

Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency

20 March 2025

KOSHA



I. Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency



1. KOSHA History

Established on Dec. 9, 1987

► Based on Enforcement of

- ✓ **KOSHA Act (1987)**
- ✓ **Occupational Safety and Health Act (1981)**

Dedicate to the development of Korean Economy

- ✓ by making workers be safe and healthy in the workplace and
- ✓ by encouraging employers to make efforts in prevention activities

(Chapter 1, KOSHA Act)

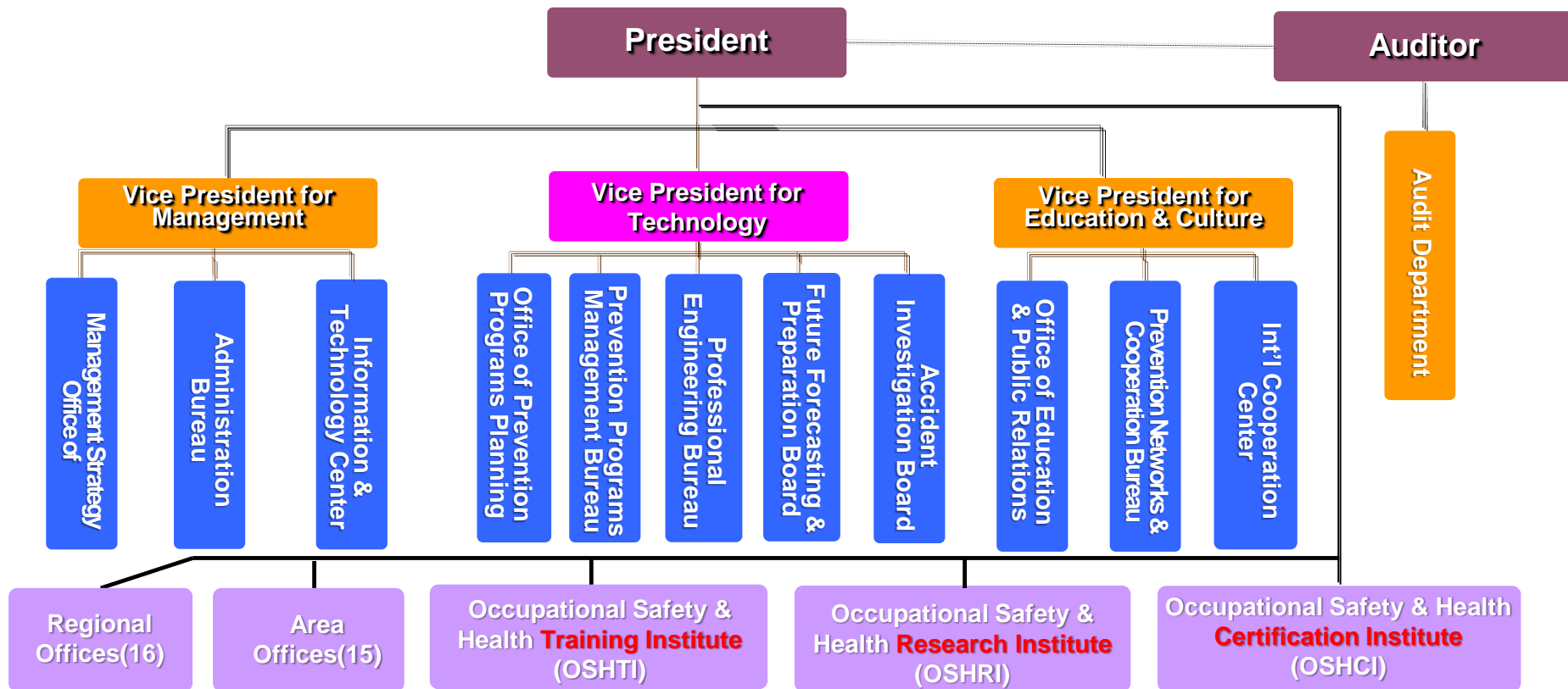
1. KOSHA History

KOSHA History

30 May 1987	Announcement of KOSHA Act
9 Dec. 1987	Establishment of KOSHA
12 Dec. 1987	Establishment of OSH Training Institute
19 Jul. 1989	Establishment of OSH Research Institute
19 Feb. 2014	Relocation of Headquarters to Ulsan
23 Jan. 2017	Establishment of OSH Certification Institute
31 Dec. 2019	Establishment of Smart OSH Technology Institute

