

# **OSH promotion experiences for Home-based worker in Thailand**

**by  
HomeNet Thailand**




# Social Awareness

- ▶ Fire tragedy of Kader toy factory in 1993, killed 188 workers and injured more than 400 workers.
- ▶ A waste picker collected an old bomb and try to get metal to sell but it explored and killed him.





# Why OSH is importance for HBWs?

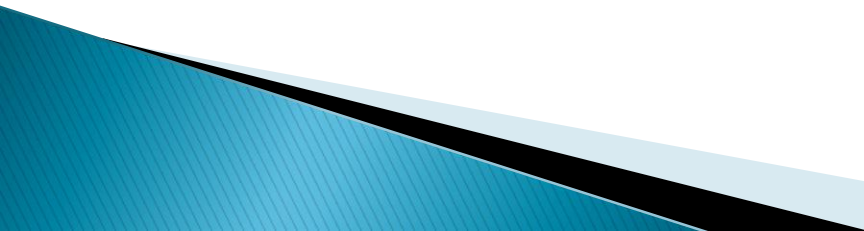
- 50 % of health problems come from OSH issue
  - Generally, HBWs has no social security, work hard with low paid.
  - HBW gets sick, no income and increasing of expenses, some of them have to sell their property , or in debt.
  - More than 70 % of HBWs are women.
  - Women have important role in taking care of reproductive work.
  - Unhealthy women in a family= unhealthy family
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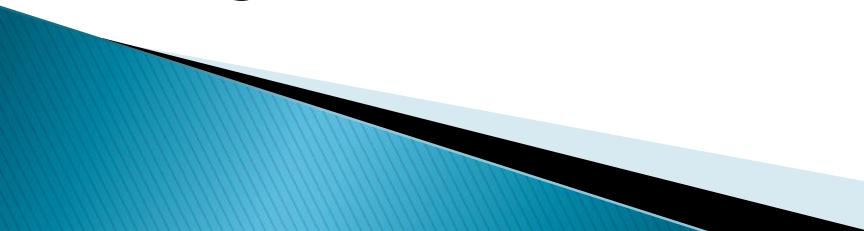
# General situation

- ▶ Informal workers (including agricultural workers) in Thailand = 2/3 of working force.
- ▶ MOL considers OSH as national agenda but mainly focused in formal workers.
- ▶ May 10, is OSH national day
- ▶ Inadequate of OSH inspectors for formal workers.

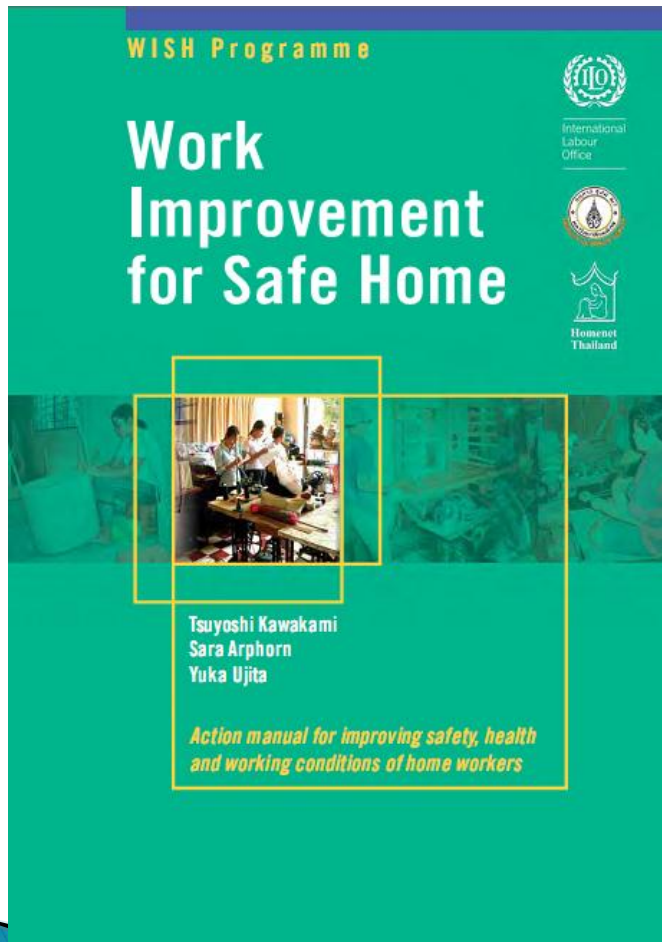
## During 2001

- ▶ Lack of knowledge on OSH for informal workers.
  - ▶ No GO authorities in charge of this issue.
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# HNT experiences

