

Highlights for the First Quarter of 2017 (January to March)

01.01.2017

Adjusted hourly basic wage to NT\$133, and monthly basic wage to NT\$21,009.

01.01.2017

Increased 0.5% of the ordinary insurance premium rate of labor insurance; calculated by 9.5% of the insured person's monthly insurance salary, plus the employment premium rate of 1%, a total of 10.5%.

01.01.2017

With the adjustment of basic wages, amended the "Table of Grades of Insurance Salary of Labor Insurance" and the "Table of Monthly Contribution Wages of Labor Pension". The Bureau of Labor Insurance adjusted the monthly insurance salary/contribution to NT\$21,009 for the full-time workers with the labor insurance salary less than NT\$21,009 and contribution wage of labor pension was NT\$20,008, NT\$20,100, and NT\$21,000.

03.01.2017

According to the announcement on December 12, 2016, for the Insured Person Hardship Loan under the Labor Insurance, the interest rate during the loan period of 2014, 2015, and 2016 shall be 1.4% per annum from the first business day in January 2017.

05.01.2017

The "Supervision and Inspection Principles for Amendment of Labor Standards Act" was formulated to comply with and implement the provisions of the Labor Standards Act amended and promulgated on December 21, 2016. These principles also establish consistent rules for the competent authorities to follow when conducting labor inspections. The three steps of public promotion, counseling, and inspection shall assist and urge business units to implement the Act, so as to insure labor rights and interests.

05.01.2017

In conjunction with the organizational reform of the Executive Yuan and the provisions of the "Labor Pension Act" amended and promulgated on November 16, 2016, the Ministry of Labor amended and promulgated Article 2, Article 12-1, Article 32, Article 34, Article 44, and Article 48 of the "Enforcement Rules of the Labor Pension Act", adjusting the name of the relevant organizations and business responsibilities, stipulating that a worker who is sixty years or older and whose seniority exceeds fifteen years may choose to receive either monthly pension

payments or a lump-sum pension payment, and deleting the monthly imposition of late payment charges.

05.01.2017

In conjunction with the provisions of the “Labor Pension Act” amended and promulgated on November 16, 2016, the Ministry of Labor amended and promulgated the provisions set forth in Article 42 of the “Regulations for the Implementation of Annuity Insurance under the Labor Pension Act” and detailed that the annuity insurance contract shall stipulate the terms and conditions for workers claiming annuity payment.

06.01.2017

Amended and released “Dual-track Training Flagship Initiative”, to add the trainee transition mechanism.

10.01.2017

Master and doctoral students of Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health visited the Institute of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health, Ministry of Labor for international exchange of research and experiment related to health and safety, and visited Occupation Safety and Health Exhibitions where they saw how technology can help promote education for occupational injury prevention.

11.01.2017

Amended and released Articles 5, 6-1, 7, 16, 19-1, 28, 32, 34, 40, 40-1, and 41 of the “Regulations on the Permission and Administration of the Employment of Foreign Workers”, stipulating the longest working hours per week of overseas Chinese students and foreign students and the preservation of documents in response to Internet transmission of application cases, strengthening foreign employment management, and simplifying the review process, so that relevant provisions are more comprehensive.

13.01.2017

With the amendment of Article 28 of the “Regulations on the Permission and Administration of the Employment of Foreign Workers”, when an employer applies for a foreign worker employment permit, he/she shall be exempted from providing the health examination supporting document required for foreign manual workers.

15.01.2017

Interpreted the principles of handling an employer’s overdue application of employment permission and of the permission for consecutive employment, and also handling employers who have never applied for employment permission. For the first

situation of overdue applications, the employers will be disqualified from employing foreigners, but this will not become the basis for punishment. As for the cases when an employer has never applied for an employment permission or a permission for consecutive employment, it shall be considered that the employer is in violation of the relevant provisions of the “Employment Service Act”.

16.01.2017

Per the Executive Yuan order, the Ministry of Labor enacted the amended Article 26 of the “Labor Union Act”. An addition provision stipulated that before the suspension or expulsion of a member, the member shall be given the opportunity to give a statement prior to the resolution made at the meeting of members or the meeting of member representatives.

02.02.2017

Interpreted the make-up application provision set forth in Article 46-1 of the “Regulations on the Permission and Administration of the Employment of Foreign Workers”, and added the provisions set forth in Article 28-3 of the Regulations for renewal employment permission upon expiration. An employer shall make up submitting an application to the Ministry of Labor before the expiry of the effective term of the foreign worker’s employment permission; in addition, to employ the same foreigner, the make-up application is limited to one time.

06.02.2017

Amended and promulgated the “Operation Points Approving and Managing the Training Institutions for Physicians and Nursing Staff Engaged in Labor Health Services”, adding the provisions related to the legal support in holding trainings for physicians and nursing staff engaged in labor health services and government training institutions, training types (professional training and on-the-job education and training), and the requirement to apply as a training institution.

09.02.2017

Held the Hair and Beauty Industry Social Dialogue, inviting representatives from labor, management, government and the academia to facilitate progresses in the industry and build dialogues, and consensus were built regarding promoting industry-education cooperation, stabilizing employment, and increasing salaries.

