

WORKING SMARTER, SAFER & EASIER

... WE HAVE RE-ENGINEERED AND RE-DESIGNED THE WAY WE DO OUR WORK - IMPROVING OUR PRODUCTIVITY AND AT THE SAME TIME MINIMISING OUR RELIANCE ON FOREIGN MANPOWER.

NEO SAY HWEЕ
Managing Director
Ho Eng Huat Construction Pte Ltd



Speak to landscape implementers and they will vehemently tell you that landscaping work can be rather labour-intensive and time-consuming. The use of traditional grass-cutting pruners adds to the risks landscape workers face particularly when they are trying to reach areas which are difficult to prune. And, with the stress on the back and the physical strain on the body from prolonged manual landscaping work, practically anyone will sustain work-related fatigue and injury.

The tightening of foreign manpower, and with Singaporeans shying away from manual landscape work, further compounded the problems and challenges landscape implementers face in their operations.

What ensues is lower productivity coupled with higher costs to finish the assigned landscaping tasks.



TIMELY SOLUTIONS

“Well, that scenario is now history. Along with the assistance of the Singapore Manual & Mercantile Workers’ Union (SMMWU) and with the introduction of three innovative machines that we bought from Jebsen & Jessen Technology, and the support of IGP, we have re-engineered and re-designed the way we do our work - improving our productivity and at the same time minimising our reliance on foreign manpower,” said an exultant Neo Say Hwee, the managing director of Ho Eng Huat Construction Pte Ltd.

Supporting automation and process redesign, and launched by the labour movement in 2010, the Inclusive Growth Programme (IGP) replaces the previous 5-year old Job Re-creation Programme. Touted to improve productivity efforts of low-wage workers with the use of measurable gauges of productivity, IGP encourages businesses (in this instance, the landscaping business) to become more productive by co-funding projects that seek to improve the value of low-wage jobs, raising the wages of the bottom 20% of the workforce that earns \$1,700 or less per month.

Here are the Fantastic Three that recently joined Mr. Neo’s landscaping workforce. Let’s see how they contributed to better landscaping work performances and increasing productivity that ultimately benefited both the company and their landscape workers.

AVANT COMPACT LOADER 750

More versatile than the conventional compact tractors, this powerful 4 wheel drive multi-purpose loader comes with a telescopic boom complete with a huge range of attachments to take on numerous applications.

“Now our landscaping workers can multi-task the daily landscaping and ground care tasks – do cleaning, excavating work and tree pruning - with ease and with increased productivity,” added Mr. Neo as he handed me a picture of the Avont Compact Loader 750.

“These tasks were previously done manually and labouriously, taking much longer time to finish.”

MCCONNEL ROBOCUT

This all-terrain grass-cutting machine, with its intuitive finger-tip controls, can be operated remotely from a safe distance of up to 150 metres. It covers an area five times larger than a manual grass-cutting pruner.

A smiling Mr. Neo said, “I personally tried using it. It is user-friendly and greatly reduces the risks of injury and incidents that our workers face when such tasks were done manually. We now deploy only two workers instead of five to a work site.”

TORO STX-26 STUMP GRINDER

“Our workers previously used chain saws to remove tree stumps, it was tedious and dangerous. With the Stump Grinder, our workers can operate the machine from a safe distance to reduce the stump to saw dust in a much shorter time than before, and this resulted in man-hours saving of up to 70%!”

I just cannot but agree with Mr. Neo that the Stump Grinder is indeed an incredible machine.

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER

When landscape implementers start adopting and implementing innovative technology, they will minimise their dependence on foreign manpower, and instead enjoy increased productivity and clients will benefit from their quality landscaping work.



Established in Hong Kong in 1895, Jebsen & Jessen South East Asia was founded by AP Jessen. Following its forays into Singapore and Malaysia on the 24 and 27 December 1963 respectively, the Group today is a S\$1.2 billion operation with entities in nine out of ten South East Asian countries.

Since its establishment, Jebsen & Jessen has forged alliances and strategic partnerships with global market leaders, facilitating and capitalizing on opportunities throughout South East Asia. As an industrial enterprise, Jebsen & Jessen’s business spans manufacturing, engineering and distribution activities with its core business units that include Cable Technology, Chemicals, Communications, Life Sciences, Material Handling, Offshore, Packaging and Technology.

The combined work force of more than 4,300 employees in more than 50 subsidiaries and associates have served over 20,000 customers in the region and beyond, and continue to do so with greater efficiency and innovative solutions that leverage on advanced technology.

Jebsen & Jessen Singapore office celebrates its 50th anniversary on the 24 December 2013, and what more appropriate than to complement the celebration with Christmas.



To know more what the Fantastic Three, contact: **Jebsen & Jessen Technology (Singapore)** Turf & Irrigation
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To know more about IGP, visit: <http://e2i.com.sg/employers/inclusive-growth-programme-igp/inclusive-growth-programme/>