



5th International Conference on Occupational and Environmental Health (ICOEH 2026)

Venue: Ariya Hotel, Thimphu, Bhutan

Dates: 27th to 29th April 2026

PROGRAMME ITINERARY

Day 1 – Monday, 27 April 2026

Theme: Global Collaboration, Policy Harmonization, and Training Ecosystems

MC: Dechen Dorji Wangmo (Morning Session)

Time	Session	Details
8:30 – 9:00	Registration	Participant registration and distribution of conference materials
9:00 – 9:20	Arrival of Chief Guest	All participants seated; Chief Guest received
9:20 – 9:25	National Anthem	
9:25 – 9:45	Marchang Ceremony	Traditional Bhutanese welcome ceremony - Director, Department of Labour, MOCIE, Bhutan
9:45 – 9:55	Welcome Address	Director, Department of Labour, MoICE, Bhutan
9:55 – 10:05	Opening Address	Minister, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Employment (MoICE), Bhutan
10:05 – 10:10	Launching of the Occupational First Aid Training Course	Minister, MoICE, Bhutan Secretary General, Bhutan Red Cross Society Director, Department of Labour, MoICE, Bhutan
10:10 – 10:20	Context Setting: Collaboration and ICOEH Theme	Dr. Ashish Mittal, CEO, Occupational Health and Safety Management Consultancy Services (OHS-MCS), India
10:20 – 10:30	Bhutan's OSH journey	Mr. Phuntsho Dendup, Department of Labour, MoICE, Bhutan
10:30 – 10:33	Vote of Thanks	MC

10:33 –11:00	Tea & Group Photo	All participants (Chief Guest and dignitaries may exit after the group photo)
11:00 –1:00	Session 1 (Plenary Panel): Advancing OSH for Sustainable and Decent Work through Global Collaboration	<p>Moderator: Mr. Mahinda Seneviratne, Board Member, International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH)</p> <p>11:0 – 11:20: Presentation 2: Regional and South Asia Perspective – Mr Aminur Rashid Chowdhury (ANROEV, Bangladesh)</p> <p>11:20 – 12:30: Global Panel Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Dr. Barry Kistnasamy - Department of Health, South Africa – Dr. Thomas H Gassert – Harvard Chan School of Public Health, USA – Dr. Yogindra Samant - OSH Specialist, ILO (Online Participation) – Dr. Tor Erik Danielson - Occupational Physician, Norway (Online Participation) – Mr. Phuntsho Dednup, Department of Labour, MoICE, Bhutan <p>12:30 – 1:00: Q & A with Audience</p>
1:00 – 2:00	Lunch	
2:00 – 3:15 (75 minutes)	Session 2 (Panel): Harmonization of Policy, Legislation and Standards	<p>Moderator: Mr. Mohit Gupta, OSH representative, India</p> <p>Outcome: Identification of opportunities for National policy alignment and mutual recognition of standards;</p> <p>2:00 – 2:05: Moderator Introduction and context setting;</p> <p>2:05 – 3:00 MultiStakeholder Panel Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Mr. Lham Dorji, Director, DoL (Bhutan Perspective) – Dr. Barry Kistnasamy (South Africa),

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Mr. Ramesh Patel, India (South Asia Perspective) – Mr. Hari Prasad Pokhrel, Program Analyst, Ministry of Health, Bhutan – Mr. Phuntsho Namgyal, Director General, Department of Geology and Mines, Bhutan – Ms. Dago Zangmo, Director, Bhutan Construction and Transport Authority – Mr. Sonam Wangchuk, Executive Director, Construction Association of Bhutan <p>3:00 – 3:10: Q & A with Audience</p> <p>3:10 – 3:15: Moderator Winding Up</p>
3:15 – 3:30	Tea	
3:30 – 4:30 (60 minutes)	Session 3 (Panel): Voices from the Frontline: Stories of Safety and Risk	<p>Format: Employer and Employees sharing lived experiences</p> <p>Facilitator: Mr. Aminur Rashid Chowdhury (ANROEV, Bangladesh)</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Mr. Prabachen – Ms. Thinley Pem – Ms. Phurba Wangmo – Mr. Karma Chewang – Mr. Damcho Tshering, CEO, D Lhen Pvt Ltd
4:30 – 5:30/ 6:00	Session 4 (Panel): Strengthening the OHS Training Ecosystem	<p>Moderator: Ms Jhumki Dutta and Ms. Ekta Verma, India</p> <p>Outcome: Recommendations for enhancing OSH training quality, accessibility, and relevance</p> <p>4:30 – 4:35: Moderator Introduction and context setting</p>

