



CONNECTING HEALTH AND LABOUR:

WHAT ROLE FOR OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH IN GENERAL HEALTH CARE?

How to link Health to Labour?

Prevention and the workers' health perspective

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**3-seconds-answer: by Primary Health Care (PHC),
in connection with Occupat. Health Care (OHC)**

The 3-minute-answer:

**In Dresden 2011, defending the third Pillar, my
key message was the same as it is now: from
the workers' health perspective**

**1. Primary Prevention is good, but not good
enough! Even Vision Zero can't prevent workers
to get sick, e.g. by chronic or life style diseases.
Then they need:**

2. Secondary Prevention: early detection, work-related therapy and RTW-management.

But sometimes, bad workers' health does not allow RTW in the original job. Then they need:

3. Tertiary Prevention: good rehab, adapting work or finding another suitable job, in order to prevent dropping out of the work force for health reasons.

OHC professionals are trained to provide these three kinds of prevention, linking health to labour.

Unfortunately, only about 10-15% of the global workforce has access to them; when the others get health problems, they have to visit general/primary health care – if available at all...

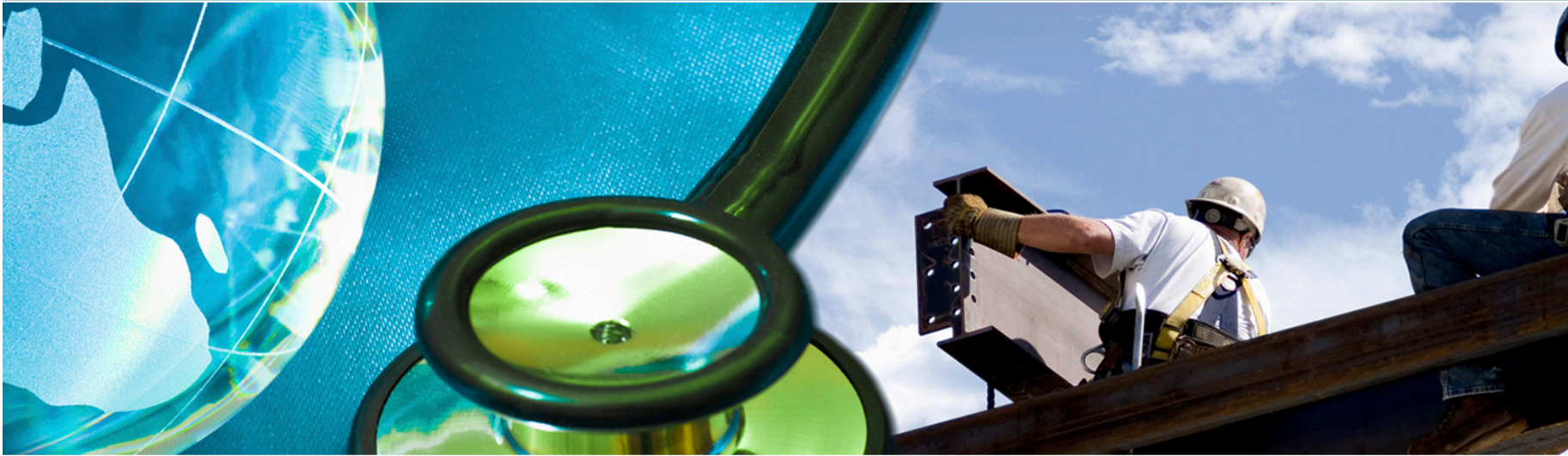
But also in Holland (OHC coverage > 80%) sick workers first see their GP/treating physician.

So: How to link Health to Labour?

By exploring the potential, willingness, methods and prerequisites of PHC to pay more attention to ‘work’, because of its 70% coverage of the global population, including informal, migrant and SME-workers – far beyond reach of the classic OHS.

That was the aim and the conclusion of the Hague Conference, end of 2011:

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



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IN PRIMARY HEALTH CARE?

The Hague, The Netherlands, 29-11 to 1-12-2011



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First structural networking of PHC&OHC key figures from all over the world – both essential for workers health, but operating mostly separated (speaking Maria Neira, Carol Black, Kazu Kogi ao)

Crucial in the preparation: years of net-working among professionals in the world organizations of OHC&PHC, ICOH and Wonca: Kos 2005; Milan 2006; Istanbul 2008; Capetown 2009; Cancun 2010

WHO: WHA 2007, 2009; Chili, 2008, Cancun 2012; Geneva 2012: follow up

Key messages of the Hague Conference:

- 1. Workers' health is an integral part of general health and daily life;**
- 2. Health systems should facilitate local strategies to meet workers' health needs;**
- 3. In moving towards universal coverage, those at greatest risks or having the greatest needs should be included first;**
- 4. When developing policies about workers' health, all relevant stakeholders should be involved;**
- 5. Training in health and work should be part of all health care professional training;**
- 6. Empowering workers and encouraging decision-makers are critical for promotion of the health&safety of workers.**

‘Not an easy journey’ (Carol Black)

‘Give us the tools, than we will do the job!’

(Winston Churchill, 1940)

