

More work needed to foster culture of work safety : Lee

Published on: Aug 29, 2012 @ 10:06



Dr Joachim presenting a 'souvenir' to Lee (second from left).

## More work needed to foster culture of work safety: Lee

KOTA KINABALU: National Institute of Occupational, Safety and Health (Niosh) Chairman, Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye, said Tuesday more work is needed to foster a culture of occupational safety in the country despite the accident rate having halved in the past decade.

He said despite the Human Resource Ministry statistics showing that the number of accidents has fallen from 10.3 cases to 5.72 cases for every 1,000 workers since 2002, the country should strive to achieve for an accident-free environment.

"For a start, we need to benchmark ourselves against the developed nations, which only post 3-4 accident rates for every 1,000 workers. "Companies must not profit at the expense of safety because if accidents occur lives may be lost and productivity will be affected. Occupational Safety and Hazards (OSH) ownership in every organisation is still paramount," he said in a statement.

To achieve a total promotion of OSH at work, Lee urged companies to adopt OSH management strategy for organisational measures for accident prevention, motivation and behavioral change.

He said this after an OSH Seminar for the Tourism Industry launched by Kudasang Assemblyman, Dr Joachim Gunsalam, on behalf of the Tourism, Culture and Environment Minister, Datuk Masidi Manjun.

Lee also reminded employers to ensure that safety is inculcated as a culture in their organisations and avoid merely making OSH topics as slogans.

He also said in the stiff global competition and change companies have backstaged safety, however, business competitiveness could also be ensured along with the OSH culture.

"Bosses must recognise OSH of employees as an integral part of business management. Employees are often regarded by their bosses to be the most important assets of their organisation.

"Hence, it makes sense that this particular asset should be protected in terms of health and safety and nurtured to ensure that it continues to be productive," said Lee.

"Common sense tells us that safety is good business. If industries give priority to safety issues at the workplace it will certainly be beneficial to the business," he said.