Labour and Human Resources in implementing OHS Standards, anticipate new Safety and Health risks, acquire and provide Skills to create a Safe and Healthy at present and future of work for all.