

## **TRANSFORMING THE WORKPLACE SAFETY AND HEALTH ECOSYSTEM TO BE FUTURE-READY THROUGH GREATER OWNERSHIP, FOCUS ON WORKPLACE HEALTH AND USE OF TECHNOLOGY**

*Global business leaders and WSH experts discussed upcoming WSH challenges and innovative solutions in the age of transformation, at the Singapore WSH Conference 2018*

**Singapore, 29 August 2018** – The fifth edition of the biennial Singapore Workplace Safety and Health (WSH) Conference commenced today with a congregation of over 900 WSH stakeholders from 23 countries, including professionals, business leaders and government officials. Themed “Transforming for the Future: Healthy Workforce, Safe Workplaces”, the biennial two-day conference sets the stage for in-depth discussions on the workplace safety and health challenges and solutions in transforming the workforce and workplaces for the future.

Mr John Ng, Chairman, WSH Council Singapore, and Chairman of the WSH2028 Tripartite Strategy Committee, said, “With the inevitable digital disruption, businesses need to be adaptable to survive and grow. An ageing population and rising work-related ill health will also have an impact, and cause businesses to shift gears and make detours along the way. While these changes pose significant challenges to the workplace, they also present opportunities for us to uncover new ways of doing things to elevate safety and health standards at the workplace.”

“Even though we achieved a record low overall workplace fatality target of 1.2 per 100,000 employed persons last year, there is much work to be done to sustain our workplace safety and health improvements”, he added.

### **Forward-looking vision: WSH 2028 Strategy and IAP Recommendations**

To reduce Singapore’s workplace fatal injury rate to less than 1 per 100,000 workers by 2028, Singapore’s Ministry of Manpower (MOM) convened a Tripartite Strategy Committee earlier this year to develop the WSH2028 Strategy, a comprehensive 10-year plan to bring Singapore towards WSH excellence. Under the WSH2028 Strategy, MOM has identified three areas of transformation needed to improve safety and health outcomes:

- i. Deepen collective WSH ownership and encourage more companies to go beyond WSH compliance and adopt progressive and proactive practices
- ii. Increase focus on workplace health, especially amidst a growing silver workforce population the increasing prevalence of chronic diseases
- iii. Drive adoption of technology, which can enhance safety and health at workplaces

At the opening speech of the Singapore WSH Conference 2018, Mrs Josephine Teo, Minister for Manpower, Singapore, also shared more details on Singapore’s plans and initiatives in these areas.

The preliminary recommendations for the WSH2028 Strategy will also be presented to MOM’s International Advisory Panel (IAP) for WSH for further consultation. The Panel’s recommendations will be shared during the plenary on the second day of the Conference on 30 August 2018.

### **Driving a Global Dialogue on Workplace Safety and Health**

Now in its fifth edition, the Singapore WSH Conference brings together global WSH thought leaders, who can share insights and learnings from their respective areas of expertise and industries. These include:

- **Mr Silas Sng**, Deputy Divisional Director, Occupational Safety and Health Division, Ministry of Manpower, Singapore
- **AR Ong Tze Boon**, Group Executive Chairman, ONG&ONG Group and Immediate Past President, Singapore Institute of Architects
- **Ms Margaret Heng**, Executive Director, Singapore Hotel Association (SHA); Chief Executive, Singapore Hotel and Tourism Education Centre (SHATEC)
- **Mr Tony Lombardo**, Chief Executive Officer Asia, LendLease, Singapore
- **Mr Bernard Ong**, Director of Operations, Vopak Terminals Singapore Pte Ltd
- **Dr Jukka Takala**, President, International Commission of Occupational Health
- **Mr Wiking Husberg**, Former Ministerial Adviser, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Finland
- **Ms Michelle Baxter**, Chief Executive Officer, Safe Work Australia
- **Ms Bonnie Yau**, Executive Director, Occupational Safety and Health Council, Hong Kong SAR, China

Delegates can look forward to learning more about the latest global trends and developments in WSH at symposiums, panel discussions, and exhibits. These include a WSH Marketplace featuring interactive activities and informative sharing sessions from industry experts on the future of WSH practices. Delegates can also explore various technology to improve vehicular safety at the WSH Technology Challenge Showcase. The Occupational Safety and Health Exhibition for Asia (29 – 31 August 2018) also features over 200 exhibitors from 25 countries offering an extensive array of innovative products, services and applications. They range from smart technologies and workplace ergonomics, to health at work and work at heights.

The Singapore WSH Conference is organised by the WSH Council, Ministry of Manpower, National Trades Union Congress (NTUC), and The Singapore National Employers Federation (SNEF).

For more information on the Singapore WSH Conference 2018, visit <http://www.singaporewshconference.sg>