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Garment Workers Run for Safety in Factories

HO CHI MINH CITY, Vietnam – Over 3,000 garment workers will run **this Sunday 17th April at 7:00am at Vietnam Singapore Industrial Park, Binh Duong Province** at part of a safety campaign to mark the World Day for Safety and Health at Work (April 28, 2011).

Garment workers from Ho Chi Minh City and surrounding provinces will participate in the Safety Run, have fun while also learning more about good safety and health practices in factories and earn attractive prizes. Participating workers will also have a chance to raise their voices in promoting safety at the workplace through a series of performances including a skit and an aerobic dance.

Phuong Vy, Vietnam Idol 2007, will appear at the event and perform her latest songs for the workers.

Joining the event with the workers will be **Ms. Rie Vejs Kjeldgaard, Director of ILO Office Viet Nam**, and **representatives from Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA), Vietnam General Confederation of Labor (VGCL), and provincial Federation of Labor (FOL), Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI).**

“Promoting occupational safety and health is an issue of protecting the health and lives of workers,” said **Ms. Rie Vejs Kjeldgaard, Director of ILO Office Vietnam**. “It is also an essential issue for the productivity and the competitiveness of enterprises. Promoting safety at work is not only good for workers. It is simply good business.”

“Worker safety and health is a priority for Better Work Vietnam. Our annual Safety Run focuses on teaching workers and their managers how to prevent injuries so that workers are protected and factories are productive and free from accidents. We do this in a way that is fun and encourages ongoing workplace cooperation at factories,” shared **Tara Rangarajan, Program Manager, Better Work Vietnam**.

The Safety Run campaign is organized by Better Work Vietnam to raise awareness of occupational safety and health in the Vietnamese apparel industry. The event aims to give workers and their managers opportunities to enjoy themselves together with a focus on joint ways to promote safety through understanding risks and preventative measures inside their factories.

During 2010 alone, a total of 5,307 people were injured at work in Vietnam, 601 of whom died and 1,260 were severely wounded. The apparel industry in particular has a range of safety hazards that can be avoided through prevention and training. According to the “[Garment Industry 2nd Compliance Synthesis Report](#)” recently released by Better Work Vietnam, occupational safety and health continues to be one of the largest areas of non-compliance for participating factories. **Better Work Vietnam is striving to promote integrated and preventative safety approach in apparel factories through a series of activities including advisory, training and communications and events such as the Safety Run campaign.**

The Safety Run 2011 is sponsored by Abercrombie & Fitch, Adidas, International Finance Corporation, Levi’s, Nike, Phillips-Van Heusen, Sears Holdings, Target, Tesco International Sourcing, The Walt Disney Company.

Better Work Vietnam is part of the Better Work global program, a unique partnership between the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Finance Corporation (IFC). Better Work Vietnam seeks to improve working conditions and promote competitiveness in Vietnamese apparel industry. It does so through assessment of labor compliance, and advisory and training services for sustainable improvement. Learn more about Better Work Vietnam at www.betterwork.org/vietnam.

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