

PARTNER OF LABOUR MOVEMENT

Kenneth Wong

Director

Tourism Division, Workforce Singapore

Nominated by the Food, Drinks and Allied Workers Union

Kenneth Wong has led several initiatives to support improving workers' wages in the hotel sector. The initiatives include sustained engagement with tripartite partners such as the Singapore Tourism Board (STB), Singapore Hotel Association (SHA) and the Food, Drinks and Allied Workers Union (FDAWU) in the quarterly Human Tripartite Capital Meetings (HCTM).

In November 2022, Workforce Singapore (WSG) worked with FDAWU, SHA and STB on an engagement session with hotels to discuss compensation and benefits strategies to uplift workers' wages in the hotel industry so that the industry continues to be a sector of choice for job seekers.

During the pandemic, WSG collaborated with FDAWU, STB and SHA to enhance the Jobs Redesign Reskilling (JRR) Programme. The enhanced JRR Programme helped hotels use the lull period to redesign and transform jobs into attractive, meaningful, and sustainable careers. Hotels that tapped into the programme received salary support for workers, which enabled companies to hold onto their workers while sending them for training and upgrading for bigger and better roles.

Brother Kenneth's consultative approach enabled FDAWU to showcase the union's value to employers in the hotel industry. WSG worked in close partnership on initiatives such as the Hotel Job Redesign Initiative, which promoted the transformation of jobs and the creation of better work prospects for Singaporean workers. Under Brother Kenneth's guidance, his team at WSG proactively engages FDAWU on WSG programmes that would enhance the worker's prospects. One example is the inclusion of FDAWU's inputs into refreshing the Hotel Career Conversion Programme.