

For immediate release
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**Better Work Haiti to train over 3000 garment workers on safety and health at work:
Special event will focus on interactive learning in a fun and lively atmosphere**

(Port-au-Prince)—On Saturday, 30 April, Better Work Haiti will welcome over 3000 apparel factory workers for a first-of-its-kind Safety and Health at Work fair at the SONAPI Industrial Park in Port-au-Prince.

The fair, part of the International Labour Organization's celebrations of World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2011, will bring together workers and managers from 27 factories in the nation's capital to help raise awareness on issues of safety and health at work. In addition to educational videos that will be shown throughout the day, workers will have the opportunity to win prizes by participating in quizzes on occupational safety and health topics.

Local organizations including the Centre de Promotion de la Femme Ouvrière (CPFO), l'Office d'Accidents du Travail, Maladie et Maternité (OFATMA), le Groupe de soutien contre le cancer, PSI-Haiti et la Fondation Haïtienne de Diabète et des Maladies Cardio-vasculaires will also be involved, offering critical health-related services to attending workers. Better Work Haiti expects that 550 general, gynecological and dermatological medical consultations, screening tests for STIs and HIV/AIDS as well as diabetes, and early-detection breast cancer and prostate exams will be offered to workers free of charge.

The Safety and Health at Work fair is being organized to promote better understanding of risks and preventive measures that managers and workers can take at their factories. "Preventing accidents and ensuring healthy working conditions is the responsibility of everyone in the workplace," says Richard Lavallée, Programme Manager for Better Work Haiti.

According to the International Labour Organization, every year approximately 337 million people are victims of work accidents, and more than 2.3 million people die from occupational injuries or work-related diseases. In Haiti, Better Work factory assessments indicate that occupational safety and health is one of the largest areas of non-compliance with national law for garment factories. (See "[Better Work Haiti 2nd Biannual Synthesis Report under the HOPE II Legislation](#)" for more information.) Better Work Haiti is providing guidance and training to help factories meet these challenges.

Sponsors of the event include Better Work Haiti, the Levi Strauss Foundation, Gildan, Astro Embroidery and Screen Printing, and Painson S.A.

The Safety and Health at Work fair will take place on Saturday, 30 April 2011 from 10am – 5pm at the SONAPI Industrial Park (Buildings 48 & 49, and the Centre de traumatologie de l'OFATMA). Food and drinks will be provided. Media representatives are invited to attend.

For more information, please contact Richard Lavallée, Better Work Haiti Programme Manager at +509 3832 8337 or lavallee@betterwork.org.

Better Work, a unique partnership initiative of the International Labour Organization and the International Finance Corporation, aims to improve compliance with core international labour standards and national labour law, and to promote competitiveness in global supply chains. The programme brings together government, workers' and employers' organizations and international buyers to improve working conditions through the implementation of sustainable and scalable services and institutions.

Better Work Haiti, which is funded by the United States Department of Labor, provides assessment and remediation services to Haiti's apparel export industry. Funding for additional activities comes from Human Resources and Skills Development Canada.