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NEW
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SMF 90TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

HIGHLIGHTS

The SMF Celebrates its 90th Anniversary!

INSIGHTS

ESG is not just Compliance but Competitive Advantages

GO GLOBAL

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PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD

Dear Esteemed Members,

I am delighted to welcome you to our 90th Anniversary special edition of the SMF e-Connect. Our celebratory Gala Dinner in March was a testament to the strong bonds we have fostered over the decades. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your enduring support and collaboration. Together, we have championed the cause of manufacturing and nation-building.

As we align with Singapore's 2030 manufacturing vision, we've identified four key pillars for our Council Term, collectively forming the acronym **S.H.I.P.**: **S**ustainability, **H**uman Capital, **I**nternationalisation, and **P**roductivity.

Sustainability is paramount, and we're actively integrating ESG aspects into our industry. This issue offers insights from our council member, Mr David Chia, on leveraging ESG for competitive advantage. Notably, the SMF CCL's **FIRST** sustainability programme is a groundbreaking initiative for our sector.

Human Capital is our greatest asset. To stay competitive in a world dominated by big data and AI, continuous learning is essential. Through SMF CCL, we are equipping our workforce with relevant skills. I invite you to delve into our member experiences with the Global Ready Talent (GRT) programme featured in this issue.

Internationalisation remains a key focus. The SMF is building bridges with global organisations, encouraging knowledge exchange and fostering online partnerships.

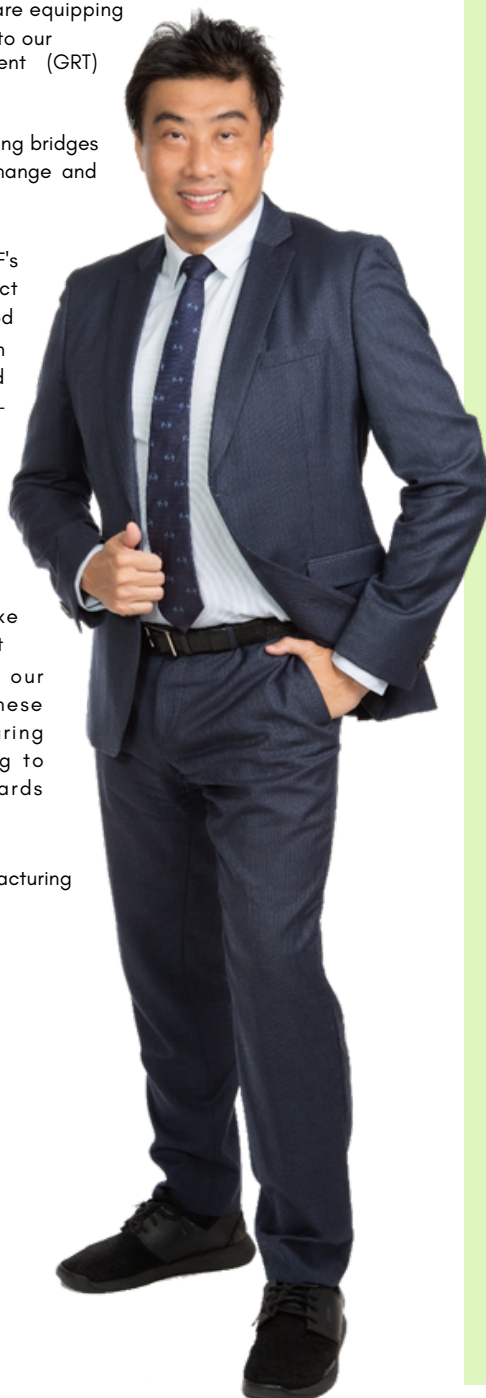
Productivity is synonymous with innovation. The SMF's SIPI recently collaborated with the UN's WIPO to conduct its third IP workshop, benefiting 58 companies. The Food Tech 2023 event showcased the burgeoning food tech industry and the launch of the Singapore Standard Guidelines for Food e-commerce, developed by SMF-SDO.

We're thrilled to unveil our new logo - a compass symbolising our commitment to collaboration, adaptability, and sustainability.

As we navigate the global market, disruptions like Covid-19 and geopolitical tensions pose significant challenges. However, I am certain that with our collective resilience, we will surmount these obstacles. In fact, Singapore's manufacturing sector has shown improved growth, contributing to our GDP in 2022, on the right path towards meeting our Manufacturing Vision 2030 goals!

