

bizSAFE CONVENTION 2019

Pumping up safety measures

CKMbt International leaves no stone unturned in ensuring that every worker stays safe

BY MICHELLE CHIN

Every construction worker is a son, brother, husband or father with loved ones awaiting his safe return home.

It is with this belief that CKMbt International draws up workplace safety procedures and makes decisions on day-to-day operations at work sites.

CKMbt is a civil and structural engineering and project management consultancy that designs and supervises construction projects.

Once engaged by its clients, CKMbt's duties include designing temporary and permanent structures for construction projects.

It supervises the execution of work done by the main contractor which is hired by the client to carry out the construction work. Most of the workers at the construction sites are hired by the main contractor and their sub-contractors.

Besides that, the company participates in safety dialogues, conducts on-site safety audits and manages independent safety promotions for workers.

Although the construction workers are not staff of CKMbt, the company believes it has a moral obligation to keep the men safe.

For CKMbt, an important criterion is how best to eliminate hazards for the construction workers who typically face a fair share of safety and health hazards.

To illustrate the point, Mr Yusman Kamis, the safety manager of CKMbt, cited an incident which took place last year.

He and several colleagues visited a work



CKMbt International's managing director Abhishek Murthy (left) and chairman Chitaldroog Keshava Murthy believe in good safety management systems, safe work procedures, safety promotions as well as risk assessments and mitigation. PHOTO: TED CHEN

site in southern Singapore to carry out risk assessments and found that the main contractor's proposed method to demolish a pump sump, which is used to drain sewage and water from an underground sump pit, had safety loopholes.

The main contractor's suggested method confined the machinery and the workers to a very small working space and increased the likelihood of an accident.

CKMbt rejected the proposed method and presented an alternative method that provided a firm working base and a bigger maneuvering space for not just one, but up to three excavators.

The suggestion also eliminated risk of falling into the sump pit and sped up the demolition. As a result, the main contractor completed work well ahead of schedule with no accidents.

The method proposed by CKMbt not only helped prevent accidents, but also increased productivity and cost savings.

Our employees, project workforce, partners, clients, customers are humans. They are very important assets to us. Their safety is of paramount importance.

MR ABHISHEK MURTHY
managing director
CKMbt International

Managing director Abhishek Murthy says that his company carries out and reviews risk assessments for all projects. The high regard given to upholding safety standards earned CKMbt the bizSAFE Enterprise Exemplary Award — the first bizSAFE award for the company.

Founded in 2000 in Singapore by chairman Chitaldroog Keshava Murthy, CKMbt today has about 160 staff based in Singapore and its overseas subsidiaries. It also has operations in India, Myanmar and Malaysia.

In Singapore, its services are engaged by government organisations, statutory boards and companies in the private sector.

"Our employees, project workforce, partners, clients, customers are humans. They are very important assets to us. Their safety is of paramount importance," Mr Abhishek says.

"Also, upholding site safety elevates CKMbt's reputation and level of professionalism," he adds.

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