

MEDAL OF COMMENDATION

Ong Kim Pong

Regional Chief Executive Officer, Southeast Asia
PSA International

Nominated by the Singapore Port Workers Union

Ong Kim Pong has been instrumental in strengthening the harmonious labour-management relations between PSA Singapore and its two unions. He has regular communication sessions on several platforms including meetings, gatherings and annual seminars to seek their feedback and buy-in, especially regarding organisational changes.

The last two years have been challenging for the maritime industry. Brother Kim Pong worked with the unions and rallied the workforce to ensure that employees remained safe and healthy and the port continued operations 24/7 without interruption, earning Singapore the reputation of being a “catch up” port for shipping lines.

Under his leadership, PSA celebrated the opening of Tuas Port last year, marking a new era in the development of Singapore’s maritime history. A key nucleus of the wider Tuas supply-chain and logistics ecosystem, Tuas Port consolidates Singapore’s position as a trade hub for the world. More than 800 workers have been successfully re-skilled and deployed to Tuas Port.

He also consistently engages the unions and workers in preparing the organisation for the future. An advocate of continuous skills-upgrading and lifelong learning, Brother Kim Pong chairs PSA’s SkillsFuture Council, a Company Training Committee-equivalent. This council holds regular meetings with Singapore Port Workers Union (SPWU) to discuss job redesign, training, and career development issues to ensure employees remain employable.

Brother Kim Pong is also passionate and deeply committed to employee well-being, leading the Health, Safety, Security and Sustainability (HSSS) council with union leaders to discuss workplace safety, security and initiatives. The council developed a ‘Healthy Longevity’ framework which encompasses a holistic overview of wellness (physically, mentally, and emotionally) to support all employees as they navigate the different phases of life, by introducing initiatives such as encouraging healthy lifestyles, good work-life balance, and even retirement planning for those aged 50 years and above.

A committed partner, Brother Kim Pong has fostered trust, communication and cooperation between the management and unions, the X-factor for PSA’s continuous success.