Let's continue our voyage, steering the future of manufacturing together with conviction and agility.

Lennon Tan
President
Singapore Manufacturing Federation



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(NB: in alphabetical order by industry group)

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Singapore Technologies Engineering Ltd

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Register your interest!



MISSION TRIP

DISCOVERING BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN RWANDA, AFRICA

Africa emerged as one of the markets of interest for SMF members.

To further support members' interest in the African market, the SMF will be organising a networking and sharing session in July as well as providing a market research report on Rwanda and the East African Community (EAC).

To RSVP for the session and retrieve the report, please scan the QR code and complete a short form. The link to download the report will be made available upon completion.

NETWORKING & SHARING SESSION

The session aims to bring together like-minded business professionals who are keen to explore the African market, in particular Rwanda and share experiences and insights. The event will provide an opportunity for members to network, and also learn about the latest trends and developments in Rwanda. The event will be held on **4th July 2023, 3-5pm**

MARKET RESEARCH REPORT ON RWANDA & THE EAC

As part of our commitment to supporting your business needs, we will be providing you with a market research report on Rwanda and the EAC prepared by the Ministry of Trade and Industry of the Republic of Rwanda. The report provides an overview of Rwanda's and EAC's business environment, including their investment climate, trade policies, and market opportunities.



For more information, contact SMF Secretariat Ms Jocelin Tay at 6826 3128 or jocelin.tay@smfederation.org.sg

THE SMF IN THE NEWS

新加坡制造商总会会长陈展鹏受访时说，中国直至本月才取消清零政策，需要一段时间恢复经济实力。随着农历新年到来，中国经济会得到所需的提振。不过另一方面，中国不再实施隔离要求，一些在本地工作的中国公民可能会选择回国，出现更多这类员工离职的情况

SMF President Mr Lennon Tan said in an interview that even if China cancels its zero-COVID-19 policy this month, it will take some time to restore its economic strength. With the arrival of the Lunar New Year celebration, the Chinese economy will get the boost it needs. But on the other hand, with China no longer enforcing quarantine requirements, some Chinese citizens working in Singapore may choose to return to China, leading to more cases of employees leaving.

商会促商家超前部署 抓住中国疫后复苏机遇, [Lianhe Zaobao \(28 December 2022\)](#)

陈展鹏希望政府能继续透过国际化人才培育计划 (Global Ready Talent Programme) 等提供企业津贴来提高现有员工的技能，以提高他们的生产力和效率来应对更高的人力成本。

SMF President Mr Lennon Tan hopes that the government can continue to provide corporate subsidies through the Global Ready Talent Programme to improve the skills of existing employees, so as to improve their productivity and efficiency to cope with higher labour costs.

新预算案料助企业应对更长远挑战 精细调准援助疫后加速前进, [Lianhe Zaobao \(5 February 2023\)](#)

“我们计划最快在今年9月或10月组团到烟台市去实地考察，让本地企业可以与当地企业做直接交流。”

"We plan to organise a delegation to visit Yantai City in September or October this year at the earliest, so that local companies can connect with companies in Yantai City."

SMF President Mr Lennon Tan, 疫情管制放宽后纷出国 中华总商会三个月来 接待逾20中国招商团, [Lianhe Zaobao \(28 March 2023\)](#)

"The interest rates have risen quite significantly - more than doubling for many, even quadrupling for some. And this may cause greater payment issues for these companies. So as a consequence, some manufacturers may resort to delaying payments in order to make sure that their cash flow is significantly healthy enough to weather further storms."

SMF Honorary Secretary Mr Melvin Tan, Local firms' payment performance show improvements in Q4, [Channel NewsAsia \(4 January 2023\)](#)

"We hope that the increment will not be too significant because as you all know, there are a lot of manufacturers are also concern about the whole operating costs here"

SMF Chairman of the Health, Safety, Security and Environment Function Committee Mr Ng Tian Beng, More medical coverage for foreign workers in the works, [Channel NewsAsia \(31 March 2023\)](#)

However, Singapore Manufacturing Federation president Lennon Tan said a "shock" to the sustainability ecosystem here was necessary to get SMEs going. Citing the appointment of Singapore's first government chief sustainability officer this year, Tan said it was "timely" for SMEs to consider having sustainability officers too.

