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Workplace Safety and Health Awards 2016

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Practical measures in action

by June Nyu

Boustead Projects adopts a "Safe Work, Save Lives" philosophy at all times

ESTABLISHING a safe and healthy working environment is Boustead Projects' critical success factor. The company believes in making safety an inherent part of their products, services and work environment.

Pioneering the design-and-build methodology, it has built a reputation as a leading design-and-build partner for the industrial real estate sector in Singapore.

Boustead Projects is a leader and active participant in the bizSAFE Programme initiated by the Workplace Safety and Health (WSH) Council.

bizSAFE is a five-step programme that assists companies to build up their WSH capabilities so that they can achieve quantum improvements in safety and health standards at the workplace.

The company is the one of only nine bizSAFE Mentors in Singapore and it has achieved an accident frequency rate (AFR) of 0.66 incidents per million man-hours worked, lower than the national average of 1.7 in the construction sector last year.

It is also a bizSAFE Star, the highest qualification that can be attained in recognition of a company's health, safety and environmental management programmes.

Safe work, save lives

Driving Boustead Projects' WSH philosophy is the tagline, "Safe Work, Save Lives".

Boustead Projects continuously trains employees through the active execution of health, safety and environmental (HSE) programmes and aims to upkeep good safety records by developing relevant risk assessment capabilities and implementing them effectively.

Its environmental, health and safety director Howard How says the company has put in place a number of initiatives to care for the safety and health of the employees.

For example, the management staff makes regular inspections at worksites.

They can be from weekly Safety and Health Committee meetings with site inspection by senior management, to monthly EHS (Environment, Health and Safety) management meetings at site with top management and all site staff, and daily site inspection with all subcontractors and safety supervisors.

Other efforts include appointing WSH advocates from the safety committee to carry out safety behaviour observations for all high-risk activities, online registration for workers for the Safety Induction Course and submission of risk assessment through the company's iBOSS system, weekly safety timeout with briefing on EHS issues to all workers, and carrying out weekly or monthly safety promotion to recognise contribution from supervisors and workers.

Active participation

Boustead Projects also organises regular health talks, aerobics workouts and other activities such as cycling and bowling through the workplace health promotion programme to promote a healthy lifestyle.

In addition, the company encourages all its subcontractors to attain bizSAFE Star status in the bizSAFE programme to improve the WSH culture.

As part of Boustead Projects' role as a bizSAFE Mentor, it has been leading and guiding all appointed subcontractors to implement and support good HSE standards at worksites for the past six years.

The company actively promotes onsite training seminars and educational workshops with an

accredited training provider on a periodic basis, playing an active role in helping subcontractors to achieve higher bizSAFE accreditations.

Its efforts have been recognised and Boustead Projects has been awarded the Safety & Health Award Recognition for Projects (SHARP) award, in achieving excellent safety performance at its Kuehne + Nagel's Singapore Logistics Hub project, a Green Mark Platinum-rated logistics facility, at this year's WSH Awards.

"Winning an award spurs the company to achieve greater and better safety and health standards for all our workplaces," says Mr How.

Constant improvements

As employees come from different professional

backgrounds and employment status, one of the challenges for Boustead Projects to reinforce WSH lies in its diverse workforce.

Mr How believes in creating a positive mindset in the ever-changing scene on migratory workers, changing the mindset of skilled workers, and retaining those who have instilled good safety and health practices.

In view of that, the WSH initiatives and programmes put in place must be flexible, practical and easily implemented, he adds.

Apart from practical measures, the company is also constantly looking into improving the WSH culture by introducing safer and better safety equipment at the workplace.