10.02.2017

A service was provided for employers of foreign workers to use the IC ATM Card to pay on-line the employment security fees on the “E-bill” website.

16.02.2017

A major tour bus overturning accident occurred on No. 5 national highway. The Ministry of Labor initiated the “Travel agencies and Tour Bus Companies Joint Inspection Project”, in conjunction with the Directorate General of Highways and Tourism Bureau of Ministry of Transportation, municipality governments, and consumer protection officers to select travel agencies or tour bus companies (Class C and D) that committed frequent violations or irregularities of major circumstances, or poor evaluation, or were evaluated poorly during the joint inspection.

01.03.2017

Completed the dividend distribution under the new labor pension system of a total of NT\$51,540,820,000 in 2016 to more than 10.8 million personal accounts. Media and online announcements were also made to notify and remind the workers about the dividend distribution. Multiple channels were made available for workers to inquire the dividends and accumulated amounts of their personal pension accounts.

02.03.2017

The Ministry of Labor held a seminar titled “Industrial Innovation and Human Capital Application of Big Data on Labor and Health Welfare” , organizing keynote speeches by experts in the industries, government, academic and research, and facilitating discussions on the issues of middle and old age employment, platform economy, labor force and employment of diverse groups, health and welfare, and human capital. The Seminar also promoted the cooperation between labor, health and welfare databases.

03.03.2017

In order to prevent unsafe behaviors of workers in the construction industry, the Ministry of Labor held a sharing meeting on “Best Intervention Practices for Behavior-Based Safety in Construction Industry”. Through the “Guidance of Promotion Practice for Behavior-Based Safety in Construction Industry” and an effectiveness assessment on intervention of behavior-based safety in construction sites, the meeting participants shared relevant technologies to improve the behavior-based safety practices in Taiwan’s construction industry.

10.03.2017

In accordance with the pension reform planning period, and in accordance with the consensus of the regional forums and national conference, the Ministry of Labor invited authorities, agencies, and representatives for to jointly study about drafting and filing a partial amendment to the "Labor Insurance Act" and reported by letter to the Executive Yuan for review. Since March, the Ministry of Labor also has held seminars on the 2017 labor insurance related laws and regulations (including Labor

Pension Reform Program) in counties and cities nationwide. An estimated 24 sessions will be held for 4,800 participants.

10.03.2017

10-11. 03. 2017 Jointly held the “2017 Occupational Health Symposium” with the Occupational Hygiene Association of Taiwan. The theme of this symposium is “Reaching Reality, Serving Humanity”. The Ministry of Labor presented 28 papers in total, covering the fields related to Occupational Safety and Health Management, Occupational Hazards Exposure, Operating Environment Control Engineering, Operating Environment Analysis and Testing Technology, Occupational Health Promotion, Ergonomics, Environmental and Occupation Nanometer Exposure and Hazard Risks.

11.03.2017

11-12. 03. 2017 Jointly held “The 24th Annual Conference of Ergonomics Society of Taiwan and Academic Symposium” with the Ergonomics Society of Taiwan. The theme of this symposium is "Ergonomics + Industry 4.0 Challenges and Opportunities." In the symposium, participants shared academic achievements, and seminars were held to facilitate industry-academia interactions and enhance ergonomics and design standards. The Ministry of Labor delivered three papers in total: An Estimation of 3D Body Volume of Female Workers in Taiwan, A Comparison of the Friction Coefficient for Anti-slip Assessment Criteria of Two Kinds of Footwear, and A Survey on the Status of Aids Used by the visually Impaired Workers.

24.03.2017

For the Development of New Zealand Social Enterprise & 2017 SEWF, the Ministry of Labor invited to Taiwan Chris O’Neill, the Venture Manager of Akina Foundation, the host of 2017, to exchange practical experiences, and promote international exchanges for social enterprises in Taiwan.

29.03.2017

Amended the provisions set forth in Article 15 of the “Enforcement Rules of the Labor Insurance Act”, and sent to the Executive Yuan for consideration. According to the amended provisions, the person in charge can sign, instead of affixing a seal, on such relevant information as the Insurance Application Form and Insurance Enrollment Application Form, in order to enhance the convenience for insurance units to apply for coverage enrollment of labor insurance for his/her workers.

30.03.2017

With the counseling period from April, the Ministry of Labor enacted the “Implementation Plan for Counseling of Labor Standards Act”, integrating resources of the central government and local governments, and targeting industry-specific characteristics and business needs. Through ways such as "on-site counseling", "collective counseling" and "counseling application", the Plan actively assists institutions to implement the Labor Standard Act to protect labor rights.

31.03.2017

The "2017 National Workplace Talent Cup Skill Competition Program" was held to encourage people to learn new technologies, improve the national skills level, foster friendship and technological exchanges among industry players, promote teamwork cooperation, and showcase individual skills.

Highlights for the Second Quarter of 2017 (April to June)

06.04.2017

Amended and released Article 6 of the “Standards for Billing Items and Amounts of Private Employment Service Institutions,” to specify that if a foreign worker continues commissioning a manpower agency to assist in the handling of relevant employment services when he/she is rehired or transferred on expiry of 3 years, the commissioned manpower agency is entitled to collect service charges from the foreign worker; however, the fee should not exceed NT\$1,500 a month.

