## **OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES**

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Occupational diseases cause huge suffering and losses in the world of work. In our days, occupational diseases remain largely invisible in comparison to industrial accidents, even though they kill six times as many people each year. The nature of occupational diseases is altering rapidly: technological and social changes along with global economic conditions are aggravating existing health hazards and creating new ones. Well-known occupational diseases such as pneumoconioses remain widespread, while relatively new occupational diseases such as mental and musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) are on the rise.

An estimated 2.34 million people die each year from work-related accidents and diseases. Of these the vast majority an estimated 2.02 million die from a wide range of work-related diseases. Of the estimated 6,300 work-related deaths that occur every day 5,500 are caused by various types of workrelated diseases. The ILO (International Labour Organization) also estimates that 160 million cases of non-fatal occupational diseases occur annually.

Millions of workers continue to be at risk of pneumoconioses (especially silicosis, coal-worker's pneumoconiosis, and asbestos-related diseases) due to widespread exposures to silica, coal, asbestos and various mineral dusts in mining quarrying, construction and other manufacturing processes. Pneumoconioses have long latency periods and can often go undiagnosed and unreported. Their associated illnesses (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, silicotuberculosis, silica- and asbestos-related cancers) often cause permanent disability or premature death.

Across the 27 EU Member States, MSDs represent the most common workrelated health disorders. MSDs including carpal tunnel syndrome represented 59% of all recognized diseases covered by the European Occupational

Diseases Statistics in 2005. In 2009, the World Health Organization (WHO) reported that MSDs accounted for more than 10% of all years lost to disability. In the Republic of Korea MSDs sharply increased from 1,634 cases in 2001 to 5,502 in 2010. MSDs made up about 40% of all cases of work-related diseases for the period 2011–2012 in Great Britain.

Work-related stress and its health consequences have emerged as a matter of great concern. Enterprises are increasingly confronted with psycho logical harassment, mobbing, bullying, sexual harassment and other forms of violence. Workers may turn to unhealthy behaviours such as the abuse of alcohol and drugs in an attempt to cope with stress.

The burden of occupational diseases concerns everyone, everywhere, from factories to farms from offices to oilrigs in workplaces and communities. Noone is immune. There is consensus that prevention is more effective and less costly than treatment and rehabilitation. As highlighted above, stakeholders in the world of work should not wait any longer and take concrete steps. Now is the time to launch a major new global effort and intensify the national and international response to the occupational disease epidemic so that the health and lives of workers can be protected.

## ВЛИЯНИЕ АЛКОГОЛЯ НА ЗДОРОВЬЕ ЧЕЛОВЕКА

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