3. Organization Chart

Organization Structure



3. Organization Chart

Organization Structure (2,062 staffs)

In Ulsan

- Headquarters
- OSHRI
- OSHTI
- OSHCI

In regions

- 16 Regional Offices
- 15 Area Offices



4. Major Functions

Major Functions

- ✓ OSH Technical and Financial support to workplaces
- ✓ OSH Diagnosis, R&D and Training
- ✓ Developing OSH Technical Standards and Guidelines
- ✓ Producing & Analyzing OSH Statistics
- ✓ Awareness Raising on OSH / Enhancing S&H Culture
- ✓ International Cooperation
- ✓ Other OSH tasks delegated by the law

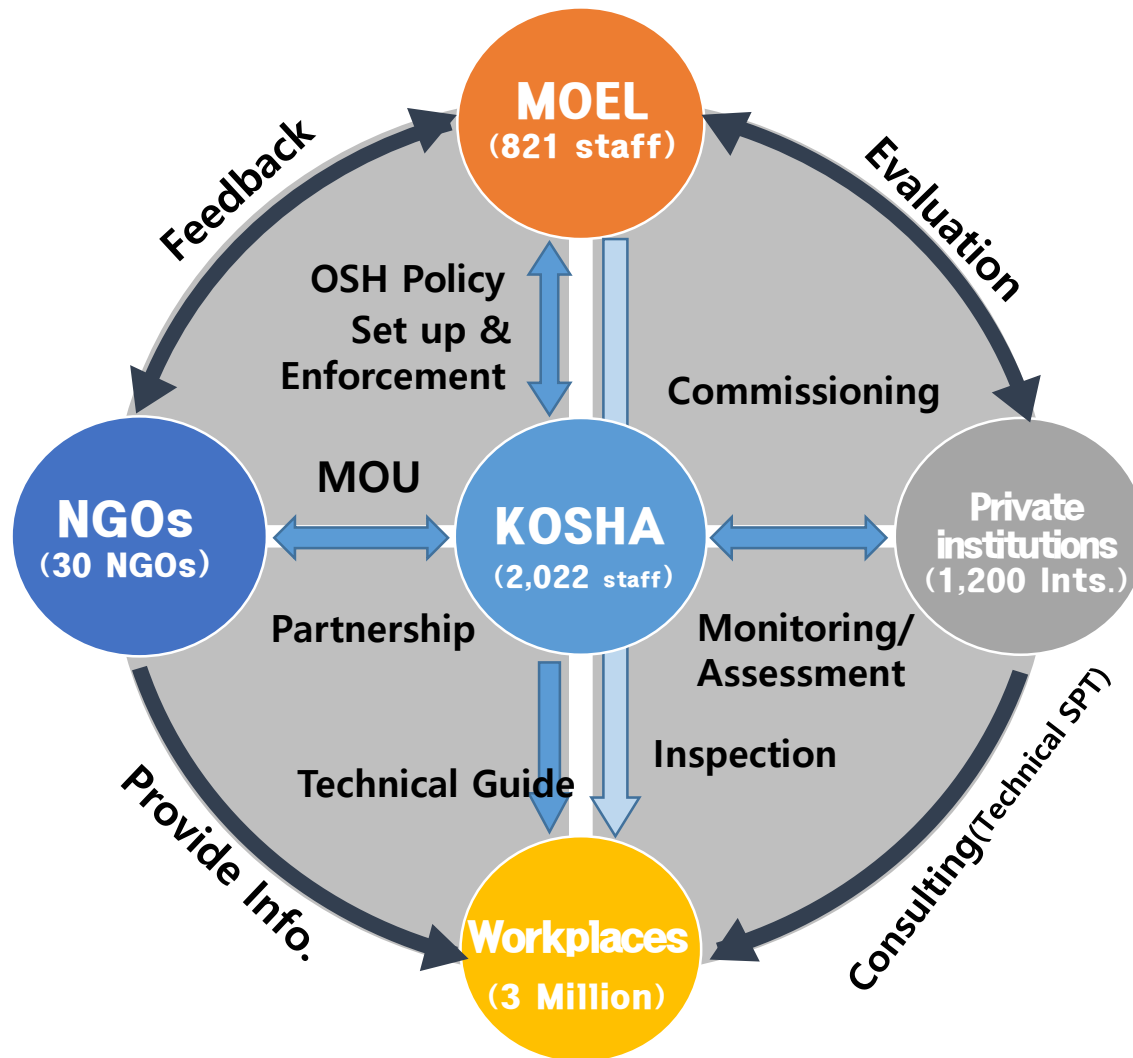
- Pursuant to KOSHA Act

5. International Activities

International Activities

- ✓ 2008 The 18th World Congress on Safety and Health at Work
 - ✧ **Seoul Declaration on Safety and Health at Work**
- ✓ 2011 Elected as the President of The Section for a Culture of Prevention (ISSA)
- ✓ 2012 Elected as the Vice-President of the Special Commission on Prevention (ISSA)
- ✓ 2015 The 31st International Congress on Occupational Health (ICOH)
- ✓ 2016/2022 Supporting the establishment of the Vietnam Industrial Safety and Health Training Center
- ✓ 2024 Supporting the establishment of the Cambodia Industrial Safety and Health Training Center