- 2001 Got support from Health System Research Institute to study OSH problem among 6 producer groups, gem cutting, bronze making, fishing net finishing, traditional cloth weaving , garment sewing and tomato seed production
  - 2002 Developed WISH manual to train HBWs with ILO and Mahidol University
  - 2004– 2007 got support from Health Promotion Foundation to promote OSH among HBWs in 17 provinces in Thailand
  - 2009 –present get support from The Netherlands government under MDG3 Fund to promote OSH
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# WISH (**W**ork **I**mprovement for **S**afe **H**ome)



- ▶ ILO
- ▶ Mahidol University
- ▶ Homenet Thailand

# Causes of the OSH problem among HBWs

- ▶ **Physical hazards from inappropriate workplace**  
According to HBWs adjusted their home as working place, heat, sound ,light and ventilation can be problems.
- ▶ **Hazards from poor quality of machine, tool and equipment**
- ▶ cause of low paid from their jobs, HBW likes to buy cheap tools and equipments or second or third hand machine which it can be caused of accident in their work place



- ▶ **Contamination of toxic substance and chemical hazard at work.**

Workers can touch or breathe in toxic substance and chemical hazard which contaminate in raw material, equipment or production process. At the same time, children and other person in a family can receive these poison substances because they live in the same place.

- ▶ **Harm from improper ergonomics**

In relation to in proper sitting at work and long working hours with repeated manner, workers faced problem of painful at their neck, back, shoulders, arms and legs.

## Working conditions are below standard

Because their working conditions are below standard, with low paid they need to work longer hours and have no leisure time. In some cases, product deliver time is very short, workers have to work over days and nights without any rest. With these working conditions, workers were tired, exhausted and got pain at their neck, back, shoulder, arms and legs. Besides **physical problems**, irregular job and low paid induced **mental problem** of workers. Basically, workers would stress from over working, time constraint, quality of their jobs, low paid, irregular job and economic of their family as well

# Working process to promote OSH

- **Identified producer groups**

By number of HBWs, working with high risks.

- **Identify health risks**

Using various of tools, Hazard mapping, Body mapping, Job Safety Assessment–JSA and WISH





Advertisement for 'FADINON' featuring a couple and a calendar.

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Advertisement for 'rosopi' shoes.

รองเท้าสวยๆ คู่ใจ

rosopi







# พืชชั้นต้นตระกูล

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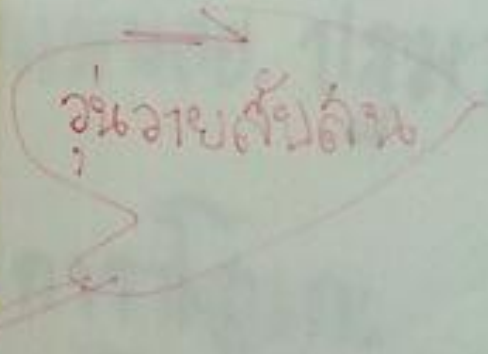
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# Wood Carving Process



**Wood drying**



**cutting**



**Carving**



**Sanding**



**Painting**



**Handling & Storage**



## **Hazards control, action**

Change working behavior and working environment through, improving working habit , introduce proper ergonomics, introduce PPE, 5S, Clean Technology(CT) and develop safety rules. **The changes are based on simple, low cost and practical.**

