



Proud moment: MEF's 2010 Safety Award winners posing for a group photograph with (from fourth right) Mohd Sahar, MEF council member Tan Sri Mohd Yusof Hitam and Soong.

Seven workplace fatalities

14 cases of permanent disabilities recorded first half of the year

SEVEN people have died in workplace accidents in Perak in the first six months of the year.

Human Resources Minister Datuk Dr S. Subramaniam said 14 others sustained permanent disabilities from the 235 workplace accidents recorded in the state during the period.

He said employers and employees must be committed to minimise accidents in their workplace.

He said the safety aspect of the working environment had often been overlooked although the workforce was an asset to any organisation.

"There is a need to inculcate and

promote continuous improvement of safe work practices and environment together with good working conditions.

"This is because an unsafe workplace not only results in accidents and loss of lives but also the loss of skilled workers," he said.

"It also means that additional cost and time would be incurred in training new workers," he said in his speech at the Malaysian Employers Federation's (MEF) Perak branch annual dinner and 2010 Safety Awards presentation at Impiana Hotel in Ipoh recently.

His speech was read by the ministry's deputy secretary general Mohd Sahar Darusman.

Subramaniam said occupational safety and health were everyone's responsibility and every employer must be proactive and not wait for an industrial accident to occur before acting.

He said Perak's manufacturing sector had 7,249 registered factories with 25,645 machines.

He said periodic safety inspections had to be carried out to ensure employers provide safe machinery to avoid accidents.

MEF Perak branch chairman Soong Kok Hong said the branch advocated self-regulation by all parties rather than coercion by laws and regulations.

He said the branch had taken the

initiative to create a common public forum for all companies to motivate employees, who had contributed in the area of self-regulation on safe work place.

"It is our dream that Perak will one day be the forefront state in the country that has the safest work environment," he added.

The five employees who received the 2010 Safety Award were Choong Yoke Seng (Choo Bee Metal Industries Bhd), Mohd Aminuddin Alimun Poad (Mapa Gloves Sdn Bhd), Samsudin Samui (Boustead Naval Shipyard Sdn Bhd), Rajawasry Karuppiah (Hospital Fatimah) and Mohd Puzi Ramlan (UAC Bhd).