OSH Management System in Korea



MOEL	KOSHA
OSH Policy Set up Investigation/Inspection (Judicial Police Officer)	OSH technical services Accident Prevention Loan, Subsidies Education & Training R&D, PR, Certification Int'l Cooperation

NGOs	Private institutions
Partnership with MOEL & KOSHA OSH Policy proposal OSH Campaign activity	OSH technical support and training for member businesses

II. OSH Statistics



2. OSH Statistics

Work-related Fatal injury

- ✓ Fatal injury rate fell as economy advanced, to under 1.0 ‰ in 2006
- ✓ 812 injury fatalities in 2023, 0.39 ‰, entering the 0.3 ‰ for the first time since 1999 when statistics were compiled



III. OSH History



1. Start from the scratch (1953~1980)

Basic regulations on OSH enacted

- ✓ In **1953**, 10 OSH-related Chapters were included in the Labor Standards Act to impose responsibilities of employers for safety
- ✓ However, in reality, they were not implemented due to lack of subsections responsible for defining specific standards
- ✓ **1964**, Industrial Accident Compensation Insurance Act enacted and entered into force

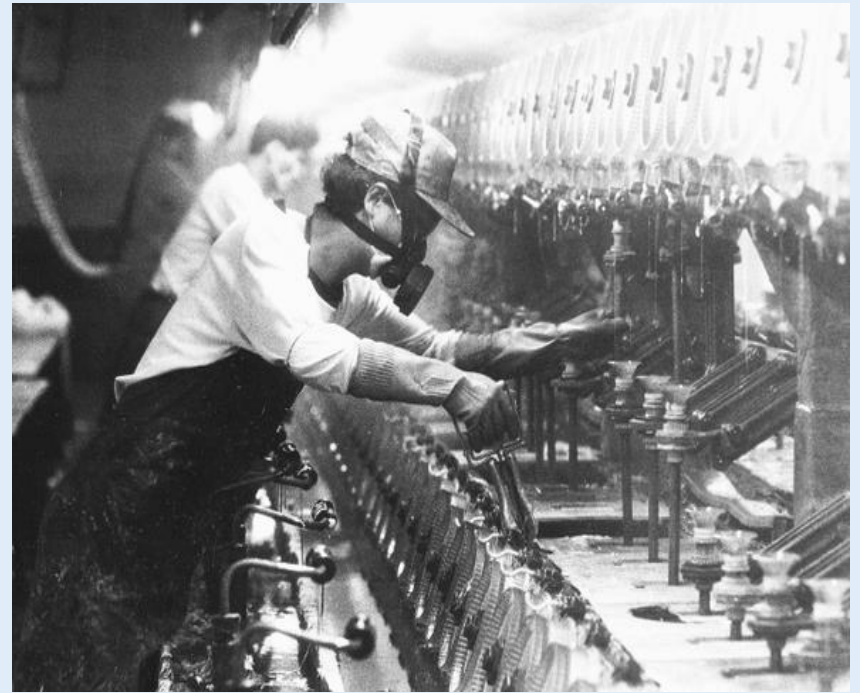
2. Stabilization of Safety (1981~1990)

