

SALIENT POINTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 13th ASEAN-OSHNET CONFERENCE (THE 13TH AOC)

“Advancing Digital Transformation in Occupational Safety and Health management in ASEAN towards the ASEAN Vision 2045”

7 July 2026, Da Nang, Viet Nam

I. BACKGROUND

The 13th ASEAN-OSHNET Conference (13th AOC) was held on 7 July 2026 in Da Nang, Viet Nam, bringing together representatives of occupational safety and health (OSH) authorities from all ASEAN Member States, the Ministry of Emergency Management of China (MEM), the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan (MHLW), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Association of Labour Inspection (IALI) and the ASEAN Secretariat, as well as representatives from selected leading enterprises across the region.

Mr. Cao Huy, Deputy Minister of Home Affairs of Viet Nam; Mr. Tran Anh Tuan, Vice Chairman of the Da Nang People’s Committee; and Mr. Sakdisilpa Tuladhorn, Deputy Director-General, Department of Labour Protection and Welfare, Ministry of Labour of the Kingdom of Thailand, in his capacity as the current Chair of ASEAN-OSHNET, delivered opening remarks at the Conference.

Conducted under the theme “Advancing Digital Transformation in Occupational Safety and Health management in ASEAN towards the ASEAN Vision 2045,” the Conference provided a platform for ASEAN Member States, partner organisations, and industry representatives to exchange experiences and good practices on leveraging digital technologies and artificial intelligence to strengthen occupational safety and health (OSH) management. The Conference underscored the importance of promoting a human-centred, inclusive, and responsible approach to digital transformation, as well as strengthening regional cooperation, knowledge sharing, and capacity building to support ASEAN Member States in addressing emerging OSH challenges in an increasingly digital world of work.

Drawing insights from the Conference’s four working sessions — namely: (i) Regional Policy Framework and Governance; (ii) National Practices on Sector-Based Digital Transformation; (iii) Business Dialogue on Good Practices in Digital Transformation and AI Application for OSH; and (iv) Summary and Recommendations — the Conference shared the following salient points and identified the following draft recommendations.

II. RECOGNITION OF INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL TRENDS

The Conference noted the following international and regional trends relating to the application of digital technologies and artificial intelligence in occupational safety and health (OSH):

- 1. Emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI), automation, robotics, smart**

monitoring systems, and digital platforms, present significant opportunities to strengthen occupational safety and health by enhancing hazard identification, risk assessment, workplace monitoring, and preventive measures.

2. At the same time, the increasing use of digital technologies and AI also gives rise to emerging challenges, including those relating to AI governance, worker data protection, cybersecurity, psychosocial risks, and the ethical and responsible use of technology in the workplace.
3. As digital transformation continues to reshape the future of work, there is a growing need to strengthen capacity building, knowledge sharing, and regional cooperation to support the effective, safe, and responsible application of digital technologies and AI in occupational safety and health, taking into account the different levels of digital readiness and national circumstances among ASEAN Member States.
4. The Conference noted ongoing international efforts to develop guidance, good practices, and knowledge products on the application of digital technologies and artificial intelligence in occupational safety and health, which may serve as useful references for ASEAN-OSHNET in promoting regional cooperation, capacity building, and the exchange of experiences among ASEAN Member States.
5. In addition to digital transformation, ASEAN Member States are also facing other trends such as Industry 5.0, demographic change including ageing workforce, and climate change, which place increasing demands on the modernisation and resilience of OSH systems across the region.

III. RECOGNITION OF ACHIEVEMENTS OF ASEAN MEMBER STATES

The Conference welcomed the progress made by ASEAN Member States in advancing the digital transformation of occupational safety and health (OSH) systems and recognised the wide range of initiatives undertaken at both the national and enterprise levels, including:

1. Building national OSH databases, online occupational accident reporting portals, and digitalising sector-based labour inspection work (Malaysia, Viet Nam, Myanmar), with Malaysia having issued its OSH Master Plan 2026–2030 (OSHMP30), which places digital data at the core of protecting the national workforce, and Viet Nam having made 23 administrative procedures on OSH available online;
2. Applying electronic health records and sharing data through digital platforms (Japan); deploying an AI-powered Risk Monitoring and Early Warning System for key industries (China); meanwhile, Indonesia developed models for tripartite data governance and digital platforms;

3. Applying virtual reality (VR) technology in OSH training for young workers, and mobile applications supporting workers in the informal economy (Philippines, Cambodia);
4. Digitalising risk management and automated safety monitoring in the hydropower and mining sectors (Lao PDR), and showcasing innovative private sector-led safety solutions in the energy sector (Brunei Darussalam), to demonstrate how technology and innovation contribute to implementing national OSH policies and strengthening the foundation for national OSH programmes.
5. Deploying AI and smart monitoring systems for OSH, shifting from a “safety culture” to a “safety intelligence” approach, with Thailand having digitalised its inspection processes through an online e-Service portal and Data Dashboard (Singapore, Thailand);
6. Numerous good practices among enterprises in applying digital transformation and AI to OSH management, such as Vietnam Electricity (EVN), Binh Son Refining Company/PetroVietnam, and SN Aboitiz Power Group (Philippines).

