

# 'Promote ergonomics at workplace'

**PORT KLANG:** A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed yesterday by Samsung Electronics (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd (Sema), National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (Niosh) and three local universities to raise awareness of occupational safety and health in the manufacturing industry.

Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) and Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka (UTeM) are the three universities which will be involved in the research of ergonomics.

Niosh chairman Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye, who witnessed the signing ceremony, said the level of awareness, knowledge and implementation of ergonomics should be promoted and enhanced further, mainly by companies in the manufacturing sector.

He said cases of occupational diseases such as musculoskeletal disorder were increasing and it affected the work performance and productivity of an employee.

Lee said ergonomics, an applied science, ensured that work equipment was designed for maximum



**Samsung Electronics (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd's Ergo Lab engineers briefing Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye (right) on occupational safety and health in the manufacturing industry. Bernama pic**

productivity and this could create a productive, safe and conducive environment.

"According to Social Security Organisation (Socso) statistics, in 2013, out of a total of 2,360 occupational

disease cases, 694 were related to ergonomics. This means that for every four occupational hazard cases reported to Socso, one was related to ergonomics.

"A study conducted by Niosh's Ergonomics Excellence Centre showed that the compensation for ergonomics-related disorders is higher than the average.

"For example, it is RM5,016.30 per case (for ergonomics related cases) compared with the average cost of compensation which is RM4,445.90 per case.

"The right design of work stations, tools and machines will prevent accidents at workplace and improve the employees work performance and productivity," he said at Sema's headquarters.

He advised employers to appreciate the importance of ergonomics in improving the productivity of an employee, reducing medical bills and cutting down on sick leave.

At the event, Sema, UTM, UPM and UTeM signed a non-disclosure agreement to beef up various aspects of ergonomics through training modules, technology transfer and research and development.