Best Practices of SMEs
Adopting BCPs: An Extension from OSH Risk Management

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About SAHTECH

- The Safety and Health Technology Center, with most of its staff from the Industrial Technology Research Institute, was established in 2007 as an NGO providing occupational and industrial safety and health consulting services.

- SAHTECH staff’s first-hand experience with BCP was during the SARS epidemic in 2003.

- SAHTECH’s BCMS clients are primarily major hi-tech corporations.
The SMEWG Survey Results

TIER, a research institute in Chinese Taipei conducted a regional survey focusing on private SMEs’ preparedness against natural disasters in 2012. Major findings of the survey were:

- BCP development and awareness level of SMEs was low – 13% of the respondents had a BCP in place while 34.8% of the respondents intended to set up a BCP.
- Many SMEs relied on public support systems for BCP development.
- Lack of BCP knowledge and expertise was the major obstacle for SMEs' BCP development.
Risk Factors Affecting the Supply Chain

According to FM Global, risk factors affecting any supply chain are:

- Environmental – economic, social, governmental, and climate factors
- Market influence – market resilience of a supplier’s suppliers
- Business practices – financial and management stability, internal processes and corporate governance practices
- Physical plant – loss prevention measures

Certain factors such as business practices and physical plant are directly or indirectly related to a company’s OSH risk management.
The Extension of OSH RM to BCP

There exists a certain degree of similarities between OSH risk management and BCP since both address the following critical questions:

- What can go wrong?
- What are the causes?
- How likely?
- How bad?
- What is needed to reduce the likelihood and to mitigate the consequence if something does go wrong?
The Dandelion Project

- To enhance the protection of labors and to raise the employers’ awareness of accident prevention, the Ministry of Labor initiated the Dandelion Project with the 80,000+ SMEs in the manufacturing sector as the primary target.

- SAHTECH, acting as the Dandelion Project’s primary contractor along with the support from county and city governments, has conducted more than 60,000 on-site visits to assist SMEs in identifying occupational health and safety hazards, conducting risk assessments, and recommending risk control schemes since 2008.
Conclusion and Recommendation

- SAHTECH’s experience with the Ministry of Labor’s Dandelion Project reveals the fact that most Chinese Taipei SMEs are serious about their business prospects as well as employees’ safety and health but lack the knowledge and tools to effectively manage OSH risks. The same observation can be made about BCP implementation.

- The Small and Medium Enterprise Administration can adopt the Dandelion Project approach or even develop an interagency program to reach out to the vast SMEs to enhance BCP awareness and implementation capacity.