

Lars A. Myhre,
President, Energy Section,
International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine & General Workers' Trade Unions.
ICEM

What are the Major Health, Safety and Regulatory Issues and Concerns in the Worldwide Operations ?

Summary

ICEM represent 20 million workers out of which 6.5 millions are energy-workers from 108 countries and 150 different trade unions.

I have based this presentation on my experience as trade unionist in an international setting from 1977 – from 1977 being the spokesman in ILO on HSE matters in the oil and gas sector, and since the merging with the miners federation in 1995 – President of the Energy Section in ICEM.

In the following I will deal with the importance of

- the understanding of how accidents are linked together
- procedures and communication, organising of the HSE - work
- the involvement and competence of the whole company management
- the freedom to report incidents in the workplace without risking reprisals
- free admission for the employees to elect representatives and to organise
- education and training in HSE-matters

In a global setting it is necessary to bear in mind differences in culture, attitude, communication, structure and infrastructure, educational level and by all means economical and political situation.

The ICEM have realised that globalisation and multinational companies will be more and more dominating in a world that get smaller and smaller. We have in this connection made 11 global agreements with international companies. Other global trade union federations have followed, and for the moment there are 36 global agreements which all a.o. deal with HSE. The ICEM policy is to establish and develop relations to all major companies in our struggle for better HSE-standards world wide including the majors overall responsibility for contractors and subcontractors.

In particular we find that the effort for better HSE – conditions have the same three major enemies as the trade unions:

Poverty – Unemployment – Corruption

