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NSCS Safety Commendation Awards Presentation Ceremony and Dinner

*Lifetime Achievement
Award Recipient*

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THE NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL OF SINGAPORE

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President's Message

Ong Pak Shoon

NSCS President's Speech for NSCS Safety Commendation Awards 2026 (10 Feb)

A very warm welcome, MOS Dinesh and Mr Abu Bakar, Chairman of Workplace Safety and Health Council, distinguished guests, partners, sponsors, and guests.

On behalf of NSCS, I would like to thank MOS Dinesh for taking time off his busy schedule to be with us and to grace this special occasion. A special thanks too, to Mr Abu Bakar for his continuous support towards the work of NSCS.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of NSCS, and this evening's event is to honor the contributions of those who have done and continue to do excellent work in advancing safety and safeguarding communities in Singapore.

High on our agenda tonight is to present Er. Ho Siong Hin with a Lifetime Achievement Award. He started his career with the Factory Inspectorate (MOL) as an engineer. Over the years, he has 'grown' into his job and became the 1st Commissioner for Safety and Health. He has 'literally' put Singapore on the world map of safety and health.

In tonight's event, we also honor Worley Engineering Singapore Pte. Ltd. for its excellent safety and health record. Despite many challenges, Worley has consistently performed well in the area of workplace safety and health within the civil engineering and consulting sector. Worley truly deserves a Safety Commendation Award.

Tonight, we also recognize our benefactors who have helped in more ways than one;

- The Salleh Marican Foundation
- Mr Wong Weng Sun, who is also our 2024 Lifetime Achievement Award recipient
- Muslim Kidney Action Association (MKAC)

Let's put our hands together and give them a round of applause.

In 2024, NSCS launched the Community Safety Framework for a pervasive safety culture in Singapore. We called it a Safety Collective, bringing together the Ministry of Manpower, Workplace Safety and Health Council (WSHC), professionals and other like-minded organisations like:

- Fire Safety Managers' Association Singapore (FSMAS)
- Singapore Institution of Safety Officers (SISO)
- Jurong-Clementi-Bukit Batok Town Council (JCBBTC)
- National University of Singapore (NUS) and others

To focus on promoting safety across all areas of life, including workplaces, homes, recreational activities, sports, and the wider community.

This evening, we also thank the following corporate sponsors for their generous contributions:

- Singapore Institution of Safety Officers (SISO)
- Fire Safety Managers' Association Singapore (FSMAS)
- Institute of Ergonomics & Hygiene
- Messe Düsseldorf Asia (MDA)
- Nineteen APAC
- World of Safety and Health Asia (WSHAsia)

I believe we are familiar with this proverb:

“It takes a village to raise a child”

In the same way, it takes many communities to build a nation. This Safety Collective is in action and continues to grow. By coming together, we create a ripple effect of positive change that cohesively strengthens communities, saves lives, and defines our future as a country, a nation.

NSCS is proud to take the lead to embrace this partnership and support a platform that amplifies safety as a shared responsibility.

With this, I would like to thank everyone for your support in coming together to celebrate this special occasion. As a little token of appreciation, we are giving every guest tonight a special commemorative issue of an E-Z Link Card with a cash value of \$5 each. So, as they say:

“Don't leave home without it”

Citation for Er. Ho Siong Hin: Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient read by Mr Ameer Ali Abdeali, Hon President @ NSCS Safety Commendation Awards Presentation Ceremony and Dinner (10 Feb 2026)

Ameer Ali Abdeali

Er. Ho Siong Hin is one of Singapore's most distinguished leaders in Workplace Safety and Health (WSH), whose career has been defined by steadfast commitment, principled leadership, and transformative impact. Over more than three decades of public service, he has shaped the direction, standards, and culture of safety in Singapore with vision, discipline, and deep conviction.

As Commissioner for Workplace Safety and Health at the Ministry of Manpower, Er. Ho provided decisive stewardship during a pivotal period in Singapore's WSH evolution. He played an instrumental role in advancing the implementation of the WSH Act, steering Singapore away from a prescriptive regulatory model towards a progressive, risk-management and prevention-centred framework aligned with global best practices. Under his leadership, national enforcement strategies grew more robust, root-cause investigations became more rigorous, and high-risk industry interventions were strengthened.

