

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

WSH Council Launches WSH Advocate Programme for Major Industry Players to Enhance WSH Standards in Singapore

Singapore, September 11, 2024 – The 8th edition of The Singapore Workplace Safety and Health (WSH) Conference was held today at the Sands Expo and Convention Centre. Dr Tan See Leng, Minister for Manpower, delivered the Opening Address, where he announced the WSH Council’s new WSH Advocate Programme.

In his address, Minister Tan highlighted Singapore’s record low workplace fatality rate, which resulted from the collective efforts of companies, employees and government. To sustain this world-class standard, he cited the “ABC” for good WSH – Alignment, Boldness and Collaboration. In aligning companies’ WSH excellence to business success, Minister Tan said the WSH Advocate programme aims to give safer contractors more business opportunities by having the apex pay-masters in various industries favour giving business to safer contractors.

WSH Advocate Programme to incentivise SMEs to invest in WSH

The WSH Advocate Programme comprises major service buyers with extensive supply chains to champion WSH excellence. These WSH Advocates play a crucial role in influencing their contractors, particularly SMEs, to adopt robust WSH practices.

The WSH Advocates play a “queen bee” role to nurture higher WSH standards among contractors by doing the following:

- Require all contractors and sub-contractors doing manual work in their premises to have WSH accreditation, such as at least bizSAFE Level 3;
- Favour awarding contracts to safer contractors, by making good WSH performance a qualifying criteria to a vendor, or by putting weightage on past WSH performance in evaluating prospective contractors;
- Reward contractors for good WSH performance on their projects, through greater preference for future contracts, or with monetary bonuses; and
- Develop contractors’ and sub-contractors’ WSH capability through sharing best practices, training or engagement opportunities.

The WSH Council has identified 18 companies to be in our pioneer batch of WSH Advocates (see Annex A) from the construction, manufacturing, and transportation industries.

Mr Abu Bakar Mohd Nor, Chairman of the WSH Council, said: “It is heartening that Singapore achieved such a milestone in WSH performance last year, positioning us as a country with one of the lowest fatality rates in the world. We want and must do even better, and a key and significant partner for us in this journey would be the “WSH Advocates”.

These are industry leaders with significant supply chains and outreach. The WSH Advocate acts as a “queen bee” to groom its contractors’ WSH capabilities within its eco-system and circle of influence.

We trust more SMEs would see the business advantage of investing in WSH, as it would enhance their working processes, productivity and help them foster stronger relationships with their respective WSH Advocates. We want to have more WSH Advocates in more industries. We can then have a more pervasive culture of WSH excellence, thereby promoting a safer and healthier working environment for all.”

Over 1,600 delegates attending the Conference will hear from a diverse line-up of over 25 speakers and moderators, delving into topics such as prioritising WSH as a business strategy and how technology advancements in the age of AI can revolutionise WSH.

Refer to Annex B for the full list of speakers.

For more information on The Singapore WSH Conference 2024, please visit <https://www.singaporewshconference.sg/>.

For more information on the WSH Advocate Programme, please visit <https://wshc.sg/wshadvocate>.

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About The Singapore WSH Conference 2024

One of Southeast Asia’s biggest WSH events, The Singapore WSH Conference brings together business leaders, government officials, WSH practitioners and management representatives to discuss WSH challenges and share best practices to explore and improve WSH strategies, and bolster companies’ competitive edge in these challenging times.

Organised by the Workplace Safety and Health Council, Singapore’s Ministry of Manpower, National Trades Union Congress and Singapore National Employers Federation, the Conference creates opportunities for networking and WSH collaborations.

The eighth edition of the Conference takes place on 11 September 2024 at the Sands Expo and Convention Centre. Themed “Charting WSH Excellence, Shaping the Future of Business”, the biennial Conference comprises a line-up of over 25 expert speakers across two plenary sessions and four symposiums. It discusses cutting-edge strategies to integrate WSH excellence with ESG frameworks, and leverage emerging technologies for the future of work.

