6th Meeting of the Network of WHO Collaborating Centres for Occupational Health, Iguassu Falls, Brazil, 21 –23 February 2003

Thebe A Pule, OCH /WHO/AFRO
Division of Healthy Environments & Sustainable Development (DES)
PHE Objective;

- To facilitate the incorporation of effective health dimensions into regional and national policies impacting on health and environment, and into national development policies and action plans for health and environment, including legal and regulatory frameworks governing the management of human environment.
Expected Results

- Evidence based policy guidance and advocacy for promoting environmental planning and management
- Adequate methodology for prevention and response to chemical incidents and other environmental emergencies
- Support for building capacity to implement national health and environment action plans
Occupational Health Objective

To support countries efforts to improve and maintain the health of the working population in the Region.

Specific Objectives

- Development of human resource;
- Promotion of OCH in the workplace;
- Development of coherent strategy for generation & dissemination of information;
- Development of a network of partnerships for the improvement of workers’ health
2004 – 2005 Plan Activities

- 39 Countries chose PHE as area of interest
  - Raising/Increase of Awareness
    - Policy Makers- link sustainable development, poverty, GDB to OCH
    - Public, workers, organizations
  - Policy and legislation
    - Create enabling climate
  - Human Resource Development
    - Institutions of higher learning
    - In-service -
  - OCH Programme setting
    - Integrated planning
  - Community Participation/involvement
Activities and Progress

- OCH Survey in 2001
- Human resources, financial, activities
- Started supporting OCH activities
  - Human resource development
  - Development of national policies
  - Identifying collaborating centres, partners & experts
  - Information dissemination
- Creating a network of expertise – Collaborating Centres
- Initiated the joint effort between WHO & ILO
  - WHO/ILO collaboration meetings
  - Launching in May 2003
  - Joint planning and implementation
- Plan – 2004 - 2005
Areas Identified

**Taskforces**
- 2: Intensive Partnership in Africa
- 3: Child Labour/Adolescent Workers
- 4: Elimination of Silicosis
- 5: Health Care workers
- 7: Mental health & Stress at Work
- 8: Promotion of OHS in S Enterp & Inf Sect
- 10: Preventive Technologies
- 11: Training Programmes & Modules
- 12: Internet Resources & Network
- 13: National Profiles and Indicators
- 14: Cost-effectiveness of Interventions
- 15: Global Burden of Disease
Network of Expertise and Partnership in Africa

- National Centre of Occupational Health
  - Silicosis
  - Publication
  - Website

- University of Cape Town*
  - Informal sector

University of Benin*
- Distance Learning

- International Labour Organization (ILO)
  - *prospective collaborating centre
WHO/ILO Joint Effort in Occupational Health & Safety in Africa (WHO/ILO AJE)

- Identified Areas of Collaboration
  - Human Resource Development focused on capacity building
  - National policies, programmes & legislation
  - Information, research & awareness raising; and
  - Promotion of occupational health & safety in particular hazardous occupations, vulnerable groups (including informal sector workers & children) and in newly transferred technologies
Progress with WHO/ILO AJE

- Two meetings between WHO & ILO HQ
- Two collaboration sensitization meeting
- Meeting between WHO & ILO RA’s
- Exchange of progress documents
- Planning meetings in Benin – March 2003
- Planned Launch Meeting in Benin in May 2003?
Constraints & Challenges

- Resources
  - Human Resources
  - Financial

- Fragmentation
  - Labour
  - Health
  - Welfare

- Information Management

- Two Systems

- Research
Resources (2004 – 2005)

- **Budget**
  - Regional: 6,419 ‘000
  - Country: 2,254
  - O. Sources: 3,915
  - 250

- **Human**
  - Regional Advisor
  - Network of Collaborating Centres; country to country cooperation; experts
Thank you

Merci