FACTSHEET ON VISION ZERO

Vision Zero

Vision Zero requires the adoption of a mindset that all injuries and ill health arising from work are preventable. The pursuit of Vision Zero is not about focusing solely on meeting the target of zero accidents. A Vision Zero-minded person would strive to prevent all work injuries and ill health without compromise. To achieve this, Vision Zero calls for a mindset shift by everyone from focusing on individual fault finding to one that is centred on solutions to prevent injuries and ill health.

The Need for Vision Zero

2 Singapore has made significant progress in workplace safety and health (WSH) in the last decade with its workplace fatality rate halved from 4.9 per 100,000 employed persons in 2004 to 2.1 per 100,000 employed persons in 2013. Notwithstanding these accomplishments, Singapore is at risk of experiencing a plateau in the WSH outcomes. For sustainable WSH performance, we need to move beyond systems compliance and implementation of management systems. This requires a fundamental shift in our approach towards WSH.

Vision Zero Initiatives

3 Since April 2013, the WSH Institute has initiated the WSH Stakeholders’ dialogue on the concept of Vision Zero through various industry and functional committees, taskforces and workgroups. Views from more than 150 business leaders across different industries have been sought and preliminary findings showed that 90% of business leaders agreed that Vision Zero mindset is right to adopt.

4 The 4th Ministry of Manpower International Advisory Panel (IAP) for WSH meeting held on 6th and 8th May 2014 made the following recommendations.

   a) **Facilitate mindset change through Vision Zero Leaders**

   Leaders play a critical role in effecting the mindset change as they are in the best position to engage and empower their employees towards Vision Zero. Leaders who are passionately committed to Vision Zero could serve as role models for other leaders to encourage greater cross learning and sharing of best practices, as well as to nurture more and better WSH leaders. The leaders could also work through WSH initiatives within the respective companies’ business activities to influence communities.
b) Develop performance measures to track progress of the Vision Zero movement

Vision Zero should be viewed as a journey rather than a destination. Considering that it would take time to adopt the Vision Zero mindset, it would be important to develop performance measures to track progress and facilitate regular reviews. These measures should include both leading indicators as well as outcome-based indicators.

c) Provide a compelling case for Vision Zero

Early efforts should be focused on achieving support and buy-in from the industry. The use of well designed projects as pilots could help provide the compelling economic and moral case for Vision Zero.

In response to the IAP recommendations, the WSH Council, with support from the WSH Institute, is currently developing initiatives that Singapore can adopt to inculcate the Vision Zero mindset. Details of the initiatives will be announced in due course.