SMF President Mr Lennon Tan, More can be done to drive sustainability efforts at SMEs: Isca pre-Budget panel, [The Business Times \(19 January 2023\)](#)

Rising costs have also hit local manufacturers, said Singapore Manufacturing Federation (SMF) president Lennon Tan.

"Rental costs for housing have also gone up, which leads to demand for higher salaries from the workforce," he said.

This has prompted some SMF members to explore moving to neighbouring countries within South-east Asia, while others turn to India and China, said Mr Tan.

SMF President Mr Lennon Tan, Despite rising rentals and cost worries, more foreign firms choose Singapore, [The Straits Times 17 April 2023\)](#)

"We are having this delay because there's no chips. So you can see that there is a domino effect - chip makers need machines, machines need automation equipment, automation equipment needs chips to mix the controllers. So its sort of a cyclical type of issue which we hope with time, this sort of knot will untie. But it is not going to happen within three, six months. It will take some time to untie it."

SMF Chairman of Smart Automation Industry Group Mr David Chia, Manufacturing firms remain pessimistic about next 6 months: Survey, [Channel NewsAsia \(31 January 2023\)](#)

THE SINGAPORE BUDGET 2023

ISCA PRE-BUDGET ROUNDTABLE 2023 ON 19 JANUARY 2023



SMF President Mr Lennon Tan (standing, sixth from left) participated in the ISCA Pre-Budget 2023 Roundtable on 19 January 2023.

SMF President Mr Lennon Tan participated in the annual Institute of Singapore Chartered Accountants (ISCA) Pre-Budget 2023 Roundtable on 19 January 2023 to share SMF members' wishlist for the Singapore Budget 2023. The roundtable gathered business leaders from trade associations and chambers (TACs) as well as government and accounting entities, where they spoke about how the global economy is at a crossroads, posing new challenges to Singapore. Lennon shared the need to "shock" the sustainability ecosystem and suggested SMEs can consider hiring sustainability officers. Click [here](#) to read the coverage from The Business Times.

INTERVIEW BY MONEY MIND ON 9 FEBRUARY 2023



SMF President Mr Lennon Tan was interviewed by CNA's Money Mind.

SMF President Mr Lennon Tan was interviewed by Money Mind on 9 February 2023, where he shared the challenges in the manufacturing sector and the Budget wishlist from SMF members. The wishlist was gathered through various focus groups held over the weeks that was participated by various SMF members across the industry groups. The episode was aired on 11 February 2023. Click [here](#) to watch the coverage.

SINGAPORE BUDGET FOCUS GROUP ON 14 FEBRUARY 2023

the SMF held the annual Singapore Budget Focus Group where council members and SMF members gathered to watch the unveiling of the Singapore Budget 2023 together on 14 February 2023. The purpose of this session was to provide feedback on the budget as a collective, representing the interests of the manufacturing industry in Singapore.

During the event, participants shared their thoughts on various

initiatives announced in the budget, such as the Enterprise Innovation Scheme and the increased support under the National Productivity Fund. The SMF acknowledged the forward-looking measures in the Singapore Budget Statement 2023, which aim to enable enterprises to seize new opportunities in a rapidly changing global landscape.



The SMF held a Budget Viewing and Feedback Session with a focus group of Council and SMF members.

After the viewing, the SMF issued a press release on its response in support of the Singapore Budget Statement 2023. The press release highlights key areas of interest for the manufacturing community, including the Singapore Global Enterprises Initiative, aimed at promoting growth and innovation in the sector.

Read the media release on the SMF's feedback for Singapore Budget 2023 [here](#).

NEWS COVERAGE ON SMF'S VIEWS ON THE SINGAPORE BUDGET STATEMENT 2023



SMF Deputy President Mr Ryan Chioh (extreme left) was interviewed by Money FM 89.3 on 15 February 2023.

Following the Singapore Budget Statement 2023, the SMF provided its views on behalf of the manufacturing community in support of the Singapore Budget Statement 2023.

