

# Creating a smoke-free workplace

Companies work with Health Ministry on campaign to help smokers quit habit

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SEVERAL corporations have come together to encourage their employees to quit smoking in line with Malaysia's goal to be a smoke-free nation by 2045.

The Smoke-Free Workforce campaign has companies championing the cause by providing support in the form of health talks, a smoke-free work environment, counselling services and cessation programmes assisted by trained healthcare providers.

The campaign is led by Johnson & Johnson Sdn Bhd, supported by the Health Ministry and includes AIA Bhd, Sunway Group and AirAsia.

Johnson & Johnson Sdn Bhd Malaysia managing director Chin Keat Chyuan said the campaign aimed at creating an improved workforce which benefits both the employees and company.

"Nearly one in four individuals in the workforce are smokers (22.8%), which is equivalent to 4.9 million people in Malaysia," Chin said at the launch of the campaign at Sky Lounge, The Pinnacle Sunway in Bandar Sunway, Petaling Jaya.

"We aim to get about 2% of smokers to quit smoking every year," he added.

Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Subramaniam said smoking-related diseases were some of the leading causes of death in Malaysia for the past 30 years.

"The treatment of the diseases – mainly respiratory disorders,



Dr Chong conducting the panel discussion with the companies.

heart disease and lung cancer – costs the Government RM3.8bil a year.

"An estimated 20,000 Malaysians die of smoking-related diseases every year in our country and this leads to lower economic productivity," he said.

He added that he found most smokers were aware that smoking was harmful to their health.

"I hope Malaysian smokers will change and start living a healthy lifestyle through the campaign," he said.

The event ended with a panel discussion between the companies and the ministry's Disease Control Division director Dr Chong Chee Kheong.

Watch the video  
thestartv.com



(From left)  
AIA Bhd chief  
executive  
officer Anusha  
Thavarajah,  
Sunway Group  
chairman Tan Sri  
Dr Jeffery Cheah,  
Dr Subramaniam  
and Chin  
launching the  
Smoke-Free  
Workforce  
Campaign.  
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