



Organization of American States (OAS)

Achievements in the incorporation of OHS in Declarations and Plans of Action of the main hemispheric fora

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Second Hemispheric Workshop on Occupational Health and Safety

San Salvador, May 16 - 17, 2006

I. Background – The OAS and the IACML

- Departament of Social Development and Employment of the OAS – created recently in order to strengthen political dialogue and cooperation in those areas.
- It is the Technical Secretariat of the **Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (IACML)**:
 - Oldest thematic forum of the OAS – 1963
 - Main forum for political discussion and decision-making in labor matters at the hemispheric level.
 - Has 2 advisory bodies: CEATAL (employers) and COSATE (workers)

I. Background – The IACML and the Summit of the Americas



Inter-American
Conference of
Min.of Labor
IACML

- Key framework at the hemispheric level.
 - Mandates and commitments from the Chiefs of State and Government of 34 States.
 - Gives mandates to the IACML.
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- Since the I Summit, IACML deliberations have followed the guidelines and commitments of the Summit.
 - It has influence on the definition of the Summit labor priorities.

I. Background – The IACML and the Summit of the Americas



Inter-American
Conference of
Min.of Labor
IACML

This relationship gained the most significant momentum in 2005 with the XIV IACML and the IV Summit, that had the theme:

“Creating jobs to fight poverty and strengthen democratic governance”

There is a close link between the mandates of the IACML and the Summit. This can be seen in the area of occupational health and safety

II. IACML and Summit mandates on OHS

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I Summit - Miami: No explicit reference to this topic.

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II Summit – Chile:

MinLabor will provide “high quality programs and assistance for workers and employers, placing emphasis on (among other) improvement of safety and health conditions in the workplace”, in the framework of the modernization of labor adm.

XI IACML – Chile:

Health and safety is identified as one of the policy priorities for Governments and Ministries of Labor.

II. IACML and Summit mandates on OHS

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III Summit and XII IACML in Canada:

Both continued to strengthen the commitment with OHS, they also addressed it from a gender equity perspective.

..“take action to remove structural and legal barriers .. to gender equality at work, addressing, inter alia, women’s occupational health and safety”

II. IACML and Summit mandates on OHS

XIII IACML in Brazil:

- Commitment to generate healthy and safe work environments and the responsibility to monitor OHS conditions.
- OHS was linked with the social and labor aspects of integration and free trade subregional and regional processes.
- Need to articulate labor policies with those in education, health and other. Commitment to make efforts to establish a comprehensive dialogue with Min. Trade, Health and Education. Basis for Strategic Alliance in OHS.

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II. IACML and Summit mandates on OHS

XIV IACML in Mexico:

- OHS is understood as one of the dimensions of decent work.
- Importance of promoting a culture of prevention on OHS and emphasis on the need to adopt an integrated policy approach.
- “Strengthen the Strategic Alliance of ministries of labor and ministries of health, education, and environment in order to advance the social protection of workers and develop national and subregional activities to promote healthy work environments, better conditions for workers’ health and safety, and joint initiatives for professional training” with support from OAS, PAHO, ILO, UNEP

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II. IACML and Summit mandates on OHS

IV Summit in Argentina:

- Makes a substantial contribution to this topic.
- “We will promote integrated frameworks of public environmental, employment, health, and social security policies to protect the health and safety of all workers and foster a culture of prevention and control of occupational hazards in the Hemisphere”
- “To promote occupational health and safety conditions and facilitate healthy work environments for all workers, and, to that end, ensure effective labor inspection systems. For this purpose, it is essential to foster strategic alliances between the labor, health, environment and education sectors.”

