

ERC/PR/2017
3 February 2017

**Media Advisory:
Trade Association Committee formed to strengthen role of Trade
Associations in Industry Transformation**

On 2 February 2017, a new Trade Association Committee (TACOM) convened its kick-off meeting at SCCCI.

TACOM was set up by SCCCI as a business-led platform to identify and solve challenges faced by trade associations, so that trade associations can play a stronger leadership role in transforming and growing our local industries. With SCCCI and twenty other TAs moving into the new Trade Association Hub in Jurong Town Hall later this year, the objective of TACOM is to look at how to strengthen the “software” of our TAs and build stronger collaboration. To achieve this, TACOM will focus on three main strategic areas – (1) building Trade Association capabilities; (2) fostering collaboration and new partnerships, and (3) serving as an advocacy and feedback channel to Government.

The inaugural TACOM comprises Presidents or appointed representatives from 13 trade associations and chambers across various sectors for a two-year term. The current member composition is found in Annex A. TACOM is chaired by SCCCI President, Mr Thomas Chua, with Senior Minister of State for Ministry of Trade & Industry and Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth Ms Sim Ann as its Advisor.

At the kick-off meeting, TACOM discussed the challenges faced by trade associations and identified four areas that the Committee can work on, with the support of Government agencies. These four areas are:

- (a) Strengthen professionalism and capabilities of trade associations. This includes the need to attract talent to consider association management as a career; improving the governance and management of trade associations; and encouraging the sharing of expertise and resources among associations.

- (b) Develop industry standards and certification framework. This will guide trade associations on how to implement an industry standards and certification programme to uplift the professionalism of local trades.
- (c) Stronger role of trade associations in Vocational Training. Engage local institutes of higher learning to involve trade associations to co-lead in the curriculum development and conduct of vocational training, to ensure better match of skills with the needs of industry.
- (d) Greater flexibility in Government Grants. To encourage trade associations to tap on government funding to embark on more industry upgrading programmes.

Working groups will be formed under TACOM to study the four areas in greater detail and implement solutions and projects. These working groups will carry out further consultations with other trade associations, and will be supported by Government agencies.

“TACOM will be an action-oriented committee that will solve real issues faced by our trade associations. We are happy that the Committee has received the strong endorsement and support of the Government, and look forward to working hand-in-hand with Government agencies to deliver concrete outcomes that will benefit the business community,” said SCCC President Mr Thomas Chua.

“This is an excellent initiative by SCCC and the founding members of the TACOM. Trade Associations and Chambers are our key partners in driving industry transformation. To do so effectively, our TACs need to continually strengthen their capabilities in order to provide greater leadership and value to their members. Many good ideas were discussed at the kick-off meeting, and I look forward to closer collaboration between the TACs and Government agencies in identifying best practices and project opportunities, and overcoming common challenges together,” said Senior Minister of State Sim Ann.

Besides TACOM representatives, the kick-off meeting was also attended by Government officials from the Ministry of Trade and Industry, SPRING Singapore, International Enterprise Singapore and JTC Corporation.

Annex A

APPOINTED MEMBERS OF 1ST TRADE ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

Term of Appointment: 1st January 2017 – 31st December 2018 (2 years)

S/N	Name	Designation	Name of Association or Chamber
1	Mr Thomas Chua	President	Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry
2	Mr Jeremy Fong	Chairman	Singapore Precision Engineering and Technology Association
3	Mr Goh Eng Lam	Chairman	Landscape Industry Association (Singapore)
4	Mr Ernie Koh	Presidential Advisor	Singapore Furniture Industries Council
5	Ms Anna Kong	Exco Member	Textile & Fashion Federation (Singapore)
6	Mr Martin Lee	President	Association of Electronic Industries in Singapore
7	Mr Kenneth Loo	President	The Singapore Contractors Association Ltd
8	Mr Ong Poh Kwee	Vice President	Association of Singapore Marine Industries
9	Mr Thomas Pek	President	Singapore Food Manufacturers' Association
10	Mr Sharafdeen s/o AR	President	Container Depot Association (Singapore)
11	Mr Vincent Tan	President	Restaurant Association of Singapore
12	Ms Melissa Tan	Chairman	Waste Management and Recycling Association of Singapore
13	Mr Yeo Hiang Meng	President	Federation of Merchants' Associations, Singapore

For further enquiries, please contact:

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About Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Established in 1906, the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCCI) is an internationally renowned business chamber and the apex body of the Chinese business community in Singapore. It is the founder of the biennial World Chinese Entrepreneurs Convention and the World Chinese Business Network (www.wcbs.com.sg), a global online business information portal. It plays a key and pro-active role in representing the interests of the local business community. In its continued drive for service excellence, the SCCCI has become the first business chamber in the region that has been awarded ISO 9001:2000 certification since 1995. In 2009, the Chamber successfully upgraded its ISO certification to ISO 9001:2008.

The SCCCI has a membership network comprising over 4,000 corporate members and 153 trade association members, representing over 40,000 companies including large financial and business organizations, multinational corporations, government-linked companies, and small and medium enterprises from a wide spectrum of trades and industries. Together, they provide the business community with vast resources and an influential global Chinese business network for business, culture and education.