



May Day Awards sees two firms get Star plaque

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SINGAPORE — For the first time, the Plaque of Commendation — Star award has been given to two companies at the annual May Day Awards.

National water agency PUB and Murata Electronics were yesterday recognised for promoting good industrial relations and improving worker welfare.

PUB senior technical officer Tan Hooi Soon was one of many employees who benefited from the agency's programmes to enhance their career prospects.

It took him two years to make up his mind to go back to school — the 49-year-old had A-level qualifications and was worried he would not be able to balance the demands of work and lessons.

But, he finally took up the Diploma in Water Technology. His employer not only fully sponsored the diploma, but also allowed him a four-day work week so he could attend classes in the day on the extra day off.

"They also gave us monetary incentive — if you passed all the subjects within two semesters, they gave certain sums

to motivate you," he said.

PUB's director of human resources Lawrence Tan said: "The key thing we want to impress upon staff is that we must not be comfortable. We must always find opportunities to learn new things and new skills because in the water industry, there's always new technologies, new processes."

Other top recipients in this year's May Day Awards include the Housing and Development Board's chief executive officer Tay Kim Poh (picture).

A strong believer in productivity, he merged the finance and service counters at its branch offices to provide a one-stop service for customers. The result is 450 multi-skilled frontline staff.

"In the process, we have created a group who are very versatile and productive, and for themselves they benefit because now they are more capable," said Mr Tay.

In all, 88 outstanding individuals and companies were honoured at the May Day Awards — the most number of recipients since the awards were introduced in 1963.