Er. Ho has also been a key architect behind many of Singapore's most influential national safety programs. His contributions to the Vision Zero movement, bizSAFE enhancements, and sector-specific capability-building initiatives have reached thousands of companies and workers, raising competencies and embedding a culture

of ownership across the industry. His work with the WSH Council and the WSH Institute further broadened Singapore's safety ecosystem by integrating research, education, and industry partnership into a cohesive national strategy.

Beyond policy and enforcement, Er. Ho has been a respected mentor to generations of WSH officers, inspectors, and safety professionals. He is admired for his integrity, his balanced approach of firmness and empathy, and his unwavering insistence that every worker deserves to return home safe and healthy. Whether engaging industry leaders, guiding complex investigations, or championing workplace well-being, he has exemplified the highest ideals of public service.

Today, even after his tenure in the public sector, Er. Ho continues to contribute through advisory, governance, and organisational leadership roles, reflecting his enduring passion for advancing safety and health for every worker in Singapore.

In recognition of his outstanding contributions, exemplary leadership, and lifelong dedication to the advancement of Workplace Safety and Health, the National Safety Council of Singapore is proud to present the Lifetime Achievement Award to Er. Ho Siong Hin — a visionary reformer, a trusted steward of Singapore's WSH landscape, and a true champion of safe and healthy workplaces for all.

Thank you

Acceptance Speech by Er. Ho Siong Hin for receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Safety Council of Singapore at the NSCS Safety Commendation Awards 2026

Er. Ho Siong Hin

GUEST-OF-HONOUR Mr Dinesh Vasu Dash, Minister of State for Culture, Community, and Youth and Manpower and Mayor of South East District, Honorary President of NSCS Mr Ameer Ali Abdeali, President of NSCS Mr Ong Pak Shoon, distinguished colleagues, fellow champions of workplace safety and health, and partners and friends in our safety journey.

I stand before you profoundly honored and deeply humbled. This moment feels surreal as I accept this recognition from NSCS before such esteemed OSH professionals, including my peers, mentors, and collaborators who have shaped my journey.

This award transcends individual recognition. It represents our collective power and shared vision where every worker returns home safely each day. It validates decades of collaboration and countless conversations with those who refused to accept that workplace fatalities were inevitable.

Together, we've witnessed a remarkable transformation. The numbers tell our story—workplace fatality rates plummeted from 4.9 per 100,000 workers in 2004 to 1.1 in 2019, and are now below 1.0.

More importantly, behind these statistics are real families who didn't lose loved ones, children who grew up with their parents, and communities that remained whole.

This progress stems from unwavering collaboration and relentless innovation. I'm grateful to industry partners who embraced change despite significant challenges,



to frontline safety officers who implemented changes with unwavering passion, and to researchers who continuously pushed safety science boundaries.

To my government colleagues, thank you for visionary policy leadership and steadfast regulatory support. To industry captains who invested heavily in safety infrastructure, your commitment was instrumental in this transformation. To safety professionals and trainers who work tirelessly in the field, you are the unsung heroes of our movement. To workers who embraced new practices and became safety advocates, this award belongs to you as well.

Leadership in safety isn't about individual glory. It's about fostering shared responsibility in environments where everyone prioritises safety. I have tremendous hope for future achievements when I consider the young safety professionals who will carry this torch forward with their boundless energy, fresh perspectives, and technological expertise.

The future of our OSH industry presents both exciting opportunities and formidable challenges. We're entering an era defined by artificial intelligence, climate-impacted work environments, and aging workforces. Our hard-earned lessons about collaboration and evidence-based approaches will prove crucial as we foster innovation whilst maintaining our human-centered safety philosophy.

The National Safety Council of Singapore has consistently created platforms for meaningful collaboration and championed safety excellence across all industries. Your unwavering commitment to advancing workplace safety standards has been one of the contributions among many others to our collective success.

I have absolute confidence that NSCS will continue to play an important role in our industry's evolution, providing the leadership and collaborative platforms necessary for adaptation and growth. Your relentless commitment to excellence sets the standard for safety organisations worldwide.

