

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY MANAGEMENT IN EAST AFRICA

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In recent years there has been increased emphasis on the need to improve on the occupational health and safety status of the work environment as a response to a marked increase in the number of work related accidents. Developed world governments are keenly taking a hard look at safety in industry and there has been a marked increase in the amount of government regulation in this area. Whereas industrialists in the developed world take safety issues seriously, their counterparts in the developing world do not do so with the same gravity. It is against this background that this conference was organized for the East African region for purposes of improving on this deteriorating situation. The workshop attracted a total of 50 industrialists. It was resolved that Health and Safety Audits be undertaken for all the 50 participating institutions with the ultimate goal of highlighting weaknesses in their safety procedures for improvement. So far, five such Health and Safety Audits have been undertaken and the remaining 45 will be undertaken in the next two years. The improvement measures are to be monitored and evaluated over time.