

# **Symposium and Exhibition**

**"Occupational Health and Safety in the construction industry –  
Proceeding from a Problem to a Solution"**

**Habitat Centre, New Delhi  
23<sup>rd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> of September 2014**

**Ministry of Labour and Employment, India  
National Capital Territory of Delhi, India  
German Social Accident Insurance (DGUV), Germany and  
Social Accident Insurance for the Construction Sector (BG BAU), Germany**

**supported by**

**Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany,  
National Safety Council (NSC),  
Employee's State Insurance Corporation (ESIC),  
International Social Security Association (ISSA) - Construction,  
International Social Security Association (ISSA) - Mining,  
Builders Association of India,  
Delhi Building & Other Construction Workers Welfare Board,  
Building and Wood Worker's International,  
International Labour Organization (ILO)**

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## **Introductory Information**

Traditionally there is a good political and economic relationship between Germany and India. Numerous mutual visits of a high rank representatives and their intense work in various Indo-German working groups express the fast growing bilateral relations, which comprise economy as well as science, research, technology and social security.

It is no wonder that a close cooperation in the field of Occupational Safety and Health including social protection against work accidents has been developed in the past years. Since 2010 the German Social Accident Insurance (DGUV) cooperates with Maharashtra, the second largest federal state of India in terms of population, and with the National Safety Council (NSC), a nonprofit institution promoting Occupational Safety and Health in companies in India. The main focus of these cooperations is to improve Occupational Safety and Health and to promote the mutual exchange of experience.

Every year ten thousands of construction workers die on construction sites in India. For many years employees in the construction branch were not protected through regulations on Occupational Safety and Health or social insurance. The Indian government and the federal states of India are now focusing on enhancing their living and working conditions, especially on construction sites.

India has in recent years gone through a remarkable period of economic growth. This positive development shall further be promoted through the expansion of energy supplies and infrastructure. This is also of interest for German companies working on site, as Germany is one of the main trading partners of India.

The responsible stakeholders in India are aware that there is need for a substantial improvement of living and working conditions on construction sites. The interest in exchanging

and sharing German expertise and experience is high. Since the year 2010 the DGUV organizes jointly with the German Industrial Accident Insurance for the Building trade (BG BAU) workshops in the field of Occupational Safety and Health in the construction industries and on topics related to social accident insurance. With around 150 participants, these seminars are well attended by representatives of the construction industry, inspectors and representatives of employer organisations and labour unions. The idea of the German social accident insurance scheme with its prevention concept got about in the meantime. The trademark "German Accident Insurance" is well known and the interest in it grows constantly. New regulations for the construction sector based on the German model introduced in 2011 in Maharashtra may have contributed to this popularity.

DGUV and BG BAU cooperate on solid ground, they have a couple of partners in India supporting the idea of joint Indo-German activities in the field of Occupational Safety and Health and social insurance: these are in particular the German Embassy and its Consulates), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC). The Builders' Association of India, the Association Building and Woodworkers' International and the Construction Worker Welfare Board of Delhi support the activities as well.

In the course of the exchanges the idea was born that a series of symposia, starting in New Delhi, may have a long lasting effect for promoting safety and health at the workplace.

Taking the slogan "Proceeding from a Problem to a Solution", the event intends to show how a problem can be identified and how practical solutions can by then be developed and be implemented. The aim of the conference is to offer solutions that can be transferred to similar situations and are therefore of interest for a wide group of experts and persons concerned. The focus lies with view to the context primarily on the practical implementation, and not mainly on scientific backgrounds. But studies showing that solutions have been proven successful (e. g. through evaluation) shall also be illustrated.

Furthermore basic and easy to implement information on Occupational Safety and Health covering the major fields of accidents in the construction sector shall be provided. All stakeholders will have the possibility to present their position on the subject of Occupational Safety and Health.

The symposium and exhibition may serve as the start for an annual event entitled

„Indo German Week about Health and Safety at Workplace“.