

A BUSINESS that has safety and health as its top priorities will be productive and profitable.

When employees are taken care of, they become more productive, have higher morale and, thereby, contribute to the success of the company.

Hence, it makes good business sense to include workplace safety and health (WSH) in every business operation and decision-making.

### **bizSAFE makes business sense**

Launched in April 2007, the bizSAFE programme assists small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in building WSH capabilities.

Companies will be guided through a systematic five-step approach to develop their safety and health policy, build Risk Management (RM) capabilities and implement a comprehensive management system to help manage workplace risks and hazards.

Larger companies can also do their part by encouraging their partners, suppliers and sub-contractors to get onboard bizSAFE.

Through the programme, companies will be able to create a safer and healthier work environment, increase business competitiveness and gain recognition by the industry and bizSAFE partners.

Themed "Being Safe and Healthy", the sixth annual bizSAFE Convention will provide opportunities for companies to understand why it makes perfect business sense to integrate safety and health into their businesses.

### **Good WSH is key to business success**

Last year, the WSH Institute conducted a

# Roadmap to success

Companies thrive when they create a holistic work environment



**Through the bizSAFE programme, companies are able to create a safer and healthier work environment, increase business competitiveness and gain recognition by the industry and bizSAFE partners.** PHOTOS: AFP, WSH COUNCIL

survey on 1,652 companies comprising 868 bizSAFE enterprises, 522 non-bizSAFE SMEs, and 262 bizSAFE Partners/Mentors and potential clients of SMEs.

Overall, majority of the bizSAFE enterprises that took part in the survey performed better as compared to the non-bizSAFE enterprises, in terms of building capability in

managing WSH risks, and demonstrating commitment towards WSH.

The survey also showed that 81 per cent of the companies surveyed that engaged bizSAFE enterprises agreed that these enterprises were better at managing WSH and preferred to engage bizSAFE enterprises for future projects.

The findings also revealed that 28 per cent of the non-bizSAFE enterprises did not conduct risk assessment in identifying and managing risks and hazards at their workplace.

This is a major concern, as inadequate risk assessment can potentially lead to accidents that can result in lives lost, diminished employee trust and tarnished company reputation. Therefore, it is crucial that companies should place emphasis on RM to prevent accidents.

RM is a key tool in improving WSH by identifying, evaluating and controlling risks at workplaces.

Under the WSH (Risk Management) Regulations, all employers, principals, contractors, sub-contractors and suppliers must take necessary measures to identify all hazards, and put in place measures to eliminate or reduce them.

Besides assessing risks for any work activity, a comprehensive RM should also include communicating these risks effectively, and incorporating workplace health risks and measures to ensure a holistic approach of good WSH.

### **Integrate healthy living with safety**

Workplace health should have the same emphasis as workplace safety.

As more employees are now working beyond their retirement age, it is increasingly important that employers understand how poor workplace health management can affect the well-being of their employees in the long run.

While the effects may not be visible immediately, companies should integrate workplace health in its WSH programmes, tools and initiatives holistically today, as the impact of not doing will be greatly felt years down the road.

Winner of the bizSAFE Enterprise Exemplary Award 2014, Sanwah Construction, is a good example of a company that has incorporated workplace health initiatives in the company.

The company conducts an "Exercise Day" every month for all staff, including managers and supervisors, to promote healthy living.

Through engaging employees in healthy activities such as yoga, cycling, trekking, badminton and jogging, it reaped the benefits of a more productive and happier workforce.

For more details on bizSAFE, visit the WSH Council website at [www.wshc.sg](http://www.wshc.sg) or e-mail [bizSAFE@wshc.sg](mailto:bizSAFE@wshc.sg)

Article contributed by the Workplace Safety and Health Council.