These results demonstrate the great potential of digital technology and AI in improving the effectiveness of preventing occupational accidents and diseases, while affirming the pioneering role of the business sector in this process.

IV. RECOGNITION OF DIFFICULTIES AND CHALLENGES

While recognising the progress made by ASEAN Member States, the Conference also noted a number of common challenges and emerging issues that may affect the effective application of digital technologies and artificial intelligence in occupational safety and health across the region, including:

1. The cost of adopting digital technologies, particularly artificial intelligence and smart monitoring systems, may present challenges for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), as well as government agencies with limited resources;
2. Differences in digital readiness among ASEAN Member States, as well as between urban and rural areas and between the formal and informal sector, may affect access to technology-based OSH solutions, particularly for workers in vulnerable situations, including workers in the informal economy, young workers, and migrant workers;
3. The rapidly evolving nature of digital technologies and artificial intelligence presents opportunities as well as challenges for occupational safety and health, including in areas such as AI governance, worker data protection, and digital labour inspection;
4. The application of emerging technologies may introduce new and evolving occupational safety and health risks, including those associated with automated systems, digital monitoring, virtual and augmented reality technologies, and

psychosocial factors;

5. In some Member States, labour inspection capacity remains limited relative to the scale of enterprises to be overseen, while the adoption of new technologies continues to face barriers such as resistance to change, data security concerns, digital skills gaps, and concerns over job displacement, warranting due attention in the course of digital transformation.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS

On the basis of the above, the 13th ASEAN-OSHNET Conference recommends that the 22nd SLOM Meeting consider and report the following to the ASEAN Labour Ministers Meeting:

A. On the regional policy framework and governance

1. Support the ASEAN-OSHNET, in collaboration with relevant partners, to continue promoting the exchange of knowledge, experiences, and good practices on the application of digital technologies and artificial intelligence in occupational safety and health, including issues related to AI governance, data protection, and digital labour inspection. Explore the feasibility of developing regional guidelines in these areas as a common reference for ASEAN Member States, taking into account national circumstances and relevant international developments.
2. Encourage ASEAN Member States to continue strengthening national policy and regulatory frameworks on OSH to adapt to technological development, taking into consideration national circumstances, international good practices, and experiences shared by Member States and partners during the Conference.

B. On capability building and narrowing the digital divide

3. Encourage ASEAN-OSHNET to continue organising regional training and capability-building programmes for government officials and labour inspectors on data analytics, AI, and smart monitoring tools, prioritizing support for Member States with limited technological capacity;
4. Explore possible resource mobilisation mechanisms, including through partnerships with dialogue partners, development partners and the private sector, to support MSMEs in accessing appropriate digital technologies for occupational safety and health, taking into account national priorities and available resources.
5. Encourage the sharing and adoption of practical, affordable, and accessible digital solutions, including mobile applications and online platforms, to enhance occupational safety and health for workers in the informal sector and other vulnerable situations, taking into account national priorities and available resources.

6. Explore the feasibility of enhancing regional knowledge sharing and voluntary exchange of experiences among ASEAN Member States on digital OSH information systems and databases, taking into account national priorities, existing mechanisms, and national laws and regulations on data protection;
7. Continue to organise regional forums, workshops and technical exchanges to facilitate the sharing of experiences and good practices on digital transformation and the application of AI in OSH among ASEAN Member States, enterprises, and relevant stakeholders.

C. On sharing and regional cooperation

8. Strengthen collaboration with international and regional organisations, dialogue partners, academia, and other relevant stakeholders to promote research, technical cooperation, capacity building, and the exchange of knowledge and good practices on the application of digital technologies and artificial intelligence in occupational safety and health.

D. On the participation of businesses and workers

9. Encourage the promotion of tripartite dialogue, as appropriate, in supporting the adoption and application of digital technologies and artificial intelligence in workplaces, with a view to enhancing occupational safety and health, facilitating skills development, and promoting workers' well-being.

VI. FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

1. Encourage ASEAN-OSHNET to take into consideration the recommendations arising from the 13th ASEAN-OSHNET Conference, where appropriate, in the implementation of the ASEAN-OSHNET Work Plan 2026–2030.
2. Request the ASEAN-OSHNET Chair to report the recommendations of the 13th ASEAN-OSHNET Conference to the 22nd ASEAN Senior Labour Officials Meeting (SLOM) for its consideration and to the ALMM for notation.