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Workplace Safety and Health Awards 2011 Supplementary

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Walking the talk

by *Esther Yi*

As a bizSAFE Mentor and repeat winner of safety awards, Boustead Projects leads by example

Every morning before work begins at a construction site, the importance of safety is emphasised when all staff call out the slogan: "Safe work, save lives". This is one example of how Boustead Projects, which provides infrastructure-related engineering services and geo-spatial technology [sic: industrial real estate solutions], demonstrates the importance of workplace safety and health.

This year, the company has won two awards for its commitment to workplace safety and health. They are the Silver award for Workplace Safety and Health Performance and the Safety and Health Award Recognition for Projects (Sharp), which recognises projects with good safety and health performance and workplace safety and health management systems.

Boustead has received the Workplace Safety and Health Council's awards since 2009, including the only Workplace Safety and Health Officer award last year, which went to the company's senior corporate safety manager Howard How, who has been working on workplace safety since 2000.

Driving Boustead's workplace safety and health philosophy is the tagline "Safe work, save lives", coined by staff in a safety slogan competition in 2007. More than a tagline, Mr How says it is about walking the walk.

"It is not easy to change the mindset of supervisors and workers to accept the safety philosophy. We try to build a strong safety culture by ensuring management walk their talk, and supervisors and workers walk the walk of safety at the workplace all the time," he says.

In the past year, Boustead has implemented a series of new practices to up workplace safety and health. For example, there is now a weekly safety committee meeting, coupled with inspections, carried out at all worksites. This

instils a safety-first philosophy with all sub-contractors.

A monthly safety meeting with all staff and top management is also held to discuss safety, health and environmental issues at workplaces.

A third initiative is a penalty and reward system for sub-contractors. Under this scheme, sub-contractors are fined for infringing in-house safety rules and regulations. Those who do well are rewarded with incentives.

The Sharp award is recognition for Boustead's work on the Rolls-Royce Achord project at Seletar Aerospace Park. The project, with a contract value of about S\$100 million, had to be completed in 12 months. Five hundred workers were deployed on-site round the clock to complete the project on time.

To manage this project efficiently and safely, a special team of workplace safety and health professionals was put together to ensure strict implementation of workplace safety systems.

For its commitment to workplace safety and health, Boustead was recognised as a bizSAFE Mentor earlier this year. bizSAFE Mentors provide exemplary leadership in workplace safety and health management and performance, sharing their practices with smaller companies to nurture and support good practices.

"(Becoming a bizSAFE Mentor) gives us the recognition to lead and guide all our sub-contractors to implement and sustain good workplace safety and health standards at all our worksites."

"As a bizSAFE Star company, which is the highest level, it shows the company's commitment towards the implementation of a sound workplace safety and health management system," says Mr How.

At the end of the day, Boustead's safety philosophy is best affirmed, he says, when workers say they feel safe working at a Boustead site.