The SMF's views were covered by various Singapore's mainstream media. Click on the links to view the coverage:

8 World News

- [受访企业：财政预算案针对企业的措施非常全面](#)
- [零售商协会：仍希望政府提供即时援助 助商家解决人手不足问题](#)
- [受访父亲认为 政府增加在职父亲陪产假是好消息](#)

The Business Times

- [Budget 2023: Analysts hail moves supporting more inclusive hiring, but say more needs to be done](#)

Money FM 89.3

- [Post-Budget Roundtable: What's missing from your 2023 Budget wishlists?](#)

DELL TECHNOLOGIES SITE VISIT - ENABLING SMART/DIGITAL MANUFACTURING

The SMF and Dell Technologies organised a site visit to Dell's Executive Briefing Center on 12 January 2023. The event focused on a solution showcase titled "Enabling Smart/Digital Manufacturing".

During the site visit, Dell showcased their robust ecosystem of partners and solutions, illustrating how they assist manufacturers in expediting their digital transformation. This progress towards a smart factory drives business results, establishes long-term resilience against potential crises, and fosters sustainable growth. Dell further demonstrated this by sharing successful use cases from the manufacturing sector.

Dell then introduced PD Solutions to SMF members, who then presented on Smart Manufacturing in an Augmented Environment. They highlighted emerging Industry 4.0 technologies, citing real-world implementations on the factory floor.



SMF members visited Dell Technologies on 12 January 2023.

The visit also included a tour of the Dell Customer Solution Center, where members learned how AI and Machine Learning technologies can aid their transition towards smart manufacturing.

THE SMF CELEBRATES LUNAR NEW YEAR WITH MEMBERS!

The SMF celebrated Lunar New Year with its members on 正月初十 (31 January 2023)!

THE SMF Community came together to welcome the year of the Rabbit! The event had Feng Shui Master Ken Koh from the House of Feng Shui share how members can harness the energy of the Water Rabbit to drive success! Complete with a traditional lion dance performance, participants tossed and toasted to good luck and abundant blessings in the highlight of the event - Lo Hei!

At this auspicious event, the SMF also commemorated our partner RHB Singapore, for their support towards the Federation over the past few years. The SMF and RHB Singapore will continue to collaborate to bring more benefits to SMF members.

The SMF thanks Amazon Web Services (AWS), Info-Tech Systems Integrators and Starlite Printers for their support towards the event!



SMF members lo hei to toss for a good year of the Rabbit!



SMF President Mr Lennon Tan presented a token of appreciation to RHB Singapore CEO Mr Danny Quah (right) in appreciation of the support RHB Singapore has rendered to the SMF.



A traditional lion dance performance to usher in a prosperous year!

THE PPP VISITS RAVAGO MANUFACTURING SINGAPORE PTE LTD

The Packaging Partnership Programme (PPP) organised a site visit to Ravago Manufacturing Singapore Pte Ltd's plastic recycling facility on 9 February 2023.

Ravago, a significant force in Singapore's recycling industry, handles 46 per cent of the nation's plastic recycling through its plants in Tuas and Lim Chu Kang.

The site visit offered insight into Ravago's recycling process, from receiving sorted plastics to chopping them into smaller pieces, cleaning, melting, and palletising before selling to manufacturers.

The tour concluded with an information sharing session where Ravago clarified that bio-degradable plastics are not recyclable due to their organic content. Thus it can only be incinerated. Hence, discouraging their use.

For those interested in similar informative tours, consider becoming a member of PPP to seize these valuable opportunities.



The PPP led members to visit Ravago's plastic recycling facilities on 9 February 2023.

VISIT TO BRASS LION DISTILLERY

The SMF Youth Network and SMF Lifestyle Industry Group (LIG) co-organised an engaging Gin Distillery Tour and Networking event on 27 January 2023.

Brass Lion Distillery is a local Gin Manufacturer and one of the two Singapore Gin manufacturers that offer tours to their distillery. The participants sampled and enjoyed the crisp taste of Gin and had a blast learning the process and work that goes into Gin manufacturing.

Thanks to all of our participants for their active participation! See you at our next SMF networking event!



SMF members from the SMF Youth Network and LIG visited Brass Lion Distillery on 27 January 2023.

SMF CELEBRATES 90 YEARS!

Glitz. Glamour. Celebrate! On 25 March 2023, the SMF celebrated its 90th Anniversary with about 1,000 local and overseas distinguished guests attending the dinner. In this issue, the SMF provides you with a recap of the event and the exciting journey in this new era of manufacturing.



The celebration was graced by Dr Tan See Leng, Minister for Manpower and Second Minister for Trade and Industry as the Guest-of-Honour. Prior to the celebration, Minister Tan met with SMF's invited guests and the SMF Board of Governors in a cosy setting.

