

Building with recycled materials

Samwoh Corporation reaps the benefits of “reduce, reuse and recycle” in its business strategy

LONG before the use of recycled building materials became popular in Singapore, Samwoh Corporation got started on the business of recycling waste materials as well as the development of “green” products.

Its managing director Mr Elvin Koh (right) says: “Recycling is the key to achieve sustainable development. We constantly seek innovative and creative green business encompassing ‘reduce, reuse and recycle.’”

For its green efforts, Samwoh was named Top Achiever in the local/large/manufacturing sector — building materials category in this year’s Singapore Environmental Achievement Awards.

The company, founded in 1975, is one of the largest suppliers of materials for the construction industry here. It has a headcount of more than 1,000 and a turnover of some \$350 million.

Samwoh’s “flagship” embodiment of its environmental efforts is its Samwoh Eco-Green Park.

The park has three key facilities. The Samwoh Eco-Green Building is the first building in this region to be constructed



using concrete with up to 100 per cent recycled concrete aggregate (RCA).

Next, there is also an asphalt recycling plant, which produces recycled asphalt concrete containing asphalt pavement waste for road construction.

The park is also where Samwoh’s ready mix green concrete plant is located. The plant produces green concrete containing recycled materials such as RCA. It is also equipped with facilities to reclaim stone and sand from waste concrete.

Going forward, Samwoh wants to help spread the “green” message.

To date, the company has already hosted potential partners and visitors from countries like Malaysia, Indonesia, India, Mongolia, and even delegates from the landmark Tianjin Eco-City project from China.

Using recycled material makes good business sense. Mr Koh explains: “The purpose of using recycle materials is not only cost, but more importantly, we use it because of sustainable development.”

— Alex Lim