For me, this award marks renewed commitment rather than a conclusion. My role now evolves from direct implementation to mentorship and knowledge transfer, ensuring that decades of institutional knowledge are preserved and enhanced by the next generation of safety leaders.

This recognition reinforces our collective mission to continuously enhance workplace safety standards. We cannot afford complacency. We all know that every workplace incident serves as a stark

reminder that our work continues with urgency. We must relentlessly strive for excellence and push the boundaries of what's possible in workplace safety.

The future of WSH depends entirely on our sustained commitment to excellence and our ability to work seamlessly together across sectors, borders, and disciplines. Together with NSCS's continued commitment, we will create safer workplaces not just for today, but for generations to come.

Thank you for this prestigious award and for NSCS's unwavering dedication to workplace safety excellence. I'm deeply proud to be part of the journey that has fundamentally shaped Singapore's WSH landscape alongside this remarkable organisation. Let us recommit ourselves to our sacred mission: ensuring every worker has the fundamental right to return home safely.

Thank you

NSCS SAFETY COMMENDATION AWARDS PRESENTATION CEREMONY AND DINNER 2026



GUEST-OF-HONOUR
Mr Dinesh Vasu Dash
Minister of State

Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth
and Ministry of Manpower
Mayor of South East District

Venue:

De Villa Hall, Centrium Square
320 Serangoon Road, #02-14
Singapore 218108

Date: 10 Feb 2026

Time: 6.30 pm (Sharp)

NSCS Safety Commendation Awards 2026—Event Report

Abdul Aziz Yusof

Event Overview

The NSCS Safety Commendation Awards 2026 marks the inaugural awards ceremony organised by the National Safety Council of Singapore (NSCS). The event recognizes individuals and organizations for their outstanding contributions toward advancing workplace and community safety in Singapore.

This milestone initiative reflects a collective commitment to strengthening a sustainable national safety culture, with proceeds supporting NSCS's ongoing safety advocacy efforts.

Event Details

Venue	De Villa Ballroom, Centrium Square 320 Serangoon Road #02-14, Singapore 218108
Guest of Honor	Dinesh Vasu Dash - Minister of State, Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth & Ministry of Manpower
Event Type	Awards Ceremony
Date	Tuesday, 10 February 2026
Time	6:00PM to 9:30PM

Key Awards & Recognition

- Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient:
Er. Ho Siong Hin
This prestigious award honors individuals whose exceptional leadership, dedication, and influence have significantly shaped the safety and health landscape in Asia.
- Other Recognitions
 - Workplace Safety & Health (WSH) Commendation Awards
 - Benefactor Awards
 - Corporate Sponsor Appreciation

Sponsors & Benefactors

- Benefactors
 - Muslim Kidney Action Association (MKAC)
 - Salleh Marican Foundation
 - Wong Weng Sun (Mr)
- Corporate Sponsors
 - Singapore Institution of Safety Officers (SISO)
 - Fire Safety Managers' Association (FSMAS)
 - Institute of Ergonomics and Hygiene (IEH)
 - Messe Düsseldorf Asia (MDA)
 - Nineteen APAC

Event Highlights

- Performances
 - APSN Performances: Featuring both students and adult performers
 - Live Band
- Catering
 - Food and refreshments were provided by Hamidah Kitchen (D'Villa)
- Commemorative Gifts
 - Distribution of 120 EZ-Link cards, each preloaded with \$5 value as door gifts for attendees

Purpose & Impact

The awards ceremony serves to:

- Recognize excellence in safety leadership and practices
- Promote a holistic safety culture across workplace and community
- Encourage continued collaboration among industry stakeholders
- Support NSCS's mission in advancing national safety awareness and advocacy

Conclusion

The inaugural NSCS Safety Commendation Awards 2026 successfully brought together industry leaders, organizations, and community stakeholders to celebrate excellence in safety. It reinforces Singapore's commitment to building a resilient and forward-looking safety ecosystem.