THE SINGAPORE MANUFACTURING FEDERATION



Reflecting the SMF's commitment to be a steadfast "Partner in Nation Building", all guests stood respectfully at attention as Singapore's National Anthem, the Majulah Singapura was played.



SMF Vice President and Chairman of the SMF 90th Anniversary Celebration Organising Committee Mr Poh Choon Ann (left image), SMF President Mr Lennon Tan (middle image) and Minister Tan See Leng delivered speeches to kickstart the celebration. During his speech, SMF President announced the SMF's four areas of focus, bearing the acronym SHIP - Sustainability, Human Capital, Internationalisation and Productivity - to guide the SMF on its renewal journey. These focus areas gear towards achieving the Singapore Manufacturing 2030 Vision envisaged by the Ministry of Trade and Industry.



SMF Office Bearers, Vice Presidents and Minister Tan launched the new SMF logo! As the manufacturing sector evolves, the SMF logos mirrors the evolution of each stage of change. As we enter into a new era of manufacturing post COVID-19 pandemic, the new SMF logo symbolises a fresh renewal and our commitment to collaboration, circularity, and innovation such as Artificial Intelligence (AI).



The first task the SMF embarked on right after the logo renewal was to exchange three Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with three Institutes of Higher Learning (IHLs) - Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS) (left image), Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP) (middle image) and Temasek Polytechnic (TP), representing the SMF's dedication in grooming the next generation of manufacturers!



The event also saw SMF Council members for the Council Term 2021 - 2024 taking the Council Pledge with Minister tan as the witness. "We, the Council members of the Singapore Manufacturing Federation, pledge to support the Federation's mission of sustainable growth, development and global competitiveness of Singapore's manufacturing industry, prioritizing innovation, productivity, and collaboration. As stewards of the Federation, we will uphold the highest standards of integrity, ethics and honesty, as we champion manufacturing, uphold our role as a partner in nation building, and, commit to do our best for the Federation and Singapore."

The SMF 90th Anniversary Commemorative Book is available to download. Click [here](#) to download a copy now!

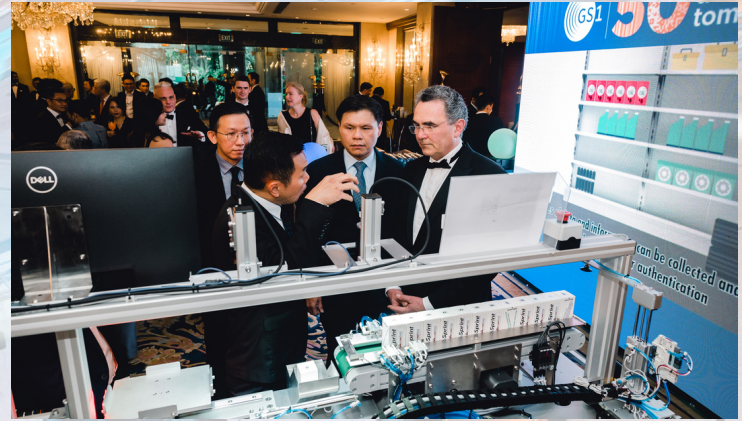




Happy Birthday SMF! The Council members, together with Minister Tan See Leng cut the birthday cake together to wish the Federation a happy 90 years young! Many more 90 years of prosperity and sustainable growth to come!



What's a gala dinner without performances? Specially curated and planned by the Chairman of the 90th Anniversary Celebration Organising Committee Mr Poh Choon Ann, it was filled with cultural performances of various artists, such as the Musicians Society of Singapore Symphony Orchestra and Singapore Choral Artists. The performances also celebrates the different ethnic groups in Singapore, with Malay and Indian traditional performances and various opera singers singing familiar tunes.



The party was not confined to the ballroom only. The foyer was also full of guests mingling over finger food (top left image) and taking candid shots at the photobooth sponsored by M1 Singapore (top middle image). The platinum sponsor for the gala dinner, GSI Singapore, also setup a booth at the foyer to showcase their services and offerings (bottom right image). The SMF was also honoured to have the Vice Mayor of Tongzhou District, People's Government of Nantong Ms Zhang Binhui gracing the gala dinner (bottom left image). The SMF was given an embroidery painting to signify our friendship with the district.