		<p>4:35 – 5:15: Multi-Stakeholder Panel Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Mr. Tandin Dorji, Bhutan Qualifications and Professionals Certification Authority (BQPCA) – Mr. Jurmey, Institute of Technology and Professional Learning, (ITPL) – Mr. Karma, Bhutan Red Cross Society (BRCS) – Mr. Sonam Wangchuk, ED, Construction Association of Bhutan <p>5:15 – 5:25: Q & A with Audience</p> <p>5:25 – 5:30: Moderator Winding Up</p>
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Day 2 – Tuesday, 28 April 2026

Theme: Workers' Memorial Day, National OSH Symposium, and Occupational Health

MC: Dechen Wangmo Dorji

Time	Session	Details
8:45 – 9:15	Participants Seated	Registration
9:15	Arrival of Chief Guest	Hon'ble Secretary, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Employment (MoICE), Bhutan
9:15 – 9:20	National Anthem	
9:20 – 9:22	Moment of Silence	Observance in memory of workers who have lost their lives from work-related causes
9:22 – 9:30	Welcome Note	Mr. Ugyen Dorji, Chief Labour Officer

9:30 – 9:45	Keynote Address	Hon'ble Secretary, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Employment (MoICE), Bhutan
9:45 – 9:55	Strengthening OHS in Bhutan's Construction Sector	Mr. Sonam Wangchuk, ED, Construction Association of Bhutan
9:55 - 10:00	National OHS Audit Report 2026	Sonam Gyele Dorji, Department of Labour, MoICE, Bhutan
10:00– 10:25	Certificate Awarding Ceremony	Recognition of best OHS practices in Bhutanese industries
10:25 – 10:30	Vote of Thanks	Dechen Wangmo Dorji, Department of Labour, MoICE, Bhutan
10:30 – 11:00	Tea & Photo Session	
11:00 – 12:00	Session 5: Current Challenges and Future Directions	<p>Moderators: Ms. Karma Choden, Independent Consultant - Public Health Specialist & Educator</p> <p>Format: Presentations followed by moderated Q&A</p> <p>11:00 – 11:05: Moderator Welcome & Introduction</p> <p>11:05 – 11:15: Presentation 1 – Phurba Yeshi, PM/PE, CDCL</p> <p>11:15 – 11:25: Presentation 2: KAIZEN - Mr. Dorji Khandu, GM, FMCL</p> <p>11:25 – 11:35: Presentation 3 – Krishna Subba, JICA</p> <p>11:35 – 11:45: Presentation 4 – Mr. Phuntsho Dendup, DoL</p> <p>11:45 – 11:55: Moderated Q&A</p> <p>11:55 – 12:00: Moderator Closing</p>