Safety Collective Post-Event Report & President of Fire Safety Managers' Association of Singapore

Report

Ms Ariel Tan

The **Safety Collective Event 2025**, organised by the **National Safety Council of Singapore (NSCS)**, held within **The Health & Safety Event Asia 2025**, brought together industry leaders in health and safety in Singapore to explore developments in public safety and evolving safety challenges.



The event welcomed 195 attendees from organisations such as Sport Singapore, Singapore Police Force, SMRT, ST Engineering, Singapore Heart Foundation, and many more. The audience represented a diverse range of sectors, including facilities management, hospitality and leisure, transport, and others. The conference featured a series of keynote presentations and concluded with an engaging roundtable discussion, involving audience participation.



Throughout the event, discussions explored the broader dimensions of safety beyond the workplace, with speakers highlighting topics such as safety in schools and at home. **Benedict Koh, President of the Fire Safety Managers Association of Singapore** shared:

"The conference is very valuable because it addresses safety in its broadest sense — from water safety to educating school children and beyond. Events like this help build a shared mindset and foster a strong, collective safety culture."



"The event also underscored the importance of platforms that allowed for collaboration and knowledge exchange across the industry. As **Danny Ong, Founder of SG Project Silent** noted:

"It is a very rich environment where we can share best practices and common ideas on how to make our community safer for the future. The engagement was very positive — not only did participants ask questions, they also proactively shared ideas and perspectives. This contributed meaningfully to the panel discussions as well as to conversations during the networking sessions."

The Safety Collective Event will return as part of The Health & Safety Event Asia 2026. Stay tuned for more updates.

For more information:

Ariel Tan

Marketing Manager
Nineteen APAC
O: +65 6031 1339



Urgent Call for Open Water Safety Education in Singapore by SG Project Silent

Danny Ong

Despite Singapore's developed status, comprehensive open water safety education and awareness are critically lacking. Existing resources are underutilized, failing to translate intent into impactful public outreach.

Recent, tragic incidents underscore this failure:

May 2022, Oct 2023

Drownings involving Maritime personnel and a recreational swimmer, highlighting fatal flaws in life vest usage and equipment failure.

Dec 2023, Apr 2025

Singaporeans drowned in regional waters after ignoring warnings and misjudging conditions.

These recurring fatalities demonstrate an urgent need for systemic intervention beyond traditional, linear safety analysis, which fails to address the complexity and unpredictability of open water environments (Goh, Brown, & Spickett, 2010).

The Public is Unprepared: Most citizens do not proactively seek or apply essential water safety knowledge before engaging in open water activities. This lack of preparation directly contradicts the components of water competency, such as coping with risk and knowledge of local hazards (Stallman, et al., 2017).

SG Project Silent's Proactive Solution

SG Project Silent will adopt an evidence-based, systemic approach to drive open water safety education in 2026.

We introduce the Plan, Check, and Go framework, a structured, continuous safety process designed to encourage proactive behavior change.

This aligns with:

1. Systemic Safety Thinking: Moving beyond simple causality to address complex, unpredictable open water risks.

2. Neurological Behaviors Models: The concept mirrors the effective "Think Safe, Play Safe, Stay Safe" slogan (adapted with permission from Sport Singapore) and the WSH Council's "Look, Think, Do" educational reminder.

Plan, Check, and Go provides a simple, scientifically proven framework to embed crucial safety thinking into our community, shifting the focus from reaction to prevention.

The Safety Message

Plan

Check

GO

Planning for Systemic Safety

The article notes that poor safety is often a "by-product of the systemic structure" created "unknowingly" by the joint actions of different parties. This highlights the danger of relying on ad hoc or event-driven reactions.

The Plan phase requires a deliberate, structured approach to anticipating risks, defining procedures, and establishing clear roles before a situation arises. It is a phase before the implementation of open water activities.

In water safety, this means planning for systemic factors like equipment maintenance, staff-to-swimmer ratios, lifeguard training competency, and effective emergency protocols, moving beyond just individual competence.

A knowledge source that is applicable to everyone: newcomers, season users, and maritime shore-based personnel.

