

Annex A

Fact Sheet Workplace Safety and Health Council

Background

The Workplace Safety and Health (WSH) Council was established on 1 April 2008 to enhance the functions of the former WSH Advisory Committee (WSHAC)¹. The WSH Council's members are leaders from key industry sectors (such as construction, marine, manufacturing, petrol chemical, logistics), the Government, unions and professionals from the legal, insurance and academic fields.

Vision and Mission

2 The WSH Council's vision is "A safe and healthy workplace for everyone; and a country renowned for best practices in WSH". Its mission is "to lead industry efforts in strengthening capabilities and building a progressive culture in WSH".

Eight industry and functional committees

3 Under the Council, six industry committees were formed to address the specific WSH challenges in their respective sectors:

- Chemical Industries Committee
- Construction and Landscape Committee
- Healthcare Committee
- Logistics and Transport Committee
- Marine Industries Committee
- Metalworking and Manufacturing Committee

4 Two functional committees were formed to identify, champion and implement initiatives in the following areas:

- Engagement and Outreach
- Industry Capability Building

¹ Under the WSH framework announced by the Ministry of Manpower (MOM) in early 2005, the WSHAC was a key initiative to drive strong industry ownership of WSH outcomes. In November 2006, the International Advisory Panel on WSH recommended an expanded scope for the WSHAC to form a full-fledged Council. MOM accepted the recommendation and announced in October 2007 that the WSH Council will be formed by April 2008.

Main functions and key initiatives

- 6 The WSH Council will build industry ownership of WSH through:
- i. Building industry capabilities to better manage WSH
 - Manpower capability building programmes such as the WSH Professional Competency framework
 - Enterprise capability building programmes such as bizSAFE which targets Small and Medium Enterprises
 - ii. Promoting safety and health at work and recognising companies with good WSH records
 - National WSH Campaign
 - WSH Awards
 - Container Exhibition and other activities to reach out to workers
 - Quarterly WSH Council Forums
 - iii. Setting acceptable WSH practices, through issuing of Codes of Practice
 - Review existing codes of practices for issuance of Approved Codes of Practices
 - Develop new guidelines in targeted areas
- 7 More information about the WSH Council can be found at www.wshc.gov.sg