■ With economic growth, awareness on OSH

- ✓ OSH-related laws and regulations were modified and units for supervision were arranged
- ✓ OSH Act enacted in **1981**
- ✓ KOSHA established in **1987**
- ✓ Occupational Safety Bureau inaugurated in the Ministry of Employment & Labor in **1989**

3. Occupational health takes root (1991~1996)

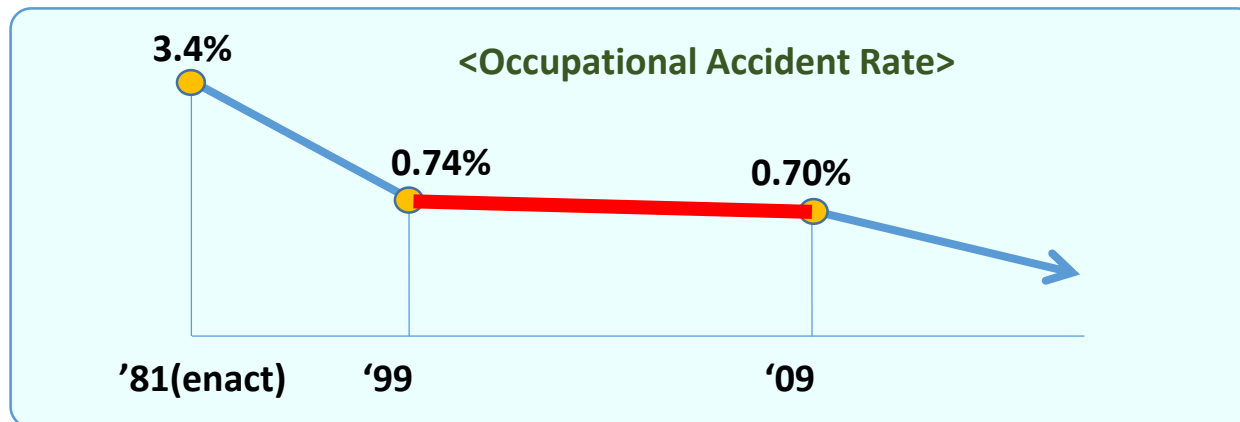
CS₂ poisoning in a rayon manufacturing factory triggered awareness on worker's health



4. Crisis of OSH (1997~2000)

Asian financial crisis in 1997 & deregulations

- ✓ Hiring industrial physicians: compulsory → voluntary
- ✓ Loosen the hiring standard of safety manager
- ✓ Alleviate the standard of mandatory training and education for OSH-interested parties
- ✓ Stagnant industrial accident rate for 10 years



5. Rebound of OSH (2000~)

Recognize safety as prerequisite to overcome an economic crisis

- ✓ Establishment & implementation of the 3rd 5-year-plan for industrial accident prevention (2010-2014)
- ✓ 4th 5-year-plan for industrial accident prevention (2015-2019)
- ✓ Expansion of OSH infra by fostering private accident prevention institutions and activating safety and health market

Strong new government policy

- ✓ Declare **SAFETY** as core value and top priority of current government (June 2017 ~)

IV. New OSH paradigm



Full revision of the OSH Act, 2020

- Enacted in 1981; fully revised in 1990 & 2020 again
- High occupational fatality rate, sluggish accident reduction
- Details

	Before	New concepts
Responsible party	Business owner	Prime contractor, facility owner
Protection subjects	Employees	All workers
Protection scope	Physical safety & health	Psychological health
Accident investigation	Administrative measure	Behavior, causes
Safety management	Consultants	In-house OSH personnel

Serious Accident Punishment Act, 2022

- Purpose
 - Prevent serious accidents and protect the lives by **imposing criminal liability on business owner**
 - Encourage **fundamental changes of attitudes** and incentivize concrete action
- Details
 - (Duty) Put business owners liable for OSH of workers
 - (Penalty) **At least 1 year imprisonment**
and up to KRW 1 billion fine
 - (Applicable) Business with at least 5 workers

Thank you!