12:00 – 1:00 (60 minutes)	Session 6 (Panel): Occupational Health Surveillance	<p>Moderator: Dr. Deepak Sharma</p> <p>Outcome: Framework for strengthening occupational health surveillance system</p> <p>11:45 – 11:50: Moderator Welcome and context setting</p> <p>11:50 – 12:00: Presentation: OHS Data Spotlight: Phuntsho Dendup, DoL</p> <p>12:00 – 12:50: Panel Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Dr. Sunil Mehta (Child Specialist) – Dr. Neera Verma (Gynaecologist) – Karma Wamgdi, Program Analysis, DoPH, Ministry of Health – Dr. Ashish Mittal, OHS-MCS, India <p>12:50 – 12:57: Q&A</p> <p>12:57 – 1:00: Moderator Closing</p>
1:00 – 2:00	Lunch	
2:00 – 5:00	Session 7: Workshops	<p>2:00 – 2:30 Session 7A: Basic Occupational Hygiene - Mr. Mahinda Seneviratne, Mr. Krishan Rajput & Mr. Rishabh Sahni</p> <p>3:30 – 5:00 Session 7B: Ergonomics; Facilitators: Dr. Moreshee, Dr. Ashish Mittal</p> <p>Content: Measurement techniques, equipment uses, exposure limits and workplace assessments etc.</p>

Day 3 – Wednesday, 29 April 2026

Theme: Emerging Issues, Vulnerable Workers, and Conference Outcomes

Time	Session	Details
8:45-9:00	Participants Seated	Registration
9:00 – 11:00 (120 Minutes)	Session 8: The Changing Landscape of OSH – Emerging Challenges and Systemic Risks	<p>Moderator: Ms. Karma Choden</p> <p>9:00 – 9:15: Climate Change – Dr. Thomas H Gassert – Harvard Chan School of Public Health, USA</p> <p>9:15 – 9:30: AI, Automation – Dr. Barry Kistnasamy - Department of Health, South Africa</p> <p>9:30 - 10:50 – Responsible Business for communities and workers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Sanjay Paswan (Graduation Approach: Building Sustainable Livelihoods for the Ultra-Poor in a Climate-Stressed World) – Sarah Haider (AMR: Not just a health issue, but a work and systems issue) – Jhumki Dutta (Worker led Due Diligence) – Ishteyaque Ahmed (Climate Stress and Agricultural Futures: Navigating Health, Livelihood, and Food Sovereignty Challenges for Smallholder Farmers and Farmworkers) : Online Presentation – Pradeep Narayanan (Decoding Certifications) : Online Presentation <p>10:50 – 11:00: Q&A</p>
11:00 – 11:30	Tea	
11:30 – 1:30 (120 minutes total)	Session 9: Protecting Workers' Health – Occupational Diseases, Vulnerable Groups, and Justice	<p>Moderator: Dr. Thomas Gassert</p> <p>Outcome: Recommendations for prevention and justice</p> <p>11:30 – 11:50: Occupational Eye Diseases – Dr. Dechen Wangmo</p>

		<p>11:50 – 12:10: NIHL - Pelden Wangchuk</p> <p>12:10 – 12:30: Lead Poisoning – Sonam Yangchen, PO, Department of Public Health</p> <p>12:30 – 12:40: Respiratory Diseases – Dr. Ashish Mittal</p> <p>12:40 – 12:50: Justice and Compensation (South Asia) – Mr Ramesh Patel</p> <p>12:50 – 13:00: Justice and Compensation (South Africa) – Dr. Barry Kistnasamy</p> <p>13:00 - 13:10: Migrant and Informal Workers – Mr. Mahinda Seneviratne</p> <p>13:10 - 13:30 Q& A</p>
1:30 – 2:30	Lunch	
2:30 – 3:30	Session 10 (Roundtable): Action Agenda	<p>Facilitators: Phuntsho (DoL) & Dr. Ashish Mittal</p> <p>Participants: - JICA - All participants; Structure:</p> <p>Synthesis of priorities</p> <p>Action Plan</p> <p>Report Out & Commitments</p>
3:30 – 4:00	Session 11: Conference Declaration & Closing	<p>Presentation of Draft Declaration</p> <p>Adoption by Consensus</p> <p>Closing Remarks: Director, Department of Labour, MoICE, Bhutan and Dr. Ashish Mittal, OHS-MCS, India</p>
4:00 – 4:30	ClosingTea	Informal interaction and certification