

## Occupational Health and Development

Tee L. Guidotti, MD, MPH, DABT  
 Adjunct Faculty  
 CABREE, Univ. of Alberta

## Development

- All nations and all economies are developing
- Advanced industrial economies are also now developing into something else, “postmodern”
  - Service-dominated
  - Trade dependent
  - Information- and innovation-driven
  - “Washington consensus” has its own problems
    - Concentration of risk by overreliance on relative advantage
    - Risk of creating a global economic underclass
    - Adjusting to globalization

## Economic Development and Health Protection

<i>Economic Development</i>	<i>Environmental Health</i>	<i>Occupational Health</i>
Subsistence	Clean water, sanitation	Basic OH Services, injury prevention
Commodity	Pesticides, land use	Rural services, BOHS
Industrial	Air, hazardous materials	Specialization
Postindustrial	Risk assessment, precautionary	Productivity

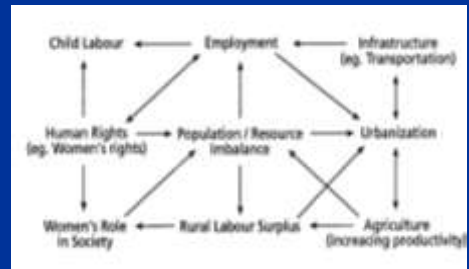
Figure 1. Essential elements of the development model.



Figure 2. Central axis of the development model



Figure 3. Core issues in the development model.







## Conclusions

- Occupational health services conserve value
- May add value as foundation of a healthcare system
- Treated as a cost: should be considered an investment
- Marginal return is probably highest in the early years of industrial development
- Effect on productivity in later years of industrial and postindustrial development

## The Way Forward

- Empirical validation (of course)
- “Appropriate technology” for occupational health protection
- “Basic Occupational Health Services” as part of “Primary Health Care for All”
- More supple, comprehensive development studies that incorporate oh, productivity