



Thailand has stepped up a campaign to create a culture of safety in order to deal effectively with various forms of disasters and reduce damage and the loss of life and property.

The Government has established the "Safety Thailand policy and instructed all relevant ministries to integrate their operations to ensure public safety. They have worked together in setting strategies on Thailand's occupational safety and health to reduce accidents, disasters, and diseases in workplaces.

The Ministry of Labor has included the Safety Thailand campaign in its reform agenda, with an emphasis on occupational safety and health. It has also announced the implementation of the National Master Plan on Occupational Safety, Health, and Environment, 2017-2021, as a guideline to promote safety and health in appropriate environments for workers.

On 23 March 2016, Thailand ratified Convention No. 187 on the Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health. The ratification reaffirms Thailand's commitment to improving the working and living conditions of workers, in compliance with international labor standards. The Convention entered into force on 23 March 2017.

Meanwhile, the National Committee on Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, in its meeting on 28 April 2017, stressed safety measures and the need for Thailand to build disaster resilience, in line with the Safety Thailand policy. The meeting, chaired by Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister General Prawit Wongsuwan, urged all relevant agencies to take proactive action to handle disaster risk management in a systematic manner.

General Prawit said that the Government attached great importance to efficient disaster risk reduction and management. It has encouraged the people to join networks for disaster prevention and mitigation and work with the public sector in providing assistance to victims.

Interior Minister General Anupong Paojinda said that the meeting also discussed the rehabilitation of the recent severe floods in southern Thailand. In order to deal with flooding on a long-term basis, the Department of Public Works and Town and Country Planning has worked out water flow charts and

designated floodways. Measures on town and country planning will be adopted to tackle the problem concerning the construction of structures that block water channels.

The Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation recently held a seminar to enhance the efficiency of local officials and its networks in disaster preparedness. The seminar was intended to mobilize efforts to promote the Safety Thailand campaign and reduce disaster risks.