18.04.2017

Formulated and released the “Regulations of Home Leave for Foreigners Engaged in Jobs Specified in Subparagraphs 8 to 10, Paragraph 1, Article 46 of the Employment Service Act,” to specify the requirements, number of days, procedures and other related matters for foreign workers to ask for leave and safeguard the rights of foreign workers in taking home leave.

20.04.2017

Amended and released the “Ministry of Labor Implementation Directions for Guiding and Assisting Occupational Health Services Networks and Institutions,” to provide accessible, sustainable, and comprehensive occupational health service for businesses and workers, offer personal health consultation services, help employers improve working environment, promote workers’ physical and mental health in the workplace, and enable a healthy and productive workforce.

20.04.2017

Executive Yuan approved the “Inspection Manpower Upgrade Plan to Safeguard Labor Rights” presented by the Ministry of Labor, which provides a total of 177

occupational safety and healthy inspector quotas for the MOL Occupational Safety and Health Administration and its subsidized municipal labor inspection agencies, in order to boost the manpower for occupational hazard prevention, and secure the safety, as well as mental and physical health of workers.

28.04.2017

Co-organized a series of activities for the 2017 Workplace Safety and Health Week with Kaohsiung City Government, aiming to raise the public's attention and awareness about the importance of occupational hazard prevention and healthy workplace, and to help domestic business owners actively implement measures that ensure the awareness about occupational health and safety and about workers' health.

01.05.2017

Amended and released the "Directions for MOL to Subsidize the Establishment of Breastfeeding (Breast Milk Collection) Rooms and Childcare Facilities," and amend the application period for the second term in accordance with the newly launched on-line application system.

02.05.2017

Amended and released Article 15 of the "Enforcement Rules of the Labor Insurance Act," so that related information such as insurance applications and additional insurance applications sent by insured units can be replaced by the signature of the person in charge, thus making it more convenient for the insured units to apply additional insurance for their employees.

03.05.2017

Promulgated that the "Staff Members for Examinations Held in Accordance with Educational Regulations Are Approved as the Worker Set forth in Article 84-1 of the Labor Standard Act".

04.05.2017

The Ministry of Labor, in cooperation with the three Science Park Administration Bureaus under the Ministry of Science and Technology, developed a self-reporting chemicals information platform that includes the functions of integrated report management, prevention assessment, and ancillary emergency response and decision making. This platform aims to prevent occupational hazards, reduce occupational injuries, and research and develop chemicals database application analysis model. The database can filter out middle- and high-risk chemical items and explore the use of chemicals with carcinogenic risk, which serve as a reference for chemical hazard prevention planning. Plans are also underway to establish a national chemical hazard

information database and a national integrated chemical management system. Such infrastructure should enable the development of a smart cloud management system and AI system for chemicals, thereby enhancing chemical management performance and strengthen hazard prevention capabilities.

15.05.2017

Formulated and released the “Labor Standards Act Regulations Regarding the Confidentiality and Processing of Violation Complaints”.

15.05.2017

Released the “Occupational Safety and Health Supervision, Consultation, and Inspection Requirements,” to implement the objectives of the labor inspection guidelines, leveraging limited inspection manpower to enforce effective labor inspection, and adapting risk classification management for supervision, consultation and inspection.

18.05.2017

The Ministry of Labor promulgated the “Youth Employment Pilot Program” on May 18, 2016 with a retroactively effective date on April 26, 2017. This is in accordance with the “Youth Education and Employment Savings Accounts Plan” under the Ministry of aimed to promote high school graduates to seek employment first before further education.

24.05.2017

Held the “International Symposium on Smart Cities and Risk Management and the Annual Meeting for the Taiwan Chapter of the Society for Risk Analysis (TCSRA),” to discuss labor and occupational safety and health issues: (1) prevention technologies for workplace hazard exposure and occupational disease prevention; (2) strengthened high-risk safety applications and technologies; (3) occupational health problems, risk assessment and control technologies, and (4) occupational safety and health and other topics, and possibilities for risk assessment certification.

26.05.2017

Amended and released Article 14 of “Enforcement Rules of the Employment Insurance Act,” to delete the provisions that an insured person applying for early reemployment incentives is required to submit the national identification card or other proof of identity documents, aiming to simplify the application procedures for insurance payments.

01.06.2017

Launched the on-line “Employer Transfer” application for employers to hire foreign workers for manufacturing work, marine fishing work, caring or helping work in households, or caring work in institutions.

05.06.2017

Formulated the “Directions for Subsidizing Unions for Assisting Workers to Organize Corporate Unions (Industrial Unions) and Newly Established Corporate Union with Education and Training,” and the “Directions for Ministry of Labor to Subsidize Unions for Assisting Workers to Organize Corporate Unions (Industrial Unions),” to facilitate the establishment of new unions, assist with normal operation, and help workers who have the intention to organize corporate unions (industrial unions).

07.06.2017

Amended and released the “Ministry of Labor Implementation Directions for Encouraging Unions to Sign Collective Agreements,” to incentivize unions and business units to reach collective agreements, with a maximized bonus of NTD300,000 depending on the application category.

