

Having family photos printed on staff passes can help reduce accidents

LHZB

26 Oct 2010

Samy Seaviathiry (41 years old) comes from Chennai, India. As a contractor of Keppel Energy, he visits Keppel's power plant on Jurong Island often to conduct maintenance work. Per Keppel's request, he submitted the softcopy of his 6-year-old daughter to Keppel, so that they can print it onto his staff pass.

He said, "The nature of my job is a bit dangerous. Whenever I see my daughter's photo, I will miss her and be more careful about my personal safety."

Keppel's effort was shown through a bulletin board covered by photos of Keppel employees' family members, at the 4th Annual Keppel Group Safety Convention held yesterday at NUS University Culture Centre.

During the convention, Keppel also announced the Keppel Workplace Safety & Health (WSH) 2018 initiative. Keppel is the first company to launch a corporate initiative in line with the National WSH 2018 strategy announced by Ministry of Manpower last year.

Minister for Manpower Gan Kim Yong, the Guest of Honour at the convention, stopped at the bulletin board for quite a while after he had viewed all the exhibits of improving workplace safety and health.

Subsequently, he said during his speech that "The bulletin board reminded me of a banner I saw during a trip to China. It wrote 'Come to work happily, and go home safely'. I deeply appreciate that maintaining workplace safety and health is not only for the employees themselves, but also for their loved ones."

Keppel hires 30,000 employees and contractors locally, and according to statistics from Ministry of Manpower, Singapore's marine industry hired in total 116,900 employees last year. Therefore, Keppel's action is very meaningful to the whole marine industry.

He said: "It's correct to align the company objective with the nation's objective. Keppel is the model to the business community, especially the marine industry."

Fatal fall is the number one killer

Fatal fall and being struck by objects falling from height has been the number one killer in construction and marine industry. Currently in the construction industry, 8.1 people per 100,000 people died in industrial accidents, while the figure is 11.1 for marine industry. Workplace Safety and Health Council and the Ministry of Manpower hope that the fatality rate of these two industries can be reduced by half by 2013, while the ultimate goal is to reduce the fatality rate to 1.8 people per 100,000 people by 2018.

Ministry of Manpower's effort has achieved initial success.

Minister Gan pointed out that in the first six months of the year, the number of fatalities in the marine industry arising from work place incidents fell by more than half to three. Over the same period, there was also a 45-per-cent drop from 247 to 136 — in man-days lost per million man-hours worked due to work incidents.

In order to reduce the accidents at workplace, Keppel's initiative features four key thrusts: to establish an Integrated WSH Framework across Businesses Worldwide, to implement an Effective Safety Management System, to enhance Safety Ownership and to strengthen Safety Partnerships.

Paul Rodrigues (49 years old), AGM of Asset Management, Keppel Energy came out with the idea of printing photos of employees' family members onto the staff passes. His idea took the emotive approach to increase staff awareness of workplace safety.

He said, "Training is very important. But workplace safety and health is further enhanced when employees' awareness and competency is complemented with such an emotive approach."