CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Engineering in construction has a multiple sector such as civil engineering, mechanical engineering, architecture, electrical engineering and others. It is an important role for this sector in the growth of economies in the countries throughout the world. The construction industry is one of the important sectors in Malaysia and contributes to the Gross Domestic product (GDP). The construction industry is a major employer of labour. In Malaysia, the construction industry is recognized as important sector in providing job opportunities to approximately 600,000 people.

In the positive effect there is a negative consequence arise from the growing of activities. The usage of various types of equipment and machinery could lead to the arising risk of accident and occupational safety and health if there are no prevention policies done by all the parties involved in order to control the risk. (Fong, 2000). Kines, Spangenberg, and Dyreborg (2007) stated that construction industry is considered to be the most hazardous industries because of its unique nature all around the world.

There are 25–40 percent of fatalities has been acknowledge in the world’s occupational settings are contributed by construction (ILO 2005). Besides, construction is generally one of the industries which fatal injuries happened most frequently and many researches and studies has shown that high percentage of fatal occupational injuries come from construction industry (Im et. al, 2009).

Safety and health at the construction site must be taken seriously because it involves the life of human. Hinze advocated the idea that safety is no luxury but a
necessity (Hinze, 2007). Every individual in life whether one is employed or not, both at the workplace and outside the workplace has the intrinsic need to be safe. (Kwayiba, 2009)

1.2 Background of the Study

Construction industry has been recognized as one of the dangerous and risky industries not only in Malaysia but also around the world. Construction workers are exposed to various hazard and threat at the workplace. Their health are at risk if many thing worse. Construction workers are exposed too many dangerous such as unpleasant dusts, fumes from burning processes, gases from combustion processes and geological formations, and large numbers of toxic chemicals. (Snashall, 1990)

Due to globalized economic trends, the subject of safety in the workplace has taken on such importance that international conventions instituted the international organization for standardization to help regulate and bring about improved workplace conditions and services (Zwetsloot, 2003). Safety and health in the workplace have become an integral component to the viability of business for employers, labour unions, governments, and environmentalists in general (Macintosh and Gough, 1998; Anderson and Gough 2004).

Until 1994, Malaysia still did not have adequate provisions to sure safety and health of employees at the workplace. On 25th February 1994, Occupational Safety and Health Act 1994 (OSHA) came in force providing protection on safety and health for work activities in all economic sectors including public services and statutory authorities, except those subjected to Merchant Shipping Ordinance and the armed forces. It is an Act to make further provisions for securing the safety, health and welfare of person at work. Act 514 is an enabling Act which is superimposed over existing safety and health legislation such as the Factories and Machinery Act 1967 (Act 139).

Act 514 provides the promotion, co-ordination, administration and enforcement for occupational safety and health. The Act places certain duties on employers, employees, self-employed persons, manufacturers, designers and suppliers. It also places emphasis on the prevention of accidents, ill health and injury. The long term goal
The objective of the Act is to create a healthy and safe working culture among all Malaysian employees and employers. (Bakri, Mohd Zin, Misnan, & Mohammed, 2006).

Under Section 15 (1) and (2) Occupational Safety and Health Act 1994, employers have a duty to ensure, as far as practicable, that employees are not exposed to any hazard at the workplace. According to industry experts many of these injuries and fatalities would be completely avoidable if only good safety practice were to be observed.

1.3 Problem Statement

In 20 years ago, the perspective of worker safety climate and how workers perceive the safety climate of their workplace was raised as an issue. All the workers must have a responsibility for every decision they make with regard to securing their own health and safety in every social setting. For example in Malaysia, incident of Penang second bridge collapse cause the instability of scaffolding.

To avoid any of an accident at the workplace, safety and health could be one of the crucial concerns of workers and employers. The responsibility to provide safety in an undertaking for the prevention of accidents lies in the hands of the employer. OSHA94 clearly define that “the management of safety and health at work place is the responsibility of those who create the risks and those who work with the risks”. Hence, the contractors practice on safety and health at construction is needed nowadays to avoid any injuries.

Workers must ensure that the working environment at workplace is safe and follow all regulation that has been set up by the government. Furthermore, workers must have awareness in their life about the important of safety and health at works. The knowledge in safety awareness among the workers at construction site is very important. The knowledge can be gain through training. According to Hinze, (1997) training should be at the core of every safety program.

Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) is one of the agencies that giving us realizing in important of safety and health in the construction industry, construction industry in Malaysia has team up with National Institute of Occupational