



The SENADA Business Innovation Fund Grantee Profile:

WORKER RIGHTS IMPROVED AS INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY STANDARDS BECOME LAW



Candidates for certification as Occupational Safety and Health Specialists participate in a training workshop.

Manufacturers in Indonesia wishing to enhance their competitiveness face pressures from all sides. On the one hand, it is vital to increase labor productivity on the factory floor. On the other, it is essential to comply with international safety standards. Only by addressing both productivity and safety issues can firms expect to hold their own internationally and to protect the welfare of their workers.

However, uninformed attempts to speed production have the potential to lead to a higher risk of workplace accidents. The solution is to undertake such efforts within a framework of internationally accepted workplace safety standards. The difficulty that firms face is in understanding what these standards are and how to meet them. Firms need competent in-house Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) specialists who can educate management about safety standards and verify that these standards are being met.

To address this need for qualified specialists, SENADA's Business Innovation Fund awarded a grant to the Institute for Certification of Competency of Occupational Safety and Health (ICCOSH), entitled "Certification of Competencies on Occupational Safety and Health." The grant provided ICCOSH with Rp 143,150,000 over a six-month period from December 2007 to June 2008.

Grant funds were used to draft competency standards in two areas, Occupational Safety and Industrial Hygiene, that trainees will be required to meet in order to be certified as OSH Specialists. The standards were prepared internally at ICCOSH and then reviewed by external experts from a variety of industries, with the goal of institutionalizing them as official regulations of the Ministry of Manpower.

The Occupational Safety standards became law on 11 March, 2008 when the Minister of Manpower signed Decree No. KEP. 42/ MEN/ III /2008. The standards for industrial hygiene are now in process and are expected to be similarly authorized. ►►

To learn more about SENADA, visit <http://www.senada.or.id>.

“After long years of waiting, these urgently needed and officially sanctioned competency standards will enable manufacturers to improve safety standards and the working environment.”

— Bapak Suprpto
General Secretary of the Society for
Occupational Health and Safety
(A2K3)

Fourteen specialists were selected and approved by ICCOSH to be trained, tested and certified as professional assessors using the competency standards. These assessors will work at four assessment centers under the auspices of institutions selected, approved, and guided by ICCOSH. The assessors will train and test future OSH Specialists sent by manufacturing firms so that they can return to their companies and implement safety standards on site.

ICCOSH is a non-profit organization established in 2002 to advocate for the implementation of occupation health and safety standards in Indonesia. Its vision is to become the first professional certification institute officially recognized by Badan Nasional Sertifikasi Profesi (Indonesia’s national agency for professional certifications) in the field of occupational health and safety.

ICCOSH conducts activities related to the preparation and implementation of examination materials to test for competencies, including: training trainers, maintaining examination sites and monitoring performance. ICCOSH also researches the needs for competency standards in industries, assessing and updating existing standards, and presenting new and revised competencies to appropriate associations and government bodies for review and approval.

The Business Innovation Fund (BIF) is an initiative launched in June, 2007 by SENADA. BIF offers short-term, high impact grants for innovative projects involving the value chains where SENADA focuses. Details can be found at www.senada.or.id/innovation. SENADA is a four-year, USAID-financed project whose goal is to increase Indonesia's economic growth and employment by improving the competitiveness of major, labor-intensive light manufacturing industries.

To learn more about SENADA,
visit <http://www.senada.or.id>.