The SMF thanks all our distinguished guests for celebrating with us the SMF's 90th birthday! We hope you enjoyed the event as much as we enjoyed having you!



Not forgetting our esteemed partners for making this event possible! Platinum partner - GSI Singapore, Diamond partners - Poh Tiong Choon Group and RHB Singapore, Silver partner - Adera Global and Bronze partner - LHT Holdings Ltd.





SAF DAY

COMBINED REDEDICATION CEREMONY 2023 (EAST ZONE)

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Friday, 30 June 2023

9.30am to 12.00pm

Officiating Minister: Mr Ong Ye Kung, Minister for Health



Suntec Singapore Convention & Exhibition Centre,
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For more information, please contact Ms Valerie Tan at 6826 3147 or Ms Lorelle Ang at 6826 3042

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THIRD INSTALMENT OF WIPO WORKSHOP

Together with the World Intellectual Property Organization, SMF's Singapore Innovation and Productivity Institute (SIPI) held its third instalment of the WIPO Intellectual Property (IP) Tools Application workshop on 28 February 2023 at the Singapore WIPO office.

In total, 58 companies have benefitted from the complimentary pilot programme. Through these workshops, company representatives received hands-on training on IP diagnostic tools from the WIPO team of experts. Participants also benefitted from the insightful sharing by the panel of experts on how to use IP to protect and monetise their businesses and assets.

The SMF and SIPI would like to thank the following experts for their contributions to the successful pilot programme: WIPO expert representatives, Mr Guy Pessach (Director IP SME Division, WIPO), Ms Thitapha Wattanapruttipaisan (Director of WIPO Singapore), Ms Mathilde Tachon (IP Consultant, WIPO) Ms Tamara Nanayakkara (Counsellor, SMEs and Entrepreneurship Support Division, Department for Transition and Developed Countries, WIPO), Mr Huseyn (Senior Legal Officer for Legislative and Policy, WIPO), and Mr Olivier Pierre (Coordinator for Public Educations Initiatives in the Madrid Information and Promotion Division, Madrid Registry, Brands and Designs Sector, WIPO).



The third instalment of the WIPO Intellectual Property (IP) Tools Application workshop concluded on 28 February 2023.

Local expert representatives and partners include Ms Audrey Yap (Managing Director of Yusarn Audrey LLC), Procter & Gamble expert representative Ms Zaheera Hashim (Director, Assistant General Counsel), Dr Gilbert Tan, (Regional IP Counsel, Yokogawa Electric International Pte Ltd (Singapore)) and Ms Connie Kwan (Co-Founder & Advisor, Aaist Chocolate).

● MAY EDITION

INDUSTRY CONNECT

Connect with like-minded professionals in the FMCG industry, expand your network!



Thursday, 25 May 2023
3.00pm - 5.00pm



SMF Building Level 2
Concourse
2985 Jalan Bukit Merah
Singapore 159457



For any queries, contact Mr David Ng at david.ng@smfederation.org.sg or 6826 3045



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SMFCE 1912

What's Brewing in **May & June 2023**

Upcoming Events

May

31



Launch of SS 692:2022 Guidelines for Nutrition and Food Services for Infants and Children

June

1

Coherent Factory visit

6



[WEBINAR] Getting Started with UDI (for Healthcare medical devices)

8



SMF New Members Welcome Compliance and HR Strategies

9

LIG New Members' Welcome

12



HackAMthoN 2023

14

Hexagon Day with SMF

15



[WEBINAR] GS1 Singapore Barcode Workshop for Retail

16



HackAMthoN 2023 Award Presentation

20



Reaching Out to Target Audience

26



SMART manufacturing and Sustainability with Lenovo

28



[WEBINAR] GS1 Singapore Members' Briefing

30

SAF Day Combined Rededication Ceremony 2023

What's Brewing in **July & August 2023**

Upcoming Events

July

5



[WEBINAR] Getting Started with Barcodes (for Retail Sector)

7



Workshop with SNEF on job redesign

11



Maximizing Business Potential: Harnessing the Power of AI and Automation

13



[WEBINAR] GS1 Singapore Barcode Workshop for Healthcare

14

Health Promotion Board (F&B IG) Dialogue

21



PPP Mandatory Packaging Reporting Training #3

26



[WEBINAR] GS1 Singapore Members' Briefing

27

Industry Connect Networking (SA, BPCM & LIG)