List of WSH Advocates

No	Company Name
1	Chevron Oronite Pte Ltd
2	City Developments Limited
3	CWT Integrated Pte Ltd
4	ExxonMobil Asia Pacific Pte Ltd
5	GSK (Quality Road)
6	Jurong Port Pte Ltd
7	Micron Technology
8	NatSteel Holdings Pte Ltd
9	PaxOcean Engineering Pte Ltd
10	PCS Pte. Ltd.
11	PSA Corporation Limited
12	Rolls Royce Singapore Pte Ltd
13	SBS Transit Ltd
14	Singapore Post Limited
15	Singapore Refining Company Private Limited
16	SLB
17	SMRT Corporation Ltd
18	ST Engineering Marine Ltd

List of Speakers for The Singapore WSH Conference 2024

No.	Speaker Info	Topic
Keynote Address		
1	Dr David Michaels Professor, Milken Institute School of Public Health, George Washington University Former US Assistant Secretary of Labor for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration	The Business Value of Managing Workplace Safety
Plenary 1: The Untapped Potential: WSH for Business Sustainability		
2	Dr Ralf Franke Executive Vice President and Corporate Medical Director Head of Environmental Protection, Health Management and Safety Siemens AG	Unlocking the WSH Door with Key Business Decisions
3	Mr Lim Tien Hock Chief Executive Officer, Bus Business SBS Transit Ltd	People Leadership. WSH Ownership.
4	Mr Harcharan Singh Head of HSE (Building Material Group) Sunway Berhad	WSH: The First Step Towards Sustainable Development
Symposium 1A: Profit with Purpose: Choosing the Safe Path		
5	Dr Cameron Mustard Professor at Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto & Former President and Senior Scientist at the Institute for Work & Health	Return on Investment: The Financial Benefits of Employers' OHS Expenditures
6	Mr David Glenister Head of Project Management & Construction Lendlease Singapore Pte. Ltd.	Redefining our Workplace Safety & Health DNA
7	Mr Francis Ung Projects and WSH Director Zheng Keng Engineering & Construction Pte Ltd	Achieving Business Success Through Safety and Health
Symposium 1B: Sustainable and Safe Supply Chains		
8	Dr Yuka Ujita Senior Specialist in Occupational Safety and Health, International Labour Organization	Improving OSH along the Global Supply Chains - ILO's Perspective
9	Ms Jenny Katharina Ohme Coordinator of the German Helpdesk on Business and Human Rights	Effective Collaboration for Sustainable Supply Chains - Experiences from the German Supply Chain Act
10	Mr Vipul Chawla Group Chief Executive Officer FairPrice Group	A Sustainable, Safe and Secure Workplace for All
11	Mr Ricky Loo Chief Executive Officer CWT Integrated Group	Safe Routes to Success: Delivering Value Integrated Logistics with WSH

No.	Speaker Info	Speaker Session
Plenary 2: Revolutionising Work: Enhance WSH through Technology		
12	Mr Vishnu Saran Chief Executive Officer Invigilo Technologies	AI - Friend or Foe? Navigating the Future Workplace
13	Ms Chia Lye Peng Chief Executive Officer FlexoSense	Data Analytics: Shaping Future Workplace Safety
14	Associate Professor Jason Lee Director, Heat Resilience and Performance Centre Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine National University of Singapore	Building WSH Resilience through Technology
Symposium 2A: Thriving Workplaces in the Age of AI and Automation		
15	Mr Yeong Wai Teck Managing Director Aegis Building & Engineering Pte Ltd	Elevating Safety and Productivity: Robotics for Working at Heights
16	Mr Royston Lee Customer Success Lead Ailytics	AI-Driven Safety Solutions at Jurong Innovation District
17	Dr Navin Bhatnagar Chief Technical Officer, YCH Group Chief Executive Officer, Y3 Technologies Pte Ltd	Transformative Warehousing Solutions for Enhanced Productivity and Workforce Safety
Symposium 2B: Blue Zone@Work		
18	Dr Maleena Suppiah Chief, Learning and Culture Tsao Foundation	Harnessing the Silver Workforce: Challenges and Opportunities for Mature Workers
19	Associate Professor Gan Wee Hoe Chief Executive Officer, SingHealth Community Hospitals Senior Consultant, Department of Occupational & Environmental Medicine Singapore General Hospital	Creating a Workplace that is Suitable for Employees of All Ages
20	Ms Tan Cheh Tian Chief Executive Officer UEMS Singapore & Taiwan	Old is Gold, Invest in Your Older Employees!