08.06.2017

Explained by letter the provisions set forth in Articles 8, 14 and 14-2 of the “Labor Insurance Act” with regards to the articles stipulating that if a director who does not externally represent the company, a partner who does not externally represent the business unit, or a manager appointed in accordance with the laws, if this person actually engages in work and voluntarily participates in labor insurance, his/her declaration of monthly insurance salary should refer to the income level, aligned with the treatment for employers.

09.06.2017

“The National Training Center for WorldSkills Competition” was officially inaugurated at the MOL Workforce Development Agency Yunlin-Chiayi-Tainan Regional Branch, which serves as a solid support for players by strengthening their skills and mental capacity, and an incubator for more outstanding contestants.

13.06.2017

Amended and released the “Labor Contract Reference Template for Part-time Assistants in College or above,” to provide universities and colleges a reference template and safeguard the labor rights of students working as part-time assistant.

14.06.2017

Explained by letter the provisions set forth in Article 33 of the “Labor Insurance Act” that the insured person who has been hospitalized for treatment in obstetrics and

gynecology clinics to prevent miscarriage may apply for general accident injury payment according to the Labor Insurance Act.

16.06.2017

Promulgated “The Freight Truck Transportation Industry Designated as an Industry Set Forth in Paragraph 3, Article 30 of the Labor Standards Act”.

16.06.2017

In accordance with the new provisions governing two weekly rest days set forth in the Labor Standards Act, amended and released the Enforcement Rules of the Labor Standards Act, which specifies that employers shall provide the contents and methods of detailed wage calculation, as well as calculation methods for the period of annual leave, the timing to pay out the untaken annual leave upon yearend, the amount for untaken leave, thus clarifying the rights and obligations of both employers and employees.

16.06.2017

In accordance with the partial articles of the Enforcement Rules of the Labor Standards Act amended and released on June 16, 2017, added provisions related to wage payments for untaken annual leave upon yearend or upon contract termination; and interpretations that conflict with these newly amended Enforcement Rules should cease to be effective from June 18, 2017.

16.06.2017

Promulgated “The Liquefied Petroleum Gas Wholesale under the Wholesale of Petrochemical Products and Liquefied Petroleum Gas Retail under Other Fuel Retail apply to Article 30-1 of the Labor Standards Act”.

20.06.2017

Released and enacted the “Directions for the Unemployed to Engage in Care Services,” to encourage employment in home-based and community care services and boost caretaking manpower.

23.06.2017

Held “The 18th Taiwan and Thailand Labor Meeting”. In this meeting, both Taiwan and Thailand reached a consensus on such issues as jointly strengthening the direct employment project and worker selection services, advance payment processing mechanism for accommodation and repatriation of missing workers, and drug crime prevention.

23.06.2017

Amended “Technical workers and Messengers Working inside the Examination Room of Ministry of Examination” that the workers set forth in Article 84-1 of the Labor Standards Act promulgated on November 7, 1998 of file No. tai [1998] lao-dong-2-zi 050333 by Council of Labor Affairs, Executive Yuan—Ministry of Labor before restructuring, into “The Working Staff Inside the Examination Room of Ministry of Examination,” and was effective from that day.

29.06.2017

In accordance with announcement by the Ministry of Labor, the Bureau of Labor Insurance promulgated that those who applied for labor insurance annuity in 2011 will enjoy 5.10% increase in annuity payment amount according to cumulative growth rate of the Consumer Price Index from May this year (2017). The first adjusted amount was recorded on this day, and benefited a total of more than 72,000 people; the total adjustment amount was more than NTD56,080,000, and the average adjustment per person was NTD776.

29.06.2017

Amended and released the “Labor Contract Template for Government Agencies (Institutions) to Dispatch Workers,” to provide the public sector a reference when handling the labor procurement of dispatched workers and protect the working rights of dispatched workers.

30.06.2017

Formulated and promulgated “The Implementation Plan for Continuous Counseling and Graded Inspection of the Labor Standards Act,” to align inspections during the inspection period following the new provisions of the Labor Standards Act; with the strategies of “continuous counseling” and “graded inspection”, and through measures such as “public education”, “consultation”, “inspection”, and “post-inspection improvement assistance” to gradually assist and urge business units to thoroughly implement the provisions of the Labor Standards Act.

30.06.2017

From January 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017 handled the “Incentives for Citizens to Engage in Agricultural Employment Pilot Program”; after the pilot program expiry on June 30, 2017, the Council of Agriculture under the Executive Yuan will organize the program with assistance from Ministry of Labor.

Highlights for the Third Quarter of 2017 (July to September)

03.07.2017

03.07.2017-07.12.2017 The Bureau of Labor Insurance, Ministry of Labor informed people who have reached 65 years old, have suspended labor pension contribution for over one year, and have not started to claim pension payments to apply for pension through their individual labor pension accounts under the New Labor Pension System. It is estimated that more than 33,000 people will be notified.

03.07.2017

Amended and released the “Directions of Employment Promotion Subsidies for Marriage Immigrants”, renamed the former “Foreign Spouses” and the “Mainland Chinese Spouses” as “Marriage Immigrants, and raised the hiring promotion subsidy to a maximum of NTD11,000 per month to encourage employers to hire marriage Immigrants.

