SAFE TIME

Risky Woods

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IN each business, activity or job, there will be specific risks that arise from the activities. The principle of risk management is that those who create the risk should be the ones managing the risk responsibly so that parties involved in the activity can work safely.

Risk Assessment can be conducted quantitatively (using known objective numerical information), qualitatively (using subjective expert knowledge of the activity) or semi-quantitatively.

We can use a number of Hazard Evaluation tools such as Job Safety Analysis/Job Hazard Analysis, Hazard Identification, Risk Assessment and Risk Control (HIRARC), Chemical Health Risk Assessments (CHRA), Hazard and Operability (HAZOP) Studies, What-If Studies, and Failure Mode and Effect Analysis (FMEA) and Fault Tree Analysis. Each has its specific strength and uses but the fundamentals are the same.

Let us look at the basic steps in the Risk Management process.

Hazard Identification
Step 1: Identifying/classifying the activities
Step 2: Identify the hazards

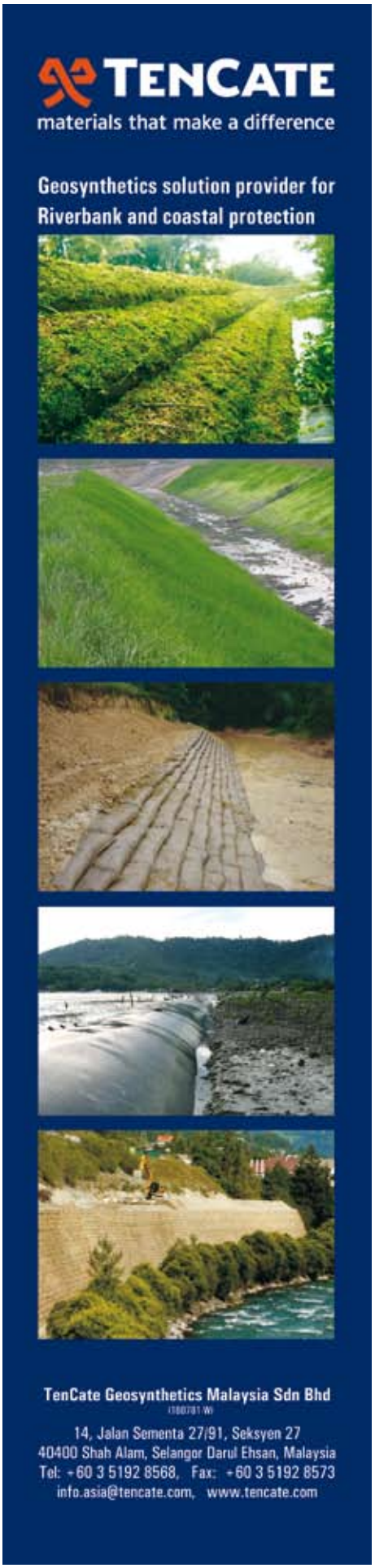
Risk Assessment
Step 3: Assess the Likelihood
Step 4: Assess the Severity
Step 5: Rank the risks

Control Measures / Hierarchy of Controls
Step 6: Control Measures

Implementation
Step 7: Assign responsibility
Step 8: Assign timeline for completion
Step 9: Keep proper documentation

Review
Step 10: Periodic review

Risk Assessment is usually done as a team with multi-functional experience in the activity. There should be inputs from management, employees, consultants and contractors leveraging on each other's experience.

To get more details regarding the Risk Management process, check out this link: *http://www.dosh.gov.my/Informasi/guidelines/gl_hirarc_bi.pdf*. We will look at Step 6: Control Measures in the next instalment. To help out on managing risks, e-mail me at: *pub@iem.org.my*. ■

> *A good loss prevention program controls the hazards as they are identified. A great loss prevention program controls the hazards in the conceptual stage.*