

OSH Pocketbook for SMEs: Different initiative taken to conduct Service Learning by UTM students

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Last semester (Sem 1, 2023-2024), the OSH in Industry course (Section 02) conducted their service learning in a project of producing OSH pocketbook for car automotive and kitchen based workplaces within the scale of small-medium industries (SMEs). The project is funded by the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA), besides receiving financial support from the UTM School of Undergraduate Studies (UTM UGS) and collaborated with SME Corp. Malaysia.

SMEs in Malaysia made up of 99% of business establishments and contributes to 80% of industrial accidents with 30%-50% accident rate higher than big companies. The main aim of this project is to produce OSH pocketbooks for SME industries, to provide a ready-reference text on wide range of OSH related hazards, including the operational nature, potential OSH hazards, HIRARC assessment, and practical counter-measures. After in-depth discussion with SME Corp. Malaysia (PIC: Mr. Czarif Chai Abdullah, Senior Director of Programme Coordination Division), we have narrowed down to car automotive and kitchen based operation only for this project since these two industries are the most common ones among the SMEs.

Students of the course were divided into two major team according to the type of industry they need to cover in this project. For kitchen, students visited Pulau Spring Resort, meanwhile the other team visited EON Auto Mart and Naz Automotive for car automotive. During the visit, students were given detailed descriptions about the different work stations and their associated process operation. Students also took the opportunity to collect data for thorough hazard and risk assessment besides requesting for other OSH related documents the companies can supplemented them with as reference to produce the pocketbook.

Once the pocketbook is done, it was sent to subject matter experts for review; one from Malaysian Industrial Hygiene Association and another from Levionics Sdn. Bhd. (consultant company). As a token of appreciation, each company involved in this project will be given a certificate and most importantly, the hardcopy of the pocketbook for their on-the-shelf quick and practical reference to assist them operating their workplace in safer and healthier conduct.



Students visit to Naz Automotive



Students visit to EON Auto Mart Service Centre



Students visit to kitchen area at Pulai Spring Resort



Cover page of pocketbook for kitchen industry

Among contents in the pocketbook for car automotive industry