06.07.2017

Amended and released the provisions related to “Regulations on the Permission and Administration of the Employment of Foreign Workers”, “Regulations of the Employment Transfer Regulations and Employment Qualifications for Foreigners Engaging in the Jobs Specified in Subparagraph 8 to 11, Paragraph 1, Article 46 of the Employment Services Act” and “Administrative Assessment Criteria on the Permission and Administration of the Employment of Foreign Workers”, and included foreign crew members in the applicable subjects of Living Care Service Plan to guarantee them with basic living security. Changes will be implemented from January 1, 2018.

15.07.2017

To respond to the UN “World Youth Skills Day”, the Ministry of Labor held the "APEC Skills Development Capacity Building Alliance (ASD-CBA): Forum of World Youth Skills Days", invited young players of eight occupation categories and experts from industries, government, and the academia from ten countries in Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and World Skills International (WSI) to exchange ideas, advocating for more emphasis on enhancing youth skills.

24.07.2017

Instructed by letter the provisions set forth in Article 14 of the “Labor Insurance Act” that new part-time employees who receive lower salary because his/her insured salary was not calculated by full month on the month when he/she started working should not be included in the average insured salary for the last three months.

25.07.2017

Promulgated to designate “Agriculture, Forestry, Fishery And Husbandry” as the industries with flexible working hours of 4 weeks applicable to the provisions set forth in Article 30-1 of the Labor Standards Act.

26.07.2017

Amended and released partial articles of “The Qualification and Review Standards for Foreigner Engaging in the Job Specified in Subparagraph 1 to 6, Paragraph 1, Article 46 of "Employment Service Act”, adding that when foreign spouse residing with foreign professionals engage in part-time specialized or technical works, their salary shall be calculated on an hourly basis. In addition, a consultation mechanism was added for foreigners engaged in sports coach and athlete works, as well as artistic and show business works.

28.07.2017

Amended the provisions of Articles 2 and 3 set forth in “Other Necessary Documents for Type A Foreign Workers.” Amendments included that foreign spouses residing with foreign professionals when applying for part-time work agree with hourly pay calculation and that application qualifications are added for sports coaches and athletes. Moreover, with Article 9 of the “Supplementary Education Act”, amendments specify that when short-term cram schools apply for hiring foreigners, they should attach the most recent six-month national good behavior document issued by the foreigner’s passport country (i.e. a proof that the foreigner has no criminal record in his/her own country).

02.08.2017

Released the “Directions of Rewards for Outstanding Enterprises Employing Middle-aged and Elderly Workers”, to create a friendly working environment and encourage companies to attach importance to the issue of middle-aged and elderly workers.

10.08.2017

Amended and released the “Standards for the Potentially Dangerous or Hazardous Work of the Pregnant and Postpartum Women and Workers under 18 Year-old”, to strengthen the health protection of workers under the age of eighteen.

11.08.2017

11-26.08.2017 To strengthen the concept of occupational hazards prevention, promote employment-related information in tribal areas, and highlight the importance of occupational safety and health through actual demonstrations, four touring sessions of

“Indigenous Tribe Occupational Safety and Health Education Display” were held in Guanshan Tribe in Taitung, Mataan Tribe in Guangfu, Hualien, Sakizaya Tribe in Hualien, and Keelung, outreaching to more than 3,000 participants.

14.08.2017

The Employment Center of Taipei-Keelung-Yilan-Kinmen-Matsu Regional Branch of the Workforce Development Agency, Ministry of Labor stationed for the first time in Matsu Office of Bureau of Labor Insurance, initiating the joint work of the affiliated units of the Ministry of Labor, aiming to effectively improve the quality of service for the people.

18.08.2017

Amended the proclamation of file No. lao-dong-tiao 3-zi 1060130998 issued by the Ministry of Labor on June 23, 2017, among which, “Investigation Car Drivers of Ministry of Justice” originally verified as workers under Article 84-1 of the Labor Standard Act was amended to “Special Vehicles Drivers of Ministry of Justice and Affiliated Agencies”.

21.08.2017

Invited international ergonomics expert Dr. Xiao Hongwei (a special lecture consultant of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and Director of Protective Technology Division) to visit the Institute of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health, Ministry of Labor. This occupation safety and health practice forum extensively covered international ergonomics research trends and prevention methods of occupational musculoskeletal injuries.

03-06.09.2017

Attended the 21st World Congress on Safety and Health at Work in 2017 and presented the dissertation on research results of the Institute of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health, Ministry of Labor. The theme of the symposium is the global vision of injury prevention and is divided into three main axes: 1. The vision of zero occupational injuries - from vision to fulfillment. 2. Healthy work - healthy living. 3. Employee-centered prevention. The representatives from the Institute of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health, Ministry of Labor and the representatives of EU, USA, Italy, Australia, Singapore, and Japan engaged in discussions on OSH issues. Their article on "Cooking Soot Hazards Prevention Improvement" was presented and garnered academic exchange on new knowledge.

