

Accreditation scheme for cleaning services

A SCHEME to accredit cleaning service providers is on its way.

This was announced at Cleaners' Day yesterday as part of efforts to revamp the sector.

The government and the labour movement are trying to raise the productivity of low-wage workers and improve public hygiene standards here. One of the

initiatives towards these goals was a new voluntary accreditation scheme set up by the National Environment Agency to recognise cleaning service providers. These firms would be assessed on factors such as proper training of workers, effective use of proper equipment and good human resource practices.

Secondly, on the service

buyer level, the National Trades Union Congress' unit for contract and casual workers and e2i (Employment and Employability Institute) would be promoting best sourcing initiatives. The aim is for service buyers to award cleaning contracts based on quality of service, not only on price. So far, the take up has been strong among government

agencies such as the Ministry of National Development, Ministry of Education and the Housing and Development board, just to mention a few.

NTUC will also be setting up a \$2.5 million automation and mechanisation grant scheme, to encourage cleaning service providers to get accredited and defray the costs of new equipment.