



World record bid to show safety is tops

A 5.8KM-LONG chain of 18,000 safety helmets was formed yesterday at Sentosa's Siloso beach in a bid by staff of Keppel Offshore & Marine (O&M) to set a Guinness world record.

There was a reason for it.

Said chairman and CEO Choo Chiau Beng: "The helmet is one of the most important personal protection gears and we recognise it as the icon for safety. The safety helmets used for our record attempt appropriately illustrate our commitment to safety."

Over 200 Keppel O&M staff, partners and sub-contractors pitched in over three working days to make it into the record books.

The attempt coincided with the company's family day celebration,

and was attended by Minister for Manpower Ng Eng Hen.

Underscoring its commitment to safety, the company's accident frequency rate – the number of accidents per million man-hours worked – fell to 0.22 this year. Last year, it was 1.2.

Dr Ng noted in his speech that despite rapid growth, the marine industry as a whole has improved in its safety and health performance. However, he said, "we should not rest and should not lessen our efforts until we bring the fatalities to a much lower level".

Three workers died recently in fires at Singapore shipyards, including one from Keppel Fels, the wholly owned offshore arm of Keppel O&M.

ST PHOTO: LAU FOOK KONG

RECORD-MAKING ATTEMPT: More than 200 Keppel Offshore & Marine employees worked over three days to put up a chain of 18,000 safety helmets spanning 5.8km all in a bid to set a Guinness world record and demonstrate the company's commitment to safety.