Newcomers

1. Conduct a self-competency check, health readiness, and operator's competency
2. Create (or are aware) of the risk assessment and safety plan
3. Buddy system is a must
4. Communication plan
5. Know the activity road map planned by the organiser/operator

Season Users

1. Create (or are aware) of the risk assessment and safety plan
2. Buddy system is a must
3. Communication plan
4. Create the activity road map

Maritime Shore-based Personnel

1. Create (or are aware) of the risk assessment and safety plan
2. Buddy system is a must
3. Communication plan
4. Create the work activity schedule and plan

**The list can be added, but restricted to 5 or less to prevent information overload that will result in less effectiveness for any safety model or message.*

Monitoring and Systemic Diagnosis

The conclusion states that traditional causal analysis is "less effective in representing the complex interactions" and recommends systems thinking tools like causal loop diagrams to understand the "systemic structure that contributed to the incident".

The Check phase is the mechanism for the recommended systems analysis. It demands continuous monitoring of both system inputs (e.g., training effectiveness, equipment condition) and outcomes (e.g., near-miss data, adherence to procedures). This process allows for the identification of "emerging problems" and the detrimental "amalgamation of the reactions of different parties" before they result in a major incident, preventing the issue seen in the Bellevue case study. The Check phase can be a continuous spectrum of safety attitude, ensuring adequate measurement and resource are being established to reduce risk in the activity or work.

Newcomers

1. Ensure weather & sea conditions are being checked before engaging in activities
2. Ensure equipment is checked for serviceability before engaging in activities
3. Ensure next of kin or someone is being informed about your duration and the plan of the activity
4. Ensure Personal Floatation Device (PFD) is fitted correctly and worn before engaging in activities
5. Never venture alone

Season Users

1. Ensure weather & sea conditions are being checked before engaging in activities
2. Ensure equipment is checked for serviceability before engaging in activities
3. Ensure next of kin or someone is being informed about your duration and the plan of the activity
4. Ensure Personal Floatation Device (PFD) is fitted correctly and worn before engaging in activities
5. Never venture alone

Maritime Shore-based Personnel

1. Ensure weather & sea conditions are being checked before commencing work
2. Ensure equipment is checked for serviceability before commencing work
3. Ensure next of kin or someone is being informed about your duration and the plan of the work
4. Ensure Personal Floatation Device (PFD) is fitted correctly and worn before commencing work
5. Never venture alone

**The list can be added, but restricted to 5 or less to prevent information overload that will result in less effectiveness for any safety model or message.*

Effective, Adaptive Intervention

The article advocates for interventions that "improve risk management capacity rather than event-level interventions" and a better understanding to "facilitate the design of more effective safety culture interventions".

The final Go phase is where the systemic learning from the "Plan" and "Check" phases is applied. It ensures that safety measures are adaptive and focused on improving the underlying "systemic structure"—the safety culture and risk management capacity—rather than simply punishing or addressing the immediate symptom of a single event. For water safety, this could mean adjusting operational procedures based on near-miss trend analysis (a systemic factor) rather than just retraining a single lifeguard involved in a minor incident (an event-level intervention). It becomes a personal and shared responsibility. It can also be a proactive attitude at the execution phase of activity and work.

Newcomers

1. Ensure a communication device (waterproof) is working and secure to your availability
2. Stay vigilant and alert during the course
3. Look after each other's well-being and safety
4. When in doubt in an uncertain condition, such as weather change, return back immediately

Season Users

1. Ensure a communication device (waterproof) is working and secure to your availability
2. Stay vigilant and alert during the course
3. Look after each other's well-being and safety
4. When in doubt in an uncertain condition, such as weather change, return back immediately

Maritime Shore-based Personnel

1. Ensure a communication device (waterproof) is working and secure to your availability
2. Stay vigilant, alert, and apply Safe Work Procedure (SWP) during work
3. Look after each other's well-being and safety
4. When in doubt in an uncertain condition/situation, such as weather change, radio supervisor/evacuate immediately

**The list can be added, but restricted to 5 or less to prevent information overload that will result in less effectiveness for any safety model or message.*

By institutionalizing a Plan, Check, and Go framework, water safety organizations and individuals move from a reactive, linear safety model to a proactive, systematic-thinking approach, directly addressing the research article's core finding that safety is a systemic property that must be actively managed.

