

■ ACCREDITATION SCHEME TO IMPROVE CLEANING SECTOR

A voluntary accreditation scheme was launched yesterday to improve the cleaning industry in Singapore.

It aims to recognise firms that deliver high standards of cleaning through proper training of workers, the use of proper equipment and good human resource practices.

Cleaning service providers will be assessed by the National Environment Agency and they will be awarded either a "Clean Mark Silver" or a "Clean Mark Gold" if they meet additional and more stringent training requirements.

It will be rolled out progressively, starting with a one-year pilot scheme.

The Labour Movement, meanwhile, has

introduced a new \$2.5-million automation and mechanisation grant to encourage companies to undergo the accreditation process and defray the cost of equipment purchase.

Firms are eligible to receive funding for up to half of the actual purchase cost, capped at \$50,000 per company.

Also, the Singapore Workforce Development Agency will roll out a new Environmental Cleaning Workforce Skills Qualifications (WSQ) framework for workers.

Under the Environmental Cleaning WSQ, there will be a proper progression pathway for cleaning workers and more training programmes to cater to all cleaning workers.