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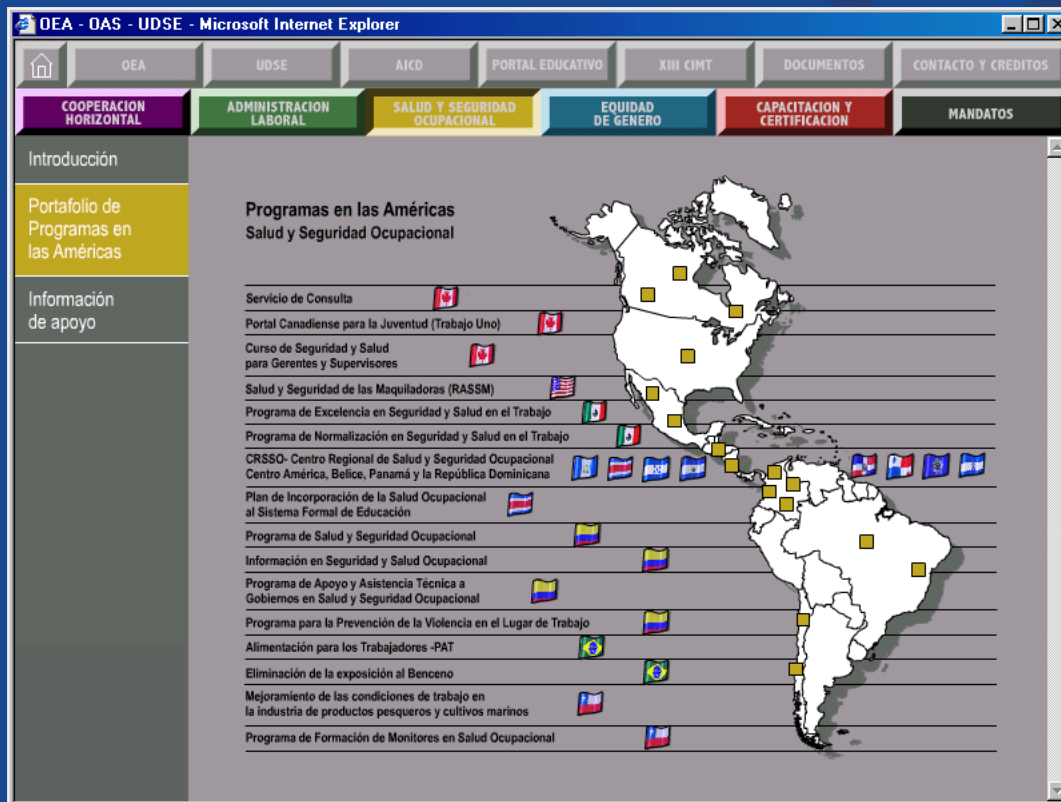
III. IACML activities in fulfillment of hemispheric mandates in the last 2 years

High level political dialogue to consolidate the strategic alliance. Some activities:

-  Participation of the IACML leading Ministers of Labor (Canada, Mexico and El Salvador) in PAHO's Directing Council in Sept. 2004, which gathers the Ministers of Health of the Hemisphere.
- IACML representation in the Ministerial of Health and Environment, June 2005.
- Representation from Min. Health in XIV IACML in Sept. 2005.

III. IACML activities in fulfillment of hemispheric mandates in the last 2 years

Horizontal Cooperation strategy



Portfolio of Programs
in OHS
Updated in Sept.2005

III. IACML activities in fulfillment of hemispheric mandates in the last 2 years

Horizontal Cooperation strategy

First Hemispheric Workshop on OHS “The subregional experience of CERSSO” - April 2004



**TALLER SOBRE SALUD Y SEGURIDAD OCUPACIONAL
LA EXPERIENCIA SUBREGIONAL DE CERSSO**
SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR · ABRIL 29 · 30, 2004

BIENVENIDOS	
QUE ES CERSSO	
PARTICIPANTES	
REFLEXIONES	
PROGRAMA	
RECOMENDACIONES	
INFORMACION DE APOYO	
INVESTIGADORES	
COMUNICADOS	



III. IACML activities in fulfillment of hemispheric mandates in the last 2 years

Horizontal Cooperation strategy

First Hemispheric Workshop on OHS

“The subregional experience of CERSSO” - April 2004

- The “Recommendation from San Salvador” was adopted:
 - Strengthen FUNDACERSSO – find support mechanisms and promote its dissemination.
 - Include OHS in the XIV IACML.
 - Strive for a greater articulation between Min.Labor and Health.
 - Strengthen information systems in Central America.
 - Promote subregional initiatives (Caribbean) based on the experience of FUNDACERSSO.
 - Organize OHS workshops to continue sharing practices...

IV. Second Hemispheric Workshop on OHS

“The challenges of OHS in relation to the IV Summit of the Americas mandates and subregional experiences”

San Salvador, May 16 – 17, 2006

- Follows up on the First Hemispheric Workshop under a new strategy for capacity building: **The Inter-American Network for Labor Administration (RIAL)**
- Advances the exchange of experiences and the definition of hemispheric **strategic guidelines** on OHS...

IV. Second Hemispheric Workshop on OHS

Definition of strategic guidelines that address the following:

- Which strategies should be adopted to improve OHS management systems?
- Which mechanisms and processes should be implemented to strengthen information systems?
- How could the fight against HIV be effectively incorporated in OHS management systems?
- Which mechanisms should be implemented to strengthen government inspection systems on OHS?



Inter-American Conference of
Ministers of Labor – **IACML**

XV IACML
2007 in
Trinidad &
Tobago



Second Hemispheric Workshop on OHS

Recommendations and strategic guidelines from this
Workshop could have great impact at the political level