

MEDAL OF COMMENDATION

Nelson Quek

Regional Chief Executive Officer Southeast Asia
PSA International

Nominated by the Singapore Port Workers Union.

Nelson Quek strongly believes in fostering strong labour-management relations, working hand-in-hand with unions, and addressing the relevant feedback in the workforce transition to Tuas Port.

He pioneered and spearheaded the overall design and delivery of Tuas Port. At the world's largest fully automated port, job redesign and ensuring that existing staff are reskilled and upskilled are key to the successful transition. This was a laborious process, but one that he took to with grace as he addressed the unions' concerns to tweak and review different initiatives to facilitate a smooth transition.

One such job redesign was reskilling Container Equipment Specialists (CES) to take on the Automated Equipment Specialist (AES) role. The AES manages automated crane operations from an office environment instead of at the wharf. In designing the office at Tuas, Brother Nelson ensured that special attention was given to the ergonomics of desktops and consoles to maximise staff comfort.

His dedication to enhancing the work prospects of employees is fuelled by his desire to ensure higher and more sustainable wages for workers. He believes that reskilling and upskilling allow workers to increase their productivity and subsequently grow their salaries.

As PSA moved to Tuas Port, he was keenly aware of sentiments on the ground. He worked closely with the unions to have a clear line of feedback from the workers and addressed their concerns.

One key concern close to the unions' heart was the commute to Tuas. Brother Nelson was critical in developing transportation options such as the Regional Pick Up (RPU) transport network across the island to transport workers to and from Tuas Port.

He also sits on the Tripartite Committee for Tuas Port Home-Work Connectivity, where he continuously advocates for greater connectivity for Tuas Port and the entire Tuas ecosystem.

Brother Nelson involved the unions in every step of the journey towards Tuas, ensuring that the workers' perspective was considered. He worked tirelessly to create a harmonious workplace environment that prioritised the welfare of its employees.

By establishing open lines of communication, he fosters a spirit of cooperation between PSA & its unions.