



BWI • Building and Wood Workers' International
BHI • Bau- und Holzarbeiter Internationale
BTI • Byggnads- och Träarbetar-Internationalen
IBB • Internationale des Travailleurs du Bâtiment et du Bois
ICM • Internacional de Trabajadores de la Construcción y la Madera

BWI to start health and safety inspections in Qatar Press Release for BWI Affiliates for National Press

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Thousands of workers building the stadiums for the 2022 FIFA World Cup™ will now have the possibility to influence their occupational health and safety conditions as BWI and the Qatari preparatory body signed today an agreement that laid down the cooperation for joint labour inspections in the stadiums and accommodation facilities in Qatar.

The Geneva-based Building and Wood Workers' International (BWI) and the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy (SC) reached the agreement after almost 6 months of negotiations. It covers projects that are being built by multinational companies wherein BWI has representation in the home countries. To date the identified companies are from Austria, Belgium, Italy, India, and Cyprus.

Ambet Yuson, General Secretary of BWI explained that “this is an important step to create a stronger mechanism for workers' safety in 2022 World Cup since BWI global union will now work with the SC to review and assess its health and safety training system. We will get access to worksites and conduct labour inspections which are important preventive mechanisms against deaths and injuries of workers”.

The Agreement is seen as a further expression of the SC's commitment to ensuring health, safety, security and dignity of every individual on delivering the 2022 FIFA World Cup™. The cooperative agreement with BWI is a significant step to broaden the stakeholders that will concretely contribute in making the tournament projects adhere to international standards.

The SC has developed Workers' Welfare Standards which requires contractors and sub-contractors to adhere health and safety in working and living conditions, employment standards, equality, dignity, on-time payment of wages, non-retaliation prohibitions in exercise of rights as well as access to information and training.

The BWI, drawing expertise from its 340 affiliates in 130 countries, will undertake training for the Qatari inspection teams and other concerned health and safety professionals. It will also review and assess the current Workers' Welfare Forums - a mechanism for workers to express and resolve their grievances and other issues.

The cooperation also created a Joint Working Group (JWG) to manage the labour inspections and reporting obligations. It will further develop the detailed terms of reference for the cooperation agreement. The BWI is committed to create a system of quick problem solving on problems during inspections and reviews.

“The BWI Sports Campaign has been engaging FIFA and other global sports bodies since 2006. What we signed today is a start of direct trade union participation in ensuring that the euphoria of the football World Cups is not experienced by the fans at the expense of workers' lives”, said Dietmar Schäfers of IGBAU of Germany who also chairs the BWI Sports Campaign Group.

The agreement follows the one signed by the FIFA World Cup 2018 Local Organising Committee in Russia and FIFA with BWI last August 2016. It also covered joint labour inspections of 10 stadiums this year.

The growing pressure by a multi-stakeholder movement to global sports bodies and host countries of these mega-sporting events to respect human and labour rights and promote health and safety has contributed to these new developments.

The Agreement is seen as a sign that Qatar is willing to further improve the health and safety conditions of migrant workers. BWI hope that this cooperation can, in the future, expand to address other labour issues affecting the welfare and rights of migrant workers in Qatar.