05.09.2017

At the invitation of the Filipino government, the "7th Taiwan-Philippines Joint Labor Conference" was held in Manila, the Philippines. Both parties discussed matters concerning the strengthening of exchange of Taiwan-Philippines labor affairs. Both parties exchanged ideas and agreed to jointly set up a mechanism to handle the detention, deportation and medical expenses of Filipino workers whose whereabouts are unknown. Both parties also discussed the issues of the inconsistencies in the verification of labor contracts and wage affidavits, of strengthening the prevention and control of drug use among Filipino workers, and the fee burden on fishermen coming to Taiwan.

06.09.2017

Promulgated the adjustment of monthly basic wage to NTD 22,000 from January 1, 2018; the basic hour wage was adjusted to NTD 140.

07.09.2017

Along with the basic wage adjustment, commenced a period of public comments for the draft amendment of the "Monthly Contribution Wages Grading Table of Labor Pension," to revise the grade 18 of monthly contribution to NTD22,000 in the draft, and is scheduled to enter effect on January 1, 2018.

07.09.2017

Amended and released the "Regulations Governing Accreditation and Management of Medical Institutes for the Labor Health Examination", to protect the rights of workers in remote or outlying island areas to receive physical and health examination. Also with the Ministry of Health and Welfare Hospital Evaluation and Approval of Medical Institutions Management Practices, amended the application criteria of approved medical institutions and related regulatory mechanisms and other provisions.

08.09.2017

Promulgated the "Plan on Subsidizing Labor Inspectorate of Municipality to Urge Enterprises to Comply with Occupational Safety and Health Act and Regulations", to expand labor supervision capacity, effectively urge employers to improve their working environment, and ensure the safety and health of workers by means of subsidizing the labor inspection agencies of municipalities so that they can employ professional manpower to carry out occupational safety and health inspections and counseling.

11.09.2017

Amended and released the “Regulations on Aids for Legal Service and Living Expenses of Labor-Management Disputes,” stipulating that workers or job seekers may apply to the Ministry of Labor for a arbitration on Unfair Labor Practices, and those without the financial means may apply to the Ministry of Labor for attorney representation fees for disputes resulting from unfair labor practices specified in Subparagraphs 1, 3 and 4 of Paragraph 1 of Article 35 of the Labor Union Act.

12.09.2017

With the adjustment of the basic wage, made an advance notice of the amended draft of "Insured Salary Grading Table of Labor Insurance" draft amendment, to adjust the insurance salary of Grade 1 to NTD22,000, and is scheduled to take effect from January 1, 2018.

22.09.2017

Organized the "2017 Occupational Safety and Health 5-Star Award and Public Works Golden Safety Award Ceremony", to award the 5-Star Award to 8 excellent units, the Public Works Golden Award to 8 excellent construction projects, and 1 excellent performance unit of Occupational Safety Health Management System.

25.09.2017

Held “The 5th Taiwan-Vietnam Labor Conference” in Taipei and reached a number of consensus on such issues as to establish a contact window to assist Vietnamese laborers in settling the medical expenses owed, to jointly find ways to improve the Vietnamese workers of unknown whereabouts, to promote direct employment services, to encourage Vietnamese workers to apply for the Chinese language proficiency test, and to sustain efforts in protecting labor rights.

26-27.09.2017

Held a Taiwan-Japan International Exchange conference—“Japan Construction Industry Labor Safety and Health Management System Implementation and Verification Management International Exchange Meeting and Education & Training”, to learn from Japan's experience in promoting the "Construction Industry Occupational Health and Safety Management System (COHSMS)", to enhance domestic technologies for health and safety management in the construction industry, to promote collaborative prevention of occupational hazards, and to ensure the safety of labor operations.

27.09.2017

Basing on the insured salary of labor (employment) insurance and contribution wages of labor pension of September this year, the insured whose insured salary of labor

(employment) insurance is lower than NTD43,900 (included NTD43,900) and contribution wages of labor pension was more than the insured salary of labor (employment) insurance, his/her insured salary of labor (employment) insurance was directly increased according to his/her contribution wages of labor pension; whose insured salary of labor (employment) insurance was higher than contribution wages of labor pension, his/her monthly contribution wages of labor pension was directly increased. The adjustment has been effective since October 1, 2017. This adjustment has covered over 1,000 insured (contributed) units and over 3,000 insured persons (over 2,000 wage contribution workers).

05.09-30.10.2017

In order to promote labor education, and to establish the relevant values such as labor rights and benefits, work equality, labor rights, workplace ethics and so on from the school stage, theatrical troupes were invited to perform in 55 junior high schools and elementary schools, incorporating the concept of labor value into the script. Through vivid and interesting theater performances, students were trained in the concept of right work. There were about more than 12,000 participants.

Highlights for the Fourth Quarter of 2017 (October to December)

12.10.2017

Held the praise activities for the 15th Golden Wingspan Award and the 5th Job Accommodation Creativity Contest, to commend and affirm the efforts of the award-winning organs (institutions) and personnel in assisting the disabled in finding employment, as well advocate job accommodation, and promote employment of the disabled.

