

**OPENING ADDRESS BY MR. BIRCH SIO, CHAIRMAN HEALTH,  
SAFETY, SECURITY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE,  
SINGAPORE MANUFACTURERS' FEDERATION  
AT WSH AWARDS CONVENTION  
FOR MANUFACTURING 2011  
ON 19 MAY 2011 AT HDB AUDITORIUM, TOA PAYOH**

Mr. Lai Poon Piau, Executive Director Workplace Safety and Health Council, Fellow Members of Singapore Manufacturers' Federation,  
Ladies and Gentlemen

A very good afternoon to one and all. Welcome to the WSH Awards Convention (for Manufacturing) 2011!

Workplace Safety and Health or WSH has become a buzzword in recent years. All of us are knowingly or unknowingly affected by risks at work every day. Thus every organisation has the responsibility to ensure everyone's safety in the workplace. Any harm to the employees could cause major losses for your organisation, in terms of profits, reputation, staff morale, productivity and even precious business opportunities. It is therefore essential to have measures put in place and **safety habits** cultivated in every individual to make the environment as safe as possible. I believe that a strong Workplace Safety and Health culture makes a better workplace for everyone, not to mention the many benefits and productivity gains that can be reaped by the organisation.

Singapore Manufacturers' Federation or SMA takes an active role in promoting best practices and technologies that improve environmental and occupational safety and health across the manufacturing sectors. We aim to raise the WSH standards in Singapore. The Health, Safety, Security & Environment (HSSE) Function Committee of SMA is set up to take the lead in this. The Committee hopes to work closely with the Ministry of Manpower and the Workplace Safety and Health Council to address the concerns of the manufacturing industry. The cooperation with MOM and WSHC can include training, workshops, seminars and convention such as today's event, where we keep ourselves updated on local and international WSH standards and best practices.

Today, we are glad to have Mr. Edison Joseph Loh from Ministry of Manpower and Mr. Goh Chin Keong from WSHC here to share with us on safety in the manufacturing workplace.

Each year, we also work with WSHC to present the "WSH Awards" to manufacturing organisations and individuals who have achieved excellence in workplace safety and health.

This year, we received six nominations from the manufacturing sector for the "WSH Supervisors Award". They have all made valuable contributions to the WSH standards in their organisations. The judges had a tough time deliberating before identifying two outstanding supervisors who had gone the extra mile to make their

workplace safer and had inspired their colleagues to pay more attention to safety and health at work.

For the “WSH Innovations Award”, we received a total of 19 submissions. Nine teams were shortlisted for this morning’s final presentation. The judges were extremely impressed with the innovative solutions that they devised to improve safety and health of workers at their workplace. Three teams have been selected to receive the gold award but nonetheless, I have to say, each team and each project submitted is a winner in its own right.

The results for both the “Supervisors” and “Innovations” awards will be announced shortly. **Gold award winners** will have the honour of receiving their awards at the prestigious National Workplace Safety and Health Awards Ceremony to be held later in July this year, together with the winners from the construction and marine industries. All the best and I thank you all for your earnest participation.

In closing, on behalf of SMa, I thank MOM and WSHC for the support, and sponsors – Goldbell Leasing and Red Element Health International – for their kind contributions to make this event a success.

Thank you all for your support and your attendance. I wish you a pleasant and fruitful afternoon.