August

3

Lifestyle CEO round-table

24 to 25



Additive Manufacturing Day

30



[WEBINAR] GS1 Singapore Members' Briefing

APPROVED CODE OF PRACTICE ON CHIEF EXECUTIVES AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS WSH DUTIES

Code of Practice
Chief Executives' and Board of Directors'
Workplace Safety and Health (WSH) Duties



The safety and health of employees are of paramount importance as employees are valuable assets in the company. Top management sets the tone and cultivates the workplace safety and health (WSH) culture for the organisation. To aid companies in providing greater clarity in strengthening WSH ownership, the Code of Practice has been gazetted in October 2022. The Code of Practice lists examples of reasonably practicable steps that can be taken to achieve the desired organisational WSH systems and culture.

Click the image to download a copy of the Approved Code of Practice.

HEIGHTENED SAFETY PERIOD

Since the start of 2023, there have been five workplace fatalities. Furthermore, based on past trends, periods post-Chinese New Year have had higher workplace injury numbers as companies rush to compensate for workdays lost. Heightened alert and vigilance need to be maintained. The Ministry of Manpower (MOM) will be extending the Heightened Safety Period (HSP) by three months from 1 March to 31 May 2023, with additional measures. During the extended HSP, MOM will put in place the following additional measures:

1. Require CEOs and Board of Directors to attend a mandatory half-day in-person WSH training course
2. Increase maximum fines from \$20,000 to \$50,000
3. Empower workers by raising awareness of the various channels to report WSH concerns and providing protection for workers who speak up.
4. Introduce bite-sized versions of WSH guidance materials

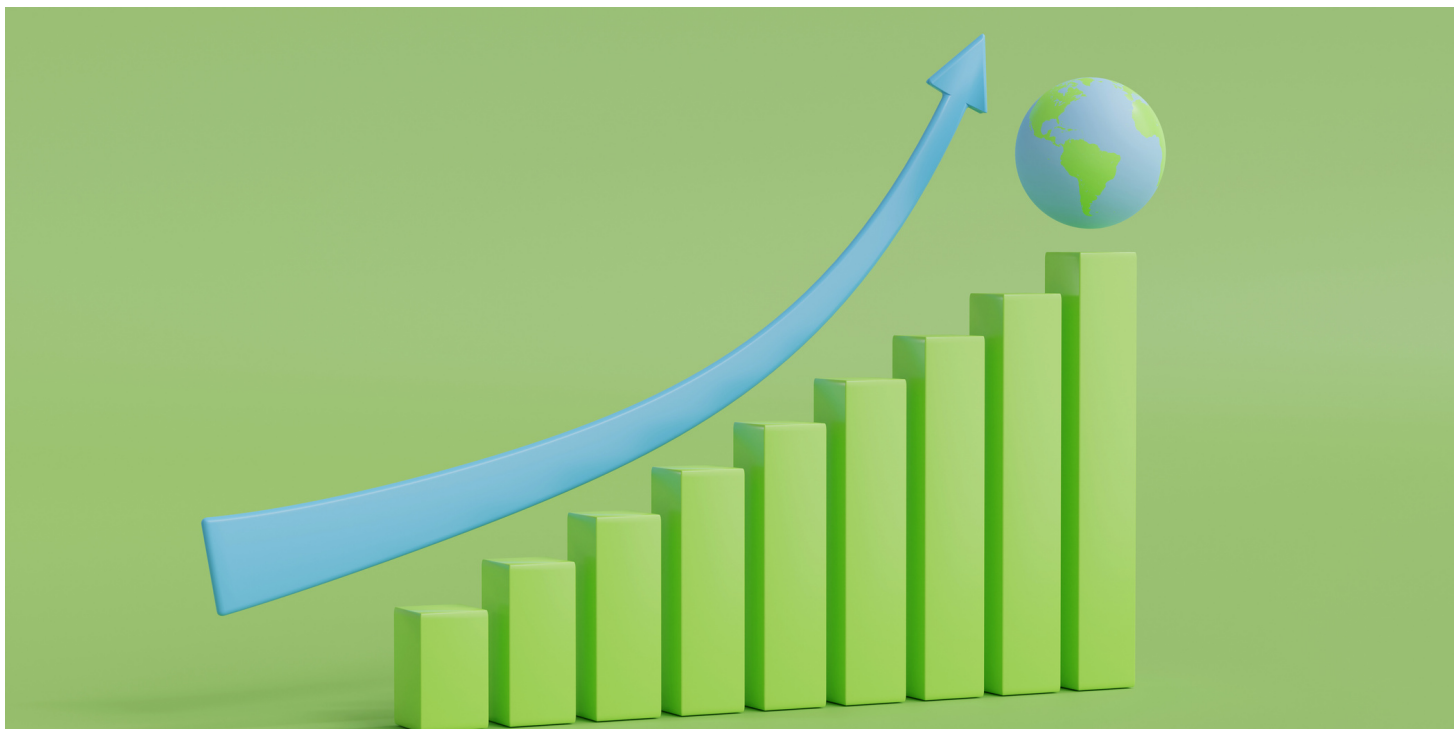
ESG IS NOT JUST COMPLIANCE BUT COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGES



