

Aiming for the sky

**Kwan Yong
Construction wants
to take its workplace
safety inspection
to a new high**



PHOTO TED CHEN

BY JAC WOO

From ear to the ground to eye in the sky, Kwan Yong Construction wants to leave no stone unturned in ensuring good workplace safety and health (WSH) practices. The company plans to leverage technology to take WSH to even greater heights.

Says the company's director Jacob Wong San Ta (above), 50: "We are looking into the use of drones in our WSH inspection and monitoring."

Kwan Yong is committed to achieving its goal of WSH excellence with the same smarts that saw the company — which started in 1984 — grow from a small outfit doing renovation works into the building specialist it is today.

Delivering construction projects across the public, commercial and private sectors, it prides itself on completing complex projects to the highest industry standards without compromising on the safety of its workers.

For its outstanding WSH performance, Kwan Yong Construction won the bizSAFE Exemplary Award this year for the third time, after garnering it in 2016 and 2018.

A culture embraced by all

Safety is the bedrock of the company's culture, stresses Mr Wong. To motivate its workforce to embrace a safety culture, the company embraces:

- **WSH communication:** The importance of safety is conveyed to workers, sub-contractors and WSH committee members in daily, weekly and monthly meetings respectively.
- **Training:** Continuous in-house and third-party WSH training is provided for all site personnel.

- **Leading by example:** The management is fully committed to supporting WSH and conducts regular site visits to address such matters. The company's WSH personnel continuously monitor, inspect and audit the worksites, provide WSH-related advice and educate site personnel on safety issues.
- **WSH promotion:** Exemplary staff are recognised by a quarterly promotion for "Best Safety Worker/Supervisor", and winners are rewarded with vouchers or cash. The WSH site and national statistics are shared with the staff to raise their awareness of safety practices around them.
- **Worker involvement:** The company emphasises whistleblowing on unsafe practices, workers are involved in risk management, and their representative gets to lead Toolbox meeting briefings.

Soaring to greater heights

As a result of the company's safety culture, workers in Kwan Yong Construction have become proactive towards WSH, observes Mr Wong.

"Our site personnel take the initiative to ensure safety compliance is in order before starting work. Similarly, they will put on their personal protective equipment without being asked to," he says.

To ensure a safer future, the company is aiming for very high standards — a safety record with zero accidents.

"Zero accidents means everyone gets to go home safely after work. It also improves productivity and enhances workers' peace of mind.

"An excellent safety record will also boost our business's competitive advantage and our company's image," Mr Wong explains.