

AicE-Bs 2011 Famagusta

Asia Pacific International Conference on Environment-Behaviour Studies, Salamis Bay
Conti Resort Hotel, Famagusta, North Cyprus, 7-9 December 2011

Integration of Occupational Safety and Health during Pre-construction Stage in Malaysia

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Abstract

Unsatisfactory Occupational Safety & Health (OSH) in the construction industry has turned out to be an issue as it contributes to numbers of incidents and fatality to the construction players and public. Previous research suggested that early introduction of safety & health elements within the project implementation contributed towards minimising this issue. Hence, the objective of this paper is to identify the occupational safety & health elements during pre-construction. This paper is an initial study with the hope the finding will lead its way to the output of occupational safety & health indicators for pre-construction in Malaysia.

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Keywords: Compliance; Occupational Safety & Health element; pre-construction indicator and risk

1. Introduction

The subject matter of this paper is the Occupational Safety & Health (OSH) implementation during Pre-construction stage. Both in construction and other industries, the consideration of safety and health requirements since the early stages has been widely recognized as a beneficial approach for OSH

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management, since it is an effective way of either eliminating or reducing hazards at their sources (DOSH, 2008). The objectives of this research are to identify the occupational safety & health elements during pre-construction stage. This research will be focusing on the OSH practices in Malaysian construction industry and will be focusing on the preconstruction. The reason is to show the gaps that should be filled in by the OSH in order to catch up with the current developments that have been happening in other countries. It is important to note that this paper only provide a literature search for this topic. The methodology used was synthesizing literatures from relevant sources.

1.1 Occupational Safety & Health Issue in Construction

Nowadays, one of the most pressing concerns for this construction industry is the occupational safety & health which is an increase in the accidents and health problem (Solicitors, 2010). Unsatisfactory Occupational Safety & Health (OSH) in the construction industry has turned out to be an issue as it is the most hazardous industry with complex processes that contribute to numbers of incidents and fatality to the construction players and public. OSH issues are most important to the project process as it is influence the quality of work and time. OSH issues are not limited to the construction stage of a construction project management but also arise throughout a project's life (Haywood, 2004). Since accidents has emerged as the most serious OSH issues of this time therefore, it is vital important for Malaysian construction industry to further implement the OSH which eliminates the negative impact on the construction industry. Based from Table 1, eight (8) out of twenty-five (25) fatality cases were reported to Department of Occupational Safety & Health Malaysia from January 2011 until July 2011 were in Construction Industry (CIDB, 2009; DOSH, 2011). Thus, construction industry has the higher score which are 32 percent mostly because of no safe work procedure or other describe it management control (CIDB, 2009; DOSH, 2011; HSE, 2003).

Table 1. Number of recorded accidents in Malaysia Jan-July 2011. Source: DOSH, 2011.

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