Plan, Check, and Go is encouraged to become a way of life or habit for those who engage in activities in an open water environment. Cultivate a safety mindset that leads a safety lifestyle, be it at work or in recreational activities.

“Anyone can drown, no one should.”

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- <https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/se-asia/singaporean-man-drowns-near%20island-in-johor-after-swimming-in-sea>
- <https://www.channelnewsasia.com/singapore/coroner-lifevest-use-drown%20body-found-batam-3623366>
- <https://www.channelnewsasia.com/singapore/kayaker-died-drowned%20waters-sentosa-life-jacket-came-coroner-inquiry-4456791>



Water Safety is a Shared Responsibility

ANYONE CAN DROWN, NO ONE SHOULD. 珍愛生命，預防溺水。SESIAPA SAHAJA BOLEH LEMAS, TIADA SIAPA YANG HARUS.
யார் வேண்டுமானாலும் மூழ்கலாம், யாரும் மூழ்கக்கூடாது.

Strengthening Community Safety: A Collaborative Effort by Jurong- Clementi-Bukit Batok Town Council and the National Safety Council of Singapore

Jurong-Bukit Batok Town Council

Creating a safe and resilient community requires more than infrastructure—it depends on active collaboration, awareness, and the shared commitment of residents and partners alike.

In recent months, the JRBBTC has been working closely with the National Safety Council of Singapore (NSCS) to promote fire safety awareness through a series of Love Our Estate events held across the estates.

These community events provided a valuable platform to engage residents directly on the importance of fire prevention in residential settings, an issue that remains highly relevant in densely populated urban environments.



Raising Awareness Through Community Engagement

Residential fires can have distressing consequences, often arising from preventable causes such as unattended cooking, faulty electrical appliances, or improper storage of flammable materials.



Recognising this, JRBBTC partnered with NSCS to bring targeted educational outreach into the heart of neighbourhoods.

As part of the Love Our Estate initiative, NSCS participated in several events, contributing their expertise and resources to promote safer living practices. Their involvement underscored the importance of partnerships between community organizations and safety organizations in building a culture of prevention.



Expert-led Talks for Residents

A key feature of the collaboration was the deployment of experienced NSCS speakers, who conducted engaging and informative talks during the events. These sessions were carefully designed to resonate with residents of all ages, combining practical advice with real-life examples.

Residents were also guided on simple yet effective steps they can take to reduce fire risks, such as regular checks of household wiring, avoiding overloading sockets, and ensuring escape routes are clear and accessible.

Encouraging Preparedness and Responsibility

Beyond raising awareness, the initiative aimed to instil a sense of personal responsibility and readiness among residents. By equipping the community with knowledge and practical tips, the collaboration sought to reduce fire incidents and improve response outcomes in the event of an emergency.

Interactive elements during the sessions allowed residents to ask questions, share experiences, and better understand how to respond in fire-related situations. This two-way engagement made the sessions more impactful and helped reinforce key safety messages.



Building a Safer Community Together

The partnership between JRBTC and NSCS highlights the power of collaboration in community building. By bringing safety education closer to residents, the initiative not only enhanced awareness but also strengthened the bonds between organizations and the community they serve.

Moving forward, such efforts will continue to play an important role in fostering a proactive safety culture. Through ongoing engagement and education, residents can be empowered to take small but meaningful actions that collectively contribute to a safer living environment for all.

Follow us for more event updates:



<https://www.facebook.com/JurongClementiBukitBatokTC>

<https://www.instagram.com/jrbtc>



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 **10–11 September 2026**  **Marina Bay Sands, Singapore**

Conference Programme

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The Asia Workplace Safety & Health Exchange brings together industry leaders, policymakers and workplace safety professionals to explore emerging challenges and practical solutions shaping the future of work.

DAY 1

Safety in a Changing World of Work



Morning



WSH for the Ageing Workforce

Afternoon



Advanced Safety Solutions

DAY 2

Health, Resilience and Well-being at Work



Morning



Workplace Mental Health

Afternoon



Heat Resilience in a Warming World

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