

MODEL WORKER

Toh Siew Yoke

Machine Operator
Markono Print Media Pte Ltd

Nominated by the Singapore Industrial & Services Employees' Union

Toh Siew Yoke works as a machine operator at Markono Print Media, and has been with the company since 1999. Despite her limited understanding of English, she has worked hard and persevered to obtain the Certificated IR Series Level 2 certification by Ong Teng Cheong Labour Leadership Institute and is even trained in Skills Gap and Training Needs Analysis for Worker 4.0.

Her long tenure in the company is a testament to her values and the broad range of experience, so much so that she can oversee the machine operations in multiple departments at her factory – from bookbinding to book covers and instructional manual folding.

After more than a decade of serving in the Singapore Industrial & Services Employees' Union (SISEU), she has flowed on from serving the union. But Sister Siew Yoke still continues to contribute in her capacity as counsellor of her branch. She gives branch officials advice on industrial matters and participates actively in negotiation exercises involving wages and staff policy changes. Her participation has been vital in ensuring positive and cohesive change management within Markono.

She is also an inspiration to many of the largely mature workforce in the company because she makes an effort to learn. An example was during the COVID-19 pandemic, when meetings could not occur physically. She taught herself to use tools such as video conferencing to engage with fellow union officials and members to continue assisting them.