

Report
Seminar on Office safety
January 31, 2019

The Sustainability Committee of Bombay Chamber organized a Seminar on Office Safety. Ms. Usha Maheshwari, Additional Director, Bombay Chamber welcomed speakers and delegates. She briefed about history of and the milestone achieved by Bombay Chamber.

Mr. Nikhil Raval, HSE Director- Global Operations, Sanofi India Ltd. delivered Inaugural address and presented the theme of the seminar and shared the brief on components of office safety.

Mr. C. Ravishankar, MD, Monsanto stressed on commitment and responsibility for safety starts from top management. Management is an eye of organization and they need to bring culture of safety in office. Leadership have to set a goal and move towards bringing excellence in organization. Leadership have to participate in the activities organised for inculcating safety culture for eg. Participate in mock drills, vigilant of unsafe conditions and behaviour etc. The safety should be a topic of discussion in the meetings.

Mr. Soumitra Duttgupta, RC-IN EHS, Siemens shared HSE management systems of Siemens. He stated that safe behavior is not only determined by rules, regulations and procedures alone, but also through personal values, attitudes and the commitment of management and employees. The concept of Zero Harm Culture is implemented by Siemens very effectively and Mr. Duttgupta shared his experiences and practices.

Dr. Reena Valecha, Principal Ergonomic Consultant, Workspace & Ergonomics Research Cell, Godrej Interio delivered perspective on Ergonomics. She spoke on current work scenario, where office employees are spending long hours in static postures. Workspaces have to adopt healthier and human centric approach, they have to create awareness, facilitate movement and alternate postures. Organisations need to evaluate the ergonomic quotient of office by identifying evident & hidden hazards through ergonomic audit. The training on ergonomics wellness at work will reinforce employees to change and adopt good working habits.

Mr. Abhijit Pisal, Head, Godrej GBCS spoke on various components of green building such as water efficient fixtures, rain water harvesting, efficient landscape design, waste water treatment & reuse, water metering, energy simulation, shading analysis, passive architecture, building envelope (wall, roof insulation, glazing), HVAC systems & controls, lighting, hot water systems, renewable energy, building materials & resource conservation, reuse of salvaged materials, handling of waste material, during construction, waste management, indoor environment quality, occupant health & wellbeing etc. The well building standard is contains seven concepts that are air, water, nourishment, light, fitness, comfort, and mind. He described the benefits, incentives and process of green building certification.

Mr. Mahesh Chandak, India- Africa ESH and Human Rights Lead, Monsanto India emphasised on importance of facilitating health, wellness and well-being at workplace for increasing engagement and productivity of employees. He explained 90/10 concept for ensuring well-being i.e. after 90 minutes of work 10 minutes of break rejuvenates the employee. The break can be used for a snack, stretch, moving away from the screen screens, connecting with colleagues etc.

Mr. Amol Tope, Co-founder - Succeed Safe spoke about Employee Assistance Programme (EAP). He shared his experience on evaluation of EAP vendors, EAP launch activities, utilization of data, critical incidence etc. Different factors which help EAP programme to succeed were shared.

The open discussion on HSE key challenges was led by Ms. Tejaswini Raval Kamat, Principal Consultant, ERM, Mr. Nikhil Raval and Mr. Mahesh Chandak. Few key challenges were raised by the delegates. The panel members and delegates shared their ideas and solutions for mitigating the same.

Visit to Bayer CropScience Limited, Thane - a LEED Gold Certified building was organised to witness the best practice on office safety by Mr. Mohan Oak, HSE Head – Country Group Head HSE South Asia and his team. Delegate visited emergency control system, wellness centre, and audio video conference room, refugee area, STP plant and water filtration plant.

The vote of thanks delivered by Ms. Usha Maheshwari.

