

# Moving Ahead

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## Engineer (Er.) Ho Siong Hin

Commissioner for Workplace  
Safety and Health,  
Ministry of Manpower (MOM)

Er. Ho Siong Hin is the Commissioner for Workplace Safety and Health. He holds a concurrent position as the Divisional Director of the Ministry of Manpower's Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Division. Er. Ho was instrumental in the formation of the industry led Workplace Safety & Health (WSH) Council which he serves as a Member.

Er. Ho is a Mechanical Engineering graduate from the University of Auckland, New Zealand. He started his career in MOM's Factory Inspectorate in 1982 and held various portfolios in MOM, including Deputy Director of Construction, Shipyards and Engineering, Director of Corporate Planning and Divisional Director for Foreign Manpower Management Division.

Er. Ho was appointed in 2005 to his current position to lead OSH reform in Singapore, arising from a Ministerial Study Trip to Europe to learn OSH best practices. Er. Ho played a key role to translate the findings of the study mission to a new OSH framework announced in Parliament in March 2005. The key changes included a push for greater ownership by industry for OSH outcomes and the introduction of risk management.

Er. Ho continued to lead major OSH developments, including the introduction of the new WSH Act in March 2006, enhanced capabilities in inspections and investigations and new industry engagement programmes such as bizSAFE and ConSASS.

Er. Ho also guided the establishment of the WSH Institute in 2011 with a mission to enhance WSH through Knowledge, Innovation and Solutions. All these efforts contributed to a significant reduction in Singapore's workplace fatality rate from 4.9 per 100,000 employed persons in 2004 to 1.8 in 2014.

Er. Ho is also active on the regional and international arena, including SE Asia, China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Australia, Canada and Europe and is regularly invited to present on OSH matters. Er. Ho is an active member of the ASEAN-OSHNET and is currently the Executive Director for the ASEAN-OSH-NET Secretariat.

Er. Ho also works closely with the International Labour Organisation, International Association of Labour Inspectors (IALI) and World Health Organisation to improve OSH standards in the ASEAN region. Er. Ho is currently the Secretary-General of IALI. He is also an Honorary Vice-President of

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the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health, UK. Beyond his MOM portfolio, Er. Ho is the President of the Professional Engineers Board and Past President of the Institution of Engineers, Singapore. He is the Chairman of the Advisory Committee to the Chemical Engineering Department of Ngee Ann Polytechnic. Er. Ho is also a member of the Singapore Accreditation Council by SPRING and chairs the Council Committee on Inspection Bodies.

Er. Ho was awarded the National Day Public Administration (Gold) Medal in 2012, for his contribution to the public service.