16.10.2017

Issued the “Ministry of Labor Operational Direction for Public Announcement of Occupational Safety and Health Outstanding Cases” and “Ministry of Labor Operational Direction for Public Announcement of Major Occupational Accident Cases”, and came into force on November 1, 2017 and December 1, 2017 respectively, to encourage relevant agencies (institutions), owners, business units, sponsors, project management companies, supervisory units and construction companies to maintain safety of workers, strengthen the implementation of occupational safety and health facilities, and establish an information disclosure mechanism to enhance public understanding of the workplace safety maintenance and supervision.

17.10-29.11.2017

In order to make the concept of labor deeply rooted in the school stage, especially for some students in colleges and universities already involved in the workplace, it is

imperative to cultivate the correct concept of labor and implement the protection of labor rights and interests. Ministry of Labor handled the labor education advocacy in the country's 10 colleges and universities and the total number of participants was about 1,964 people.

18.10.2017

Kaohsiung-Pingtung-Penghu-Taitung Regional Branch of Workforce Development Agency, Ministry of Labor set up the Talent Development Center, in order to integrate the labor resources in the region and assist enterprises to improve their talent development system.

19.10.2017

Issued the amendment to the “Labor Hazard Prevention Guidelines in Response to the Deterioration of Air Quality in the Atmosphere”, to provide employers a hazard prevention reference and protect the health of workers, when the atmospheric air quality deteriorates in the working environment.

20.10.2017

Amended “Labor Insurance Occupational Diseases”, mainly adding the knee osteoarthritis due to the work by long-term squat and kneeling posture as occupational disease (item 3.3), and including the nasal cancer/sinus cancer caused by all tree species processing dust (wood flour) as occupational disease (item 5.22).

20.10.2017

Abolished the “Manager of Credit Cooperatives Apply to Article 84-1 of Labor Standards Act” and came into effect on January 1, 2018.

20.10.2017

Proclaimed the “Staff of Paddy Inspection, Procurement and Drying Practice in the Harvest Period Apply to Article 84-1 of Labor Standards Act”.

25-27.10.2017

Workforce Development Agency, Ministry of Labor and TAFE Directors Australia (TDA) handled the treaties exchange ceremony for the “Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Vocational Education and Training Cooperation”, “Taiwan and Australia Bilateral Working Group Meeting”, and “APEC Skills Development Capacity Building Alliance (ASD-CBA) Project Workshop and APEC Skills Development Capacity building Alliance Institute (ASD-CBAI) Opening Ceremony”, in addition to promoting the follow-up cooperation between Taiwan and Australia as the MOU's implementation results, carried out communication on the promotion of the application of functions of various

countries and the trends of human resources development, and announced the launch of a new milestone in the cooperation and exchange of human resources in New Southbound Policy.

26.10.2017

Bureau of Labor Insurance notified by letter the 2018 rate change of insured units applicable to Actual Rate of Occupational Disease Insurance of Labor Insurance. There were 11,952 insured units applicable to actual rates, of which 8,916 were deducted and 2,196 were added by occupational disaster insurance, and 840 kept the original rate.

26.10.2017

Held the “Metal Surface Treating International Workshop on Workplace Improvement and Results Presentation”, inviting the experts and scholars from Germany, the United States, Japan to Taiwan sharing the foreign innovation concept from the source to improve the factory safety and hygiene process, and significant improvement of domestic manufacturers to share with the whole plant process equipment replacement, in order to drive other surface treatment industry to break the bottleneck, copy the successful transforming experience, change the stereotype of surface treatment industry as the 3K industry, and transform into an internationally competitive industry.

31.10.2017

Released the Quality Evaluation Results of 2016 Private Employment Services Agency Engages in Multinational Human Resources Agency Services.

01.11.2017

Opened the online application of the “extension of transfer” and “data transfer” application cases for employers’ employing foreign workers to engage the work of manufacturing, marine fishing, home-caretaker, domestic helpers and institutional caretaker.

08.11.2017

Amended and released the grade 1 of monthly insured salary of Labor Insurance set forth in “Table of Grades of Insured Salary” to NT\$22,000 and will come into effect on January 1, 2018.

08.11.2017

Amended and released the grade 18 of monthly contribution set forth in “Table of Monthly Contribution Wages of Labor Pension” to NTD22,000, and will come into effect on January 1, 2018.

08-10.11.2017

In order to promote the development of talent in the aging society, the Institute of Labor, Occupational Safety And Health, Ministry of Labor, in cooperation with the Tze Chiang Foundation of Science and Technology, co-organized the “ATD 2017 Asia Pacific Conference and Exhibition”, invited domestic and foreign production, government, academia and research experts, a total of more than 1,000 domestic representatives, and 240 foreign scholars from 22 countries such as the United States, Japan, Singapore and other countries. In the annual conference, the Institute of Labor, Occupational Safety And Health, Ministry of Labor presented an academic paper regarding “To carry out labor market intelligence, innovation, technological development, labor and functional development in the aging society”, and collected international new knowledge.

13.11.2017

Amended and released the “Labor health Protection Rules”, in line with Article 22 of the Occupational Safety and Health Act, to expend by phase the implementation of the business units with the labor force of more than 50 people, for labor health protection issues, and in response to the emerging occupational disease prevention, to amend the check items for engaging in the operations of chromic acid and its salts and other special hazards to health.

