



An international symposium on occupational health: *Occupational Health and Global Health Challenges: strengthening global ties for safer workplaces*

Welcome to this event on 29th May 2025, held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania at MUHAS.



1.0 Introduction

The Department of Environmental and Occupational Health, School of Public Health and Social Sciences (SPHSS) in collaboration with Directorate of Publication, Research and Innovation in the Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) together with partners at University of Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) and the University of Bergen (Norway) will host the International Symposium on Occupational Health and Safety (OHS). The event is scheduled to take place in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, on **29th May 2025**.

This landmark symposium aims to celebrate and further strengthen the long-standing partnership between the Global North (Norway) and the Global South (Tanzania and Ethiopia) in capacity building and advancements in Occupational Health and Safety profession. The co-operation has been supported by project funds from The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad). Over the years, this collaboration has fostered significant progress in policy development, training, research, and service delivery, contributing to a safer and healthier workforce in partner countries.

The event will serve as a platform to reflect on achievements, share knowledge, and chart a path for future collaboration and innovation in OHS.



1.1 Goal of symposium

The goal of the international symposium is to honour and further strengthen the fruitful partnership between the Global North and Global South in the developing and capacity building for Occupational Health and Safety profession. The initiative aims to address the existing global health challenges in workplaces by fostering dialogue, collaboration, and knowledge-sharing among stakeholders and policy makers. Ultimately, it seeks to enhance the health, safety and well-being of workers in the Global South.

1.2. Theme of the symposium

The main theme of the symposium is “*Occupational Health and Global Health Challenge: Strengthening global ties for safer workplaces.*”

1.2.1 Sub themes

The symposium invites accepts scientific abstracts on the following sub-themes:

- Occupational hygiene
- Occupational medicine
- Occupational safety and wellbeing
- Occupational epidemiology

1.3. Rationale

Over the years, this collaboration has yielded significant progress in development of policy briefs instrumental to developing standards and regulations that improve safer working environments. Groundbreaking professional trainings both at Undergraduate and Postgraduate levels in environmental and occupational health have been established. These programs have equipped practitioners with the necessary knowledge and skills and to effectively manage workplace environmental, health and safety matters.

To date, MUHAS (one of the partner Universities), stands out to be a key professional training university in Occupational Health and Safety in the Global South. Furthermore, the partners of the projects have conducted joint research initiatives that have played a crucial role in advancing the field of OHS. Collaborative studies have addressed a wide range of topics, from occupational hazards and health effects in different industrial sectors to developing innovative solutions for mitigating health risks.

The research findings have not only contributed to the academic body of knowledge but have also influenced policy decisions and practical interventions.



The partnership has improved the delivery of OH services, including participation in the establishment of an occupational health clinic, the provision of personal protective equipment, and the implementation of workplace health promotion programs. The symposium will, therefore, serve as a platform to reflect on these achievements, share knowledge, and chart a path for future collaboration and innovation in OHS.

1.4 Scope of the symposium

The symposium is open for university students and educators, as well as stakeholders, including policymakers from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of education, Science and Technology and Ministry of Labor, national agencies such as OSHA and WCF, researchers, practitioners, industry representatives, trade unions, and international organizations.

The event will consist of two plenary sessions.

- i. The first plenary session will feature keynote speeches, on key achievements in OHS within the collaborative countries, highlighting innovative practices and engaging in plenary dialogue on future directions. The speeches will cover advancements in OHS practices, challenges, and innovative strategies to address emerging occupational health risks in various sectors. The event will also showcase the impact of Norwegian-Tanzanian collaborations and explore opportunities for future partnerships in this critical area. This session will be followed by the official inauguration of the event by the Guest of Honour, accompanied by the University Vice Chancellor- MUHAS. The session will take place from 9:00 am to 11:00 am and will conclude with the recognition of key personnel who have worked tirelessly throughout their working life towards this end. Lifetime awards will be presented to Prof. Simon Mamuya (MUHAS-Tanzania), Prof. Wakgari Deressa (AAU- Ethiopia) and Prof. Bente E. Moen (UiB-Norway).
- ii. The second plenary session will present scientific, internationally accepted, abstracts. Scientific posters will be displayed outside the conference venue. The event will take place from 11:30 am to 14:30 pm.

2.0 Symposium place and venue

The symposium will be conducted on 29th May 2025 at MUHAS.



3.0 The Symposium Funding

The event will take place during the annual Norhed II – SAFEWORKER project meeting, with one day dedicated to the symposium. Therefore, the event will be co-funded by SAFEWORKER project and the DPRI- MUHAS.

3.1 Attendance fee

There will be no registration fee.

4.0 Expected outcomes

- i. Disseminate achievements for OHS through north - south collaboration.
- ii. Strengthened partnerships and networks among stakeholders in OHS.
- iii. Enhanced knowledge sharing on best practices and innovations in OHS.
- iv. Identification of future collaborative opportunities between the North and South.
- v. Increased awareness and commitment to prioritizing occupational health and safety across sectors.
- vi. Life-time awards to Frontiers of Occupational Health and Safety in the Global South

5.0 Timeline

Activity	Deadlines
Symposium advert and call for abstract	14 th February 2025
Abstract submission deadline	14 th March 2025
Abstract acceptance notifications	31 st March 2025
Symposium registration	1 st April – 30 th April

More information

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