

Good system in place

Samwoh Corporation believes in raising the competency of its stakeholders to create a safety culture

by **Ahmad Osman**

SAMWOH Corporation is a winner of the 2010 Safety and Health Award Recognition For Projects (Sharp) with good workplace safety and health management systems and performance.

It is for a contract worth \$57.5 million to upgrade the junction of West Coast Highway and Clementi Road where a dual three-lane flyover will be built.

This contract includes the construction of two sheltered pedestrian overhead bridges along the highway near Waseda Shibusya Senior High School and Singapore Bible Baptist Church.

Residents can use the bridges to cross the highway safely to West Coast Park. Work on the project, which began in the last quarter of 2008, is scheduled for completion by the third quarter of next year.

Samwoh has grown over the years since it was set up here in the early 1970s as a transport and logistics company.

Its mission is to be a leading integrated engineering and infrastructure firm and materials supplier providing innovative technologies, excellent services and products at competitive prices.

Mr Koh Hoon Lye is the director and Mr Chua Chian Hong is the senior manager of Samwoh.

Its top management staff provides the budget and resources for workplace safety and health (WSH) practices and activities; set clear objectives and targets and give regular updates on WSH matters.

They also have a commitment to upgrade subcontractors' WSH levels through the bizSafe programme.

Mr Bhupendra Singh Balyan (right) is the manager of the Environment, Health and Safety Department (EHS) with 17 WSH professionals.

They set corporate EHS policies and procedures in compliance with local regulations.

A team of EHS personnel is at every worksite to provide WSH advice, organise safety campaigns, training courses and competitions to promote the occupational health and safety culture.

The safety and health performance is monitored through inspections and meetings to ensure that all the WSH measures are carried out effectively.

Samwoh has a matrix for every worksite to identify the training required for employees according to the levels of their responsibilities, ability, literacy and safety risks.

Project managers and engineers, for example, can attend a 14-hour course training them to lead and manage the risk assessment team.

Mr Chua says new staff in the 750-strong workforce here must go through a safety induction course before they can start doing their jobs.

Samwoh, he notes, also rewards positive work attitudes and behaviour by supervisors, operators and general workers.

These rewards, he adds, are deducted for negative consequences of their actions.

EHS personnel track safety promotions records closely to monitor the safety performance of the supervisors and operators.

Samwoh attained global international certification for its WSH standards in 2005.

It was awarded the bizSafe partner certification in October 2008 and attained the BizSafe star status in May last year.

Other accolades include the 2010 Building

and Construction Authority's top platinum Green Mark Award for the Samwoh eco-friendly building in Kranji Crescent. Mr Koh says this year's Sharp award recognises Samwoh's efforts to raise its WSH standards.

He adds: "The award will boost employees' morale and trust and will warrant more commitment to safety and health standards making every workplace a place with zero harm."

"It is an affirmation of our performance towards WSH excellence. It also adds value to Samwoh's reputation and competency of the stakeholders."

enhances our competitiveness."

Mr Bhupendra Singh Balyan says: "Competency is about doing work effectively and efficiently."

"Samwoh strongly believes in creating a safety culture through raising the competency of the stakeholders."

Mr Koh (right), with Mr Chua, says that the Sharp award recognises Samwoh's efforts to raise its WSH standards. PHOTOS: WEINANDU TOLINE



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