



More than 100 companies flock to ECP Advocacy in Butuan City

Labor Secretary Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz delivered the keynote address before an assembly comprising of 121 company owners, human resource practitioners and labor union representatives based in Caraga Region and nearby areas during the Employees' Compensation Program (ECP) Advocacy Seminar held on November 15, 2012 at Dottie's Place Hotel in Butuan City.

In her speech, Secretary Baldoz, who chairs the Employees' Compensation Commission, stressed the importance of work-contingency prevention in the workplace and the necessity to inform the workers of their rights, benefits and privileges under the Employees' Compensation Program.

The one day ECP Seminar aimed to promote safety consciousness and instill the importance of accident prevention in the workplace, procedures in EC filing, as

well as provide information on how to avail benefits under the EC Program.

ECC Executive Director Stella Zipagan-Banawis, Information and Public Assistance Division Chief Cecil E. Maulion and Dr. Sarah Antonia I. Concepcion, Medical Officer IV, answered queries posed by the media during a press conference facilitated by the Philippine Information Agency on November 14, 2012. Twenty four media practitioners in the region attended the press conference organized by DOLE-Caraga.

Also present in the advocacy seminar were DOLE Undersecretary Lourdes M. Trasmonte, DOLE –Caraga Regional Director Ofelia Domingo and Director Nicon Fameronag, head of the Labor Communications Office of the Department of Labor and Employment.

ECC signs development partnership with AWCF

Eight Asian countries, including the Philippines, signed the declaration for the development of partnership among the member organizations of the Asian Workers' Compensation Forum on 25 October 2012 in Seoul, South Korea for the development of workers' compensation and the enhancement of social security in Asian countries.

Representatives of workers' compensation organizations in Asia, including the Employees' Compensation Commission of the Philippines, National Social Security Fund of Cambodia, PT Jamsostek of Indonesia, Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare of Lao PDR, Social Security Organization of Lao PDR, Social Security Organization of Malaysia, Social Insurance General Office of Mongolia, Korea Workers' Compensation & Welfare Service of the Republic of Korea, Department of Labour of Sri Lanka, Office of the Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation of Sri Lanka, Social Security Office of Thailand, Vietnam Social Security, gathered on this momentous occasion and participated on its inaugural General Assembly.

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Success under the KaGabay Program

Aldrin Ojastro, a seaman who met an accident while on board an ocean-going vessel recently received benefits under the ECC KaGabay Program. The program provides a special economic assistance for occupationally-disabled worker (ODWs) who lost employment by reason of work-related sickness or injury.

Ojastro worked as a pump-man at Stolt Nielsen Inc. for twelve years before he met an accident on board the vessel. The accident caused him severe back pain so he had to stop working. He was given an EC temporary total disability (TTD) benefit and

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Labor Secretary Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz delivers the keynote address during the Employees' Compensation Program (ECP) Advocacy Seminar held at Dottie's Place Hotel and Restaurant in Butuan City on November 15, 2012. Also present during the seminar are DOLE Undersecretary for Labor Standards and Social Protection Cluster, **Lourdes M. Trasmonte** (right), DOLE Region XIII Director **Ofelia B. Domingo** (left) and OIC Executive Director **Stella Z. Banawis** (middle) of the Employees' Compensation Commission.

The 5th Asian Asbestos Initiative Conference

Four representatives from the Philippines, including a medical doctor from the Employees' Compensation Commission (ECC), participated in the 5th Asian Asbestos Initiative (AAI) Conference in Busan, South Korea on November 6-8, 2012 to develop academic platform on which researches and administrators from different countries can share relevant core technology relative to Asbestos.

The conference theme was Applying Science to Practice. It was chosen to enhance mutual understanding and technical support for preventing asbestos problems among Asian countries and government sectors and mode of actions for prevention, treatment and compensation of Asbestos-related Diseases (ARDs). It was hosted and organized by the Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea and supported by the University of Occupational and Environmental Health, Japan. There were 112 participants from 16 countries including Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Palau, Philippines, Thailand, Uk and Vietnam.

The four members of the Philippine delegation were from the University of the Philippines, the Lung Center of the Philippines, the Occupational Safety and Health Center, and Dr. Sarah Antonia I. Concepcion of the Employees Compensation Commission.

Dr. Concepcion presented the development of Asbestos-related

Disease as a compensable disease under the Employees' Compensation Program, otherwise known as Presidential Decree No. 626, as amended.



Dr. Sarah Antonia Concepcion, ECC Medical Officer IV, lectures on Compensability of Asbestos-Related Diseases during the 5th Asian Asbestos Initiative (AAI) Conference in Busan, South Korea on November 6-8, 2012.

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The member organizations agreed to facilitate human exchanges and information sharing which will promote cooperative relationship and exchanges in the area of workers' compensation.

With its commitment to achieve the said goals, the member organizations declared that the development of partnership among workers compensation organizations in Asia shall be pursued under the principle of enhanced human exchanges and information sharing among member organizations; build reciprocally favourable relationship among its members; develop and maintain reciprocally helpful relationships with other similar associations, including International Social Security Association (ISSA), ASEAN Social Security

Association (ASSA), European Workers' Compensation Forum (EWCF), International Association of Industrial Accident Boards and Commissions (IAIABC), and Rehabilitation International (RI); cooperate on the development of the workers' compensation in the countries of the member organizations.

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later became a KaGabay beneficiary. As such, he was given an entrepreneurial course on Goat Raising at Nego-Skwela.

Ojastro put up a business on goat raising where he started with three pairs of goat. Recently, the KaGabay team conducted a home visit and witnessed the success of Ojastro's business. He was able to increase the number of goats from 3 pairs to 50 goats. Now, he is planning to increase his business



Aldrin Ojastro is one of the ODWs who was granted benefits under the KaGabay Program. He enrolled in entrepreneurial course on Goat Raising at Nego-Skwela.

by buying more goats and hiring additional helpers.

Despite his disability, Ojastro was determined to start his life all over again and to take every opportunity that can be provided by the ECC KaGabay program.



Representatives of Workers' Compensation Organizations in Asia beam in front of photographers during the Asian Workers' Compensation Forum in Seoul, South Korea on October 26, 2012.

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