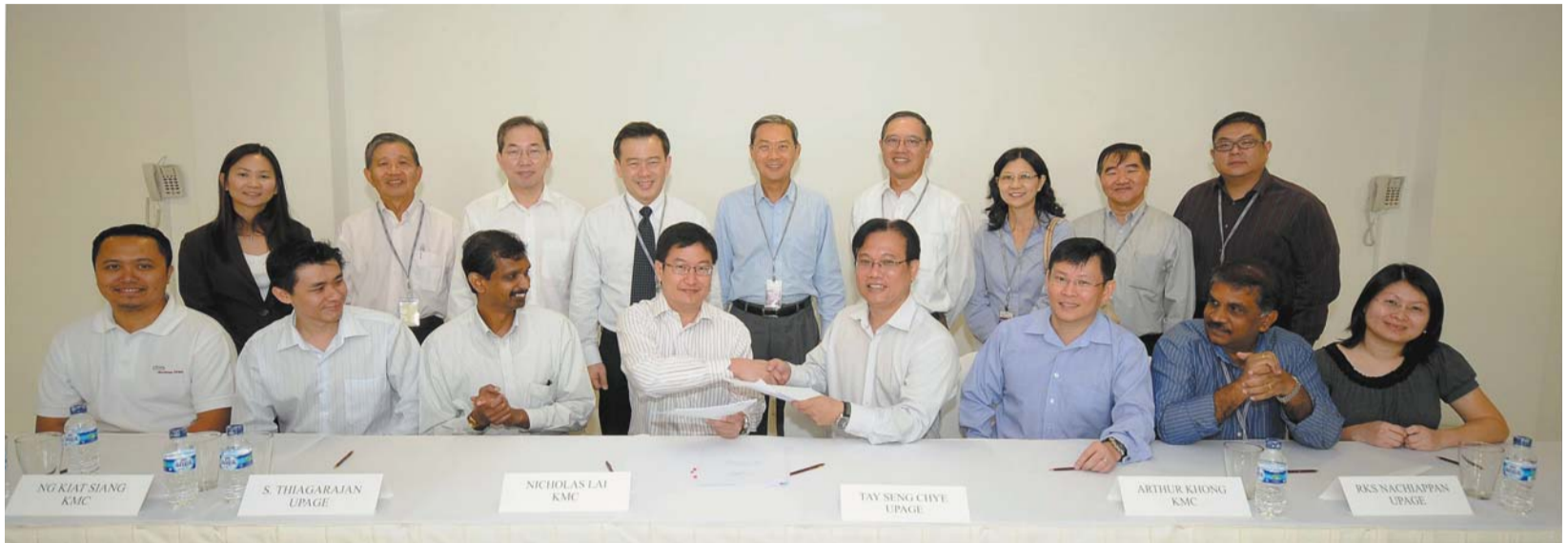


Keppel Merlimau Cogen Joins UPAGE Ranks



All smiles at the signing ceremony.

Keppel Merlimau Cogen got off to a good start this year when it became the newest addition to the Union Of Power And Gas Employees family of unionised companies. The company and UPAGE inked its first Collective Agreement on the morning of 14 January 2010 and in so doing sealed union-management relations.

Significantly, among those present to witness the signing ceremony held at the power station were UPAGE Advisor Sin Boon Ann

together with non-executive Chairman of Keppel Corporation Limited Dr Lee Boon Yang, Group Chief Executive Officer of Keppel Corporation Choo Chiau Beng and Managing Director of Keppel Energy Dr Ong Tiong Guan.

UPAGE General Secretary RKS Nachiappan said the high-level presence affirmed the importance Keppel Corporation placed on promoting strong union-management ties at its subsidiary. With good Labour-Management Relations in place, UPAGE looks forward

to deepening its engagement with Keppel Merlimau Cogen and adding value to members and the company.

A wholly-owned subsidiary of Keppel Energy, Keppel Merlimau Cogen manages a 500MW cogeneration plant on Jurong Island. Fuelled by natural gas, the company provides electricity to the Singapore market as well as providing utilities like steam, fire-fighting water and cooling water to industrial consumers on Jurong Island.

Call For Employers To Take Lead



By **Naseema Banu Maideen**

Employers must take up the leadership drive towards building a Cheaper Better Faster economy. Their role is vital to amplify the efforts of union leaders and the Government in being more productive, capable and adaptable. This is NTUC Secretary-General Lim Swee Say's call to the management leaders of 18 companies who came together for a breakfast dialogue organised by United Workers of Petroleum Industry on 18 January 2010.

Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports and UWPI Advisor Vivian Balakrishnan was also present.

Said SG Lim: "2010 will be a more challenging year and recovery will not be marked by strong growth and demand. Competitors who are cheaper than Singapore are getting better, while competitors who are better than Singapore are getting cheaper. Therefore, Singapore's strategy, to prevent itself from being squeezed by both types of competitors – will be to become Cheaper Better Faster than them."

In this light, management partners raised

concerns on factors that affected the industry's productivity such as land cost, land availability, electricity cost and labour shortage. They also shared on ideas to enhance productivity levels.

Said Mr Teo Lek Hong, Managing Director of Infineum Singapore Private Limited: "Although productivity should be increased in terms of goods production itself, there should also be productivity increase in other areas such as service by logistics and transportation providers.

"There is a model in Rotterdam, where there are shared services and utilities such as land space and electricity. Such models are worth exploring in Singapore to help the petrochemical industry reduce costs."

SG Lim assured that the Labour Movement will assist companies in linking up with suppliers for shared resources such as logistics.

He also called on union leaders to understand the challenges faced by the industry and management's efforts in trying to be more productive, capable and flexible. An enhanced understanding is important as union leaders play a key role in mobilising the ground to keep pace with employers' business speed, he added.



“ The key word is productivity. It is only through productivity that we can increase the returns of investment for the companies and hopefully increase wages for our workers. A high level of planning and thought is necessary to generate ideas on how to improve productivity. This is where enlightened management can work together with the unions and the Government in improving company performance ultimately.”

Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports and United Workers of Petroleum Industry Advisor