20-21, 23-24, 28-29.11.2017

In order to promote public understanding of labor issues and occupational safety and health related knowledge, three sessions of “2017 Institute of Labor, Occupational Safety And Health Research Results Presentation” were held in North, Central and South Taiwan to promote the research findings on labor and occupational safety and health to industry, business units, and students in colleges and universities. The activities include topics, forums, issues published and publications sales, attracting a total of 1,055 people attended from health and safety professionals of business units, workers, and teachers and students of Department /Graduated Institute of Health and Safety of colleges and universities.

21-22.11.2017

Minimum wage was increased from NT\$21,009 to NT\$22,000 starting January 1, 2018 and the amended “Table of Grades of Insured Salary” and “Table of Monthly Contribution Wages of Labor Pension ” came into effect on the same day. Bureau of Labor Insurance thereby directly adjusted the insured salary and contribution wages. In order to facilitate the administration and protect labor rights, Bureau of Labor Insurance printed the notice on the back of the October issue of the premium and

pension note to generally advise the amended contents of grading table to insured (contributory) units and reminded them of the precautions to be taken.

27, 30.11.2017

In order to promote the importance of establishing a chemical database, the convenience of self-declaration platform and sharing experience in chemical management, Ministry of Labor held a seminar on the current status of the use and management of chemicals in Hsinchu Science Park and Central Taiwan Science Park respectively, to help business units improve chemical management capacity and performance, with more than 90 participants.

29.11.2017

Amended and issued “Regulations for Start-Up Assistance for the Unemployed of Employment Insurance” to extend the employment insurance unemployed entrepreneurial loan application eligibility, and added new rules such as loan re-application, practical operation and disaster assistance.

01.12.2017

Amended and issued Article 2 of “Hazardous Work Place Review and Inspection Regulations”, to adjust the review scope of dangerous workplace of category D (Construction Project), simplify the document censorship process, and strengthen on-site supervision and inspection.

01.12.2017

Held the “National Occupational Safety and Health Award”, to award the Excellent Benchmark to 3 enterprises, the SME Safety and Health Special Award to 1 enterprise, the Traditional Industry Safety and Health Investment Special Award to one enterprise, and the Occupational Safety and Health Dedication Award to 2 enterprises.

04.12.2017

Approved and explained regarding that if the insured person who requests payment is still the person in charge of the other arrears insured unit or is prosecuted or is subject to enforcement obligations because of the arrears of insured unit itself, the insurer should temporarily refuse to pay according to the provisions, before the premiums and delinquency charges are paid according to law.

12-13.12.2017

Held the “2017 Fostering Inclusive Growth - Equal Employment Opportunities Policies and Practices Workshop”, inviting representatives of APEC economies such as Australia, Indonesia, Thailand, the United States and Vietnam, officials of the Directorate-General Justice and Home Affairs, and other domestic experts and

scholars to jointly discuss and share experiences on prevention and control of employment discrimination and gender equality.

12.12.2017

First held “The Excellent Performances of Competent Authority in Conducting the Occupational Safety and Health Work Awards”, to give the Excellence Award to four agencies, including Ministry of Transportation and Communications, and the Good Award to three agencies, including Ministry of Defense, in order to serve as an example of the promotion of occupational safety and health services in the future by other government agencies and private sectors, thereby enhancing the overall domestic safety and health culture.

15.12.2017

To master important issues such as the impact of technological development on labor relations and labor laws, employment diversification in the cyber age, legal issues concerning the use of modern communications software, and labor disputes, Ministry of Labor held the 2017 Technology Development and Labor Law Symposium. Scholars and experts in the field of labor laws gave speeches and held talks with the people on various topics to be discussed extensively so as to learn other experiences for our country. It attracted nearly 200 participants.

18.12.2017

To safeguard the health of workers, Bureau of Labor Insurance, Ministry of Labor handled the 2018 Health check Announcement for Prevention of Occupational disease, in addition to taking initiative to send the applications and application roster by letter to the insured units who were possibly exposed to the working environment particularly damaging to a healthy, and requested by letter Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Ministry of Labor, and health and labor inspection authorities of counties and cities to Help propaganda. At the same time, requested counties and cities labor administrative authorities to transferred the notice to enterprises unions under the jurisdiction for the matters of health check, in order to safeguard the insured health check rights.

19.12.2017

Approved and explained regarding that during the labor dispute proceedings, due to whether the employment contract is valid or not, between the insured people after involuntary resignation and the original employer, the time limit of 2-year request right elimination for the insured people to apply for job registration was suspended due to prosecution, and should be recounted subject to the determined judgment.

25-26.12.2017

Held the “2017 Taiwan-Japan Unfair Labor Practices and Labor Litigation Seminar”, to exchange the experience in systems between Taiwan and Japan, in view of such issues as the establishment of the labor litigation system, the labor claims for work and wage, and the pattern of employer's dominant intervention.

28.12.2017

Issued the “Regulations for Military Replacement Service for Official Members of the National Team in International Skills Competitions”, to encourage young official members of national team to replace their military training with skill training, and win national honors and fulfill military service obligations.