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COVER STORY: The Helix



Samwoh Corporation bags a hat-trick of top green awards

Samwoh Corporation, a leading infrastructure construction specialist and supplier of green products won three green awards at the national level this year. These awards represent the highest form of recognition given to an organisation for its leadership in driving the sustainability movement in the country.

Samwoh was crowned a Top Achiever in the Singapore Environmental Achievement Awards 2010 (SEAA 2010) which were presented in early August at the Singapore Green Summit 2010. The Guest of Honour at the event was Dr Yaacob Ibrahim, Minister for the Environment and Water Resources. This year, the SEAA was jointly organised by Singapore Environment Council (SEC) and Singapore Manufacturers' Federation (SMa), with the support of National Environment Agency (NEA).

The award, in its 14th year, is one of the most prestigious environmental awards in Singapore, and the selection of a winner is based on a holistic assessment of the company, including its overall management systems, performance, environmental initiatives, and awareness within an organisation. The focus is on the leadership displayed by the company, the environmental improvements made, as well as the ability of the company to establish procedures, provide training to employees, and to innovate, in order to achieve environmental breakthroughs.

'We are really proud and honoured to receive such a prestigious award as the SEAA 2010. As a Singapore company that has been around for more than 35 years, we have always believed in doing our part to be socially responsible to the environment and also our future generations. This award has made all our efforts worthwhile and we will strive harder to promote recycling and green concepts in all our businesses', said Mr Elvin Koh, Managing Director, Samwoh Corporation Pte Ltd.

Earlier this year, the company was thrust into the limelight, with a breakthrough application of green construction materials in the Samwoh Eco-Green Building, its research-cum-



At the presentation of the SEAA Top Achiever Award are, from right, Dr Yaacob Ibrahim, Minister for the Environment and Water Resources; Mr Elvin Koh, Managing Director, Samwoh Corporation; Ms Isabella Loh, Chairman, SEC; and Mr George Huang, President, SMA.



The senior management and staff of Samwoh Corporation with the SEAA Top Achiever Award at the Singapore Green Summit 2010.

office facility. It is said to be the first building in the region to use up to 100% recycled concrete aggregate (RCA) in concrete.

RCA is construction and demolition waste that has been processed to make it suitable for reuse in concrete. The

use of RCA in building construction helps to reduce the country's reliance on imported natural aggregates while also reducing the demand for landfill area. As part of a research funded by the Ministry of National Development and jointly carried out with the Building

and Construction Authority (BCA) and Nanyang Technological University (NTU), the building is fitted with sensors for long-term monitoring of its structural health and serves as a test-bed for the construction industry.

In May this year, the building was awarded a Green Mark Platinum Award at the BCA AWARDS 2010. The Green Mark Platinum Award is the highest accolade given to a building under a benchmarking scheme that incorporates internationally recognised best practices in environmental design and performance.

'The Eco-Green Building shows us that using up to 100% RCA in building construction is possible, both technically and practically. We have shown it and we have done it. We are currently sharing our knowledge and experience by opening up our R&D Center to the public for educational tours. We hope it will change the mindset of our engineers and they will embrace the use of such green material', said Dr Ho Nyok Yong, Technical Director, Samwoh Corporation.

Also in May 2010, the company was named Top Winner at the inaugural

Singapore Outstanding Sustainability Awards (OSA) 2010, under the Enterprise Green Technology/Service Enabler category. The awards, organised by the Singapore Business Federation (SBF), are aimed at promoting sustainable green practices such as recycling and energy

efficiency across all industries.

Through its enthusiasm and perseverance in sustainable development, coupled with its technological innovations, Samwoh Corporation is making a significant contribution towards the creation of a 'zero waste' country.



Mr Elvin Koh receiving the Green Mark Platinum Award from Ms Grace Fu, Senior Minister of State for National Development and Education, at the BCA AWARDS 2010.



Mr Elvin Koh receiving the Singapore Outstanding Sustainability Award 2010, from Mr Sam Tan, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Trade and Industry & Ministry of Information, Communication and the Arts.



The Samwoh Eco-Green Building.