

Northport enhancing safety measures for greater good

Number of incidents and accidents has dropped significantly since the HON was implemented

by SHAHEERA AZNAM SHAH

NORTHPORT (M) Bhd has managed to significantly improve safety and reduce accidents with the implementation of a series of enforcement and safety awareness initiatives.

It has, for instance, rolled out new guidelines on health and safety measures to create a safer environment for port users. This is part of the port operator's efforts to adopt industry best practices and improve safety levels.

"We are trying to change the culture and the mindset of our people to be a proactive port operator," CEO Datuk Azman Shah Mohd Yusof told *The Malaysian Reserve*. Northport is a subsidiary of local conglomerate MMC Port Holdings Sdn Bhd.

"When we launched the HON on March 1, we saw an immediate drop in the number of incidents and accidents," he said.

HON, short for HSE (Health, Safety and Environment) Omission Notification, is a mechanism designed to enforce safety compliance on the port users, contractors and employees within the port premises.

A port is considered a high-risk area. Hence, tight rules and regulations are imperative to ensure a safe working environment during operations.

"Every port has its rules and regulations on safety, for example, the speed limit around the port and safe work procedures. Previously, what we had was the Non-Conformity Report (NCR) as an enforcement tool, which was not as efficient," he said.

Azman Shah said it is important for the management to implement the guidelines in an orderly and structural manner to cover all aspects of safety.

He said Northport has been com-



Northport management and employees during the launch of Buckle Up safety campaign



A Northport employee in full personal protective equipment at a container wharf

municating the new guidelines through engagement sessions with haulage operators, contractors, service providers, industry associations and other port users.

"Instead of directly imposing the guidelines, we started with conducting the engagement sessions.

"The first session was conducted in August last year where we

called all haulage operators and the hauliers association. The engagement session was well received by the participants.

"The second engagement in November was held with all Northport contractors and service providers, while the third session was with the freight forwarders," he said.

Azman Shah said many port users

claimed that they were not familiar with the rules and regulations, or were taking them lightly as the previous NCR mechanism was not much of a deterrent.

"What we have done to get the message across is that we imposed a mandatory penalty scheme through HON and from the statistics, we noticed people take things more seriously when it involves monetary penalty.

The HON has shown positive effects with the number of accidents and incidents around the port dropping significantly since its implementation.

"We did some analyses and in terms of incidents, there have only been two incidents since the HON was implemented. Before, it was as frequent as one incident in every two and a half days," he said.

There are 14 items listed as the HON's minor omissions and 35 items listed under major omissions.

The most common omission is not wearing the personal protective

equipment. "Because they are too used to the port, they tend to forget that they are in a high-risk environment and overlook the necessity to protect themselves," he said.

Besides the HON, Northport has also implemented several other HSE initiatives. These include the "HSE Week" programme, which was held in October last year, concurrently with other companies in the MMC Group. During the programme, Northport presented two awards namely the "You See You Act Award" for Northport employees and "Best Contractor Award" for its contractors and service providers.

On the environment, Northport has embarked on various programmes including port cleanliness and greenification initiatives. In November last year, Northport together with Port Klang Authority and Westports Malaysia Sdn Bhd, received the APSN Green Port Award System, in conjunction with the APEC Port Services Network's (APSN) "Workshop on Safety of Dangerous Goods at Ports" event.

"We are committed to the sustainability of our port operations and we have embarked on various green initiatives through investments in environmentally friendly terminal handling equipment and other port infrastructure," said Azman Shah.

To further strengthen its safety measures for its customers, Northport has introduced shuttle arrangement from its wharves to gates and vice versa for ships' crew intending to exit or enter the port area. Apart from port passes for port users, Northport has also imposed vehicle stickers on all vehicles entering the port premises to facilitate Northport's auxiliary police at the port's entrance and exit, to ensure only authorised vehicles are allowed to enter the port area.

Drugs and substance abuse are also taken seriously by Northport for both its employees and the port users.

"We conduct random urine tests for both external and internal parties regularly to ensure that our port stays free from drugs," he said.

AAMO to launch new framework for performance index

THE Asian Association of Management Organisations (AAMO) will be rolling out a fresh framework for its performance indicator report.

The Management Capability Index (MCI), set to be launched in October 2017, is an index report carried out by AAMO for its national management organisations (NMOs) in the respective countries.

It allows for a cross-country comparison on measured outcomes and performances as all countries are following a standardised framework.

"In the past, AAMO has played a role in contributing to the development of professional management in the region.

"With the advent of new industrial revolution and digitisation, there is a need for the development of best practices and the engagement of new methodologies," AAMO president Datuk Ng Tieh Chuan said at its first council meeting for 2017 in Kuala Lumpur.

MCI also enables identification of improvement against other organisations and uses it as a benchmark in their own organisations.

"AAMO has given us the ability to reach out across the NMOs in the region and create a communication platform for us to work collaboratively in furthering the agenda of



Ng (right) addressing AAMO's 1st council meeting for 2017 in Kuala Lumpur

professional management in the region.

"We intend to bring more members into the fold to create a broader reach and gain a fresh perspective," he said.

Conducted using a standardised

methodology by AAMO members, the report provides a holistic overview of management capability within a particular country with uniform results.

MCI was introduced in 2013 by the New Zealand Institute of Manage-

ment. The report is based on nine major drivers of management capability that deliver profitable business growth. They are visionary and strategic leadership, performance leadership, people leadership, financial management, organisation capabi-

lity, technology and knowledge, external relationships, innovation and comparative performance.

AAMO is an independent partnership of NMOs in the Asian region to promote and facilitate the development of professional management in the Asia-Pacific region.

Attended by representatives from each organisations, AAMO holds two council meetings every year with the aim for the councillors to meet and discuss initiatives and potential collaborations between the member of the organisations.

Currently, it consists of 10 organisations representing their own countries within the Asia-Pacific region. To date, AAMO comprises management organisations from Australia, New Zealand, Macau, Hong Kong, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Pakistan and the Philippines.

Hosted by the Malaysian Institute of Management in Kuala Lumpur, the recent council meeting was attended by the Australian Institute of Management, All India Management Association, Management Association of the Philippines, Management Association of Pakistan, Management Association of Nepal, Macau Management Association and Institute of Management of Sri Lanka. — by SHAHEERA AZNAM SHAH