## **Follow up and monitoring**

Develop check list as monitoring tool

Select OSH volunteers

Physical check up

Sharing

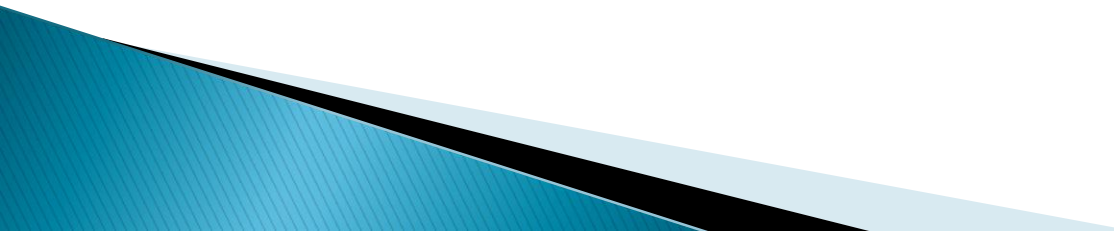






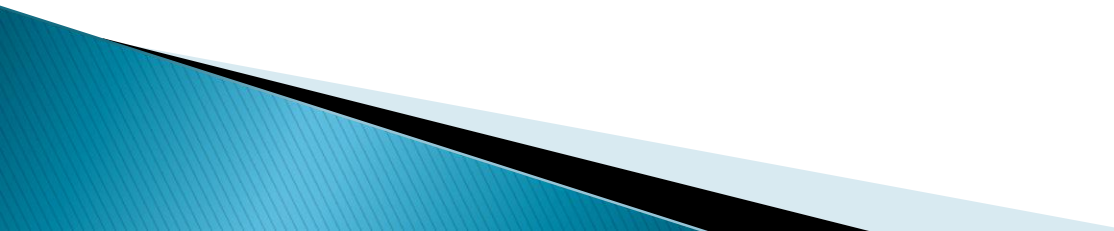


# Sustainability Process

- ▶ Use participatory approach in all steps of OSH promotion to increase awareness of HBWs and their leaders
  - ▶ Develop working mechanism with key stakeholders to ensure of integration OSH in regular government mechanism.
  - ▶ Increasing numbers of health service officers who know about OSH through working mechanism or training.
  - ▶ Advocate for policy change to change working conditions and increasing social protection for informal workers.
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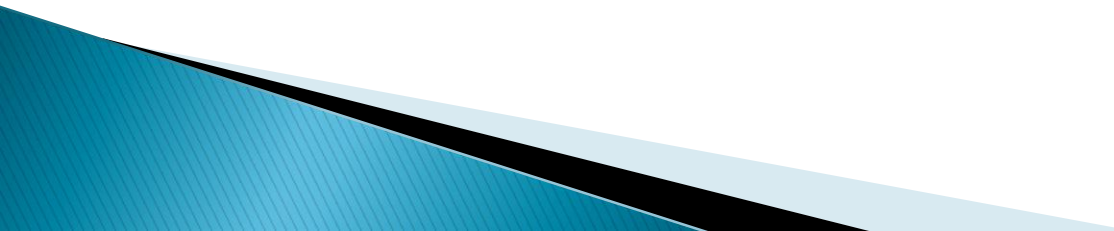
# Policy Advocacy Issues

- ▶ Homeworkers Protection Act
  - ▶ Social Security for informal workers
  - ▶ Integration of OSH in National Health Security System.
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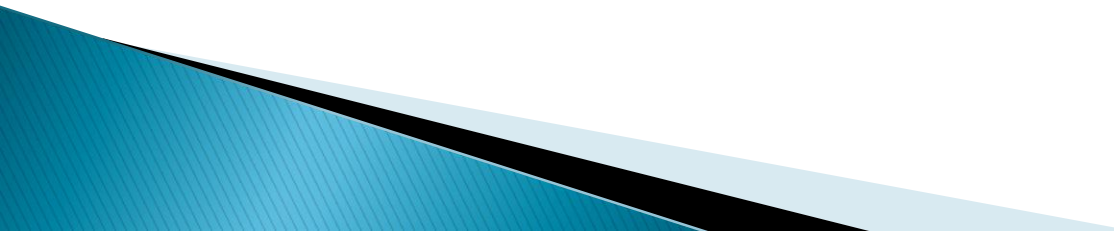
# Results and Impacts

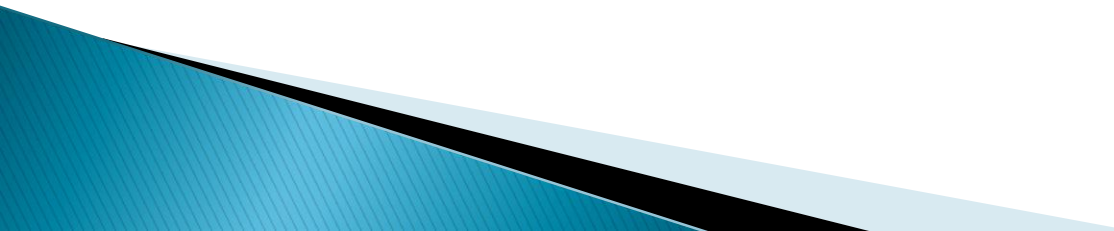
- Increasing awareness among HBWs and their leaders
- 12 models of producer groups practicing OSH
- A model of hospital and local authority integrated OSH in their job
- Expansion of HNT members
- Some SMEs practices OSH can increase sale.
- Existing of key partners – PCU, Hospital and local authorities, Bureau of Occupational and Environmental Diseases, Ministry of Public Health and universities.

- Some sub-district Administrative offices integrated OSH issue in their action plan and allocate budget to improve OSH.
  - Can build academican and technician Network, few UNVs. integrated WISH in their curriculum
  - Parliament passed Homeworkers Protection Act which will enforce in May 16,2011
  - Government share 30 % of contribution of social security for informal workers.
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# Lessen learned

- ▶ OSH is an entry point or approach for organizing. From OSH problem, they can organize. In addition they can see the difference between formal and informal workers and exploitation .
  - ▶ OSH issue can link with national structural adjustment or policy issue. It enhances HBWs' understanding in policy changes.
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- ▶ Understanding , awareness and participation of HBWs are key issues for success.
  - ▶ Working mechanism and partnership with other organizations lead to achievement. Meanwhile, it can raise voice, visibility and validity of HBWs
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# What 's next?

Try to advocate and develop models with integration of OSH in NHSO.

Healthy is the most valuable reward for human being.

“Healthy is the most valuable reward  
for human being.”