

**ISHCCO General Assembly, 7 - 8 April 2022**

**OPEN SESSION – ISHCCO CONFERENCE**

**FRIDAY 08<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2022**

**Dear**

- **Dr. Reiner Obermaier, President of ISHCCO**
- **Mr. Andreas Theodotou, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President of Scientific and Technical Chamber of Cyprus**
- **ISHCCO National Member Association representatives**
- **Distinguished guests**
- **Dear colleagues**
- **Ladies and gentlemen**

I am glad to welcome you all to today's Seminar during ISHCCO's General Assembly. I especially welcome to Cyprus our honorable guests and delegates of ISHCCO. It is with great pleasure and honor that the Cyprus Association of Civil Engineers host this year's General Assembly in Limassol, Cyprus.

The Cyprus Association of Civil Engineers was founded in 1992 and today has more than 2000 active members. Our Association became a National member Association of International Safety and Health Construction Coordinators Organization in 2013.

Construction safety and health is a priority for Cyprus Association of Civil Engineers. Our Association organizes seminars, training programs and other activities to promote awareness and increase knowledge on occupational safety and health among civil engineers and the construction sector.

Following and endorsing ISHCCO's scope, to promote and support Safety and Health Construction Coordinators of Europe and giving them the opportunity to improve their career development, complete their training and develop their scientific capacities, our Association has successfully established the International Construction Safety and Health Conference, which is held every two years in Cyprus since 2009.

The Conference is co-organized with the German Institute for Social Security and Accident Prevention in Construction Sector (BG BAU) and the support of the International Social Security Association, Construction Sector (ISSA-C) with great success, introducing distinguished speakers and delegates from Cyprus, Europe and other countries worldwide. As our Association is an official partner of the global campaign Vision Zero, the last three International Conferences have been organized under Vision Zero.

The International Conference back in 2012, in Nicosia, titled "Safety and Health Plan – Safety and Health Construction Coordinators" initiated our cooperation, between ISHCCO and Cyprus Association of Civil Engineers. The ISHCCO president that time Mr. Jean-Pierre Van Lier participated and presented ISHCCO during the Conference as well as the Treasurer that time Mr. Philip Baker participated as a speaker. Later Prof. Alfredo Soeiro, Vice-President of ISHCCO, Mr. Philip Baker and Mr. Ricardo Cunha Reis were among the speakers of other Conferences.

The 7th International Conference which took place last November 2021 in Nicosia was supported by ISHCCO. I would like to take this opportunity and express my personal sincere thanks as well as sincere thanks on behalf of the Cyprus Association of Civil Engineers to Dr. Reiner Obermaier, President of ISHCCO and Prof. Alfredo Soeiro, Vice-President of ISHCCO for their participation, support and contribution to the success of the 7<sup>th</sup> International Conference.

Later, a short flash back video of all seven International Conferences which took place until today will be presented.

**Dear distinguish Guests and Colleagues,**

Vision Zero is our common vision. The Cyprus Association of Civil Engineers will continue promoting occupational safety and health and Vision Zero. The role of Safety and Health Construction Coordinators is essential to promote Vision Zero, to improve safety and health in the construction sector and create the needed prevention culture.

ISHCCO, as the only International Organization of Safety and Health Construction Coordinators has a vital role in promoting the profession and the role of Coordinators and our Association will continue the close cooperation and support of ISHCCO.

I would like to welcome again all our distinguish guests and delegates and express my sincere thanks to the President and the members of the Executive Board of ISHCCO for our constructive cooperation in organizing the current event.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all of you participating in the current Seminar as well as my sincere thanks to our sponsor, the company Scaffolding Solutions Ltd and personally to the general director Mr. Andreas Polydorou and Mrs. Lena Polydorou for their kind financial support of the today's seminar and their timeless kind financial support of all the events of our Association on construction safety.

I wish you all, an interesting fruitful and successful meeting.

Thank you!

Evangelitsa Tsoulofta

President of

Cyprus Association of Civil Engineers