An Article By Mr David Chia

Mr David Chia is the Chairman of SMF Smart Automation Industry Group and Chairman of SME Centre@SMF Pte Ltd.

He is also the Managing Director of Beckhoff Automation Pte Ltd.



Singapore exists in a relatively protected “bubble” where we may not feel the direct impact of climate change, yet it is as real as the “ponding” on Orchard Road. A survey by Swiss Re estimated that global losses caused by major natural disasters exceeded more than S\$360 billion in 2021, with 85% attributed to floods and storms.

The popular topics of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) are gaining headlines across different media for various reasons, such as Greta Thunberg’s famous “How dare you” speech at the 2019 United Nations Climate Action Summit, or the fact that the upcoming COP28 is chaired by the Head of one of the world’s largest oil producers. Green bonds and green financing are increasingly common; even HDB has launched its own green bond to fund the construction of new green buildings, with plans to achieve, if not exceed, the Building and Construction Authority Green Mark certification of GoldPlus.

These topics may seem very activist-oriented or finance-oriented, but they encompass much more. Companies, particularly small-medium size enterprises (SMEs) manufacturers, should seize the opportunities to move ahead, gain competitive advantages, and make positive contributions to society.

Manufacturing makes a difference.

Manufacturing easily consumes more than 50% of the world’s

produced energy, a majority of which still comes from burning oil, natural gas, and coal. Building accounts for another 40% of that. For manufacturers, the impact can be very significant.

Big manufacturing companies can cater to the environmentally conscious – for example, Apple stated that its 13-inch MacBook Air is made with 100% renewable or recycled materials. But should this just be a game for the big players?

SMEs can make a difference too

In Singapore alone, there are almost 300,000 SMEs employing 2.4 million people (or 71% of the total working population). As a single SME, perhaps the impact is small, but if there is a collective decision to go green, the impact can be very significant.

As early as 1999, LHT Holdings Limited started Singapore’s first wood waste processing plant to produce re-engineered wood products for pallets, crates, and boxes. Specifically, the New Wood pallets do not require fumigation or heat treatment before export, which gives LHT a key competitive advantage in its field.

An Australian company, Biopak, makes its compostable food wares from plants, instead of simply biodegradable ones. It may still be questionable whether the disposed rubbish ends up in a recycling bin (or compost bin) or in a landfill, but discerning consumers are sure they made a “green choice”.

Being smaller scale than regular multinationals, SMEs can be more agile and creative. Instead of making products for the whole world, which may be an aspiration for some, SMEs have ears on the ground and can cater to the specific or customised needs of local customers.



For the ecosystem supporting manufacturing

For almost a decade, the industry is going through the Fourth Industrial Revolution (Industry 4.0) where companies go after higher flexibility, reusability, and better sustainability through manufacturing in a circular economy. Equipment builders design smarter systems to produce more efficiently.

Along with system integrators or solution providers, factories look at manufacturing processes that are more effective, for example, additive manufacturing (3D-printing) versus subtractive manufacturing.

Industrial Automation augments human labour, not replaces them. A bigger problem facing the industry is "where did all the workers go?", so this is the best time for automation.

As the partner of the manufacturer, one must look beyond the traditional parts per minute (PPM) or units per hour (UPH) and be ready to provide metrics such as energy usage per component, or renewable content of the machine construct.

Be prepared to be part of your manufacturer client's ESG journey. Even the commonly adopted Lean Six Sigma strategy is a step towards sustainable manufacturing processes.

Beware of Greenwashing

Before jumