

Indo-German Focal Point

Impact of COVID-19 on MSME and the way forward

The development of the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) is critical for generating demand and promoting the revival of the post COVID-19 economy. In order to analyse the impact of COVID-19 on this sector and to discuss future strategies for MSMEs, the IGFP in collaboration with the Odisha Small Industries Corporation (OSIC) and with support of the MSME Department, Government of Odisha, organised a workshop at Hotel Presidency Bhubaneswar on 16 January 2021.

More than 50 participants from MSMEs, government institutions and industry associations actively participated. All participants received a copy of the guidebook “7 Golden Rules for Small Businesses”. The guide was issued by the International Social Security Association (ISSA) specifically for the safety needs of SMEs (for more information on the guide, see page 2).



Launch of the IGFP calendar 2021 during the workshop “Impact of COVID-19 on MSME and the way forward” at Bhubaneswar on 16 January 2021 / Photo by B.K. Sahu

Use of wearables from an OSH perspective

IGFP Advisory Board Member, Dr. Malay Pradhan, has published the article “Use of wearables from an occupational health and safety perspective – Indian expertise and experience” in the journal DGUV Forum of the German Social Accident Insurance (DGUV). The journal is available free of charge online (only in German): <https://forum.dguv.de/ausgabe/9-2020>



Expert groups of the IGFP

The IGFP regularly invites OSH professionals from different fields of work to discuss pressing OSH issues and formulate suggestions. Suggestions have been formulated with respect to the Draft of The Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code (Central) Rules, 2020, the inclusion of the postal voting right for migrant workers and the inclusion of OSH in the Indian school curriculum. If you are interested to join an expert group of the IGFP please contact B.K. Sahu.



ISSA Vision Zero Guide for SMEs - Hindi version

In September 2020, ISSA published the 7 Golden Rules Guide specifically for small businesses. It has been translated into 13 languages – the translation into Hindi has been done by the IGFP. Thank you to Shyam Sunder Kathuria (Deputy Director, Official Language, ESIC) for his valuable support with the translation of this edition! You can download this publication free of charge from the website:

<http://indogermanfocalpoint.com/publications/>

Workshop “Importance of Occupational Safety, Health and Social Security in Industries”

Complying with all the COVID prevention measures, 57 participants attended a workshop on the “Importance of Occupational Safety, Health and Social Security in Industries” at the Brahmani Club in Rourkela, Odisha on 24 February 2021. The event was one in a series of awareness raising workshops organised by the IGFP for different industries. This event was possible thanks to the support of the Collectorate Sundargarh and DGUV.

During the workshop the Collectorate Sundargarh emphasised the need to improve the working conditions of miners in the Sundargarh district, including the provision of personal protective equipment and training on occupational safety and health.



Promotion of the booklet “Prevention through Pictures in Construction” at the Workshop on “Importance of Occupational Safety, Health and Social Security in Industries” held at Rourkela, Odisha, on 24 February 2021 / Photo by B.K. Sahu

Awareness programme on OSH for contractors of outsourcing agencies (sanitation) commissioned by BMC

On 27 November 2020, the IGFP and People’s Cultural Centre (PECUC) organised an awareness programme on OSH for contractors of outsourcing agencies (sanitation) commissioned by the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) at Red Cross Bhawan, Bhubaneswar. 54 participants attended the programme, which was covered by television and newspapers. The support of the ESIC and the Odisha Building and Other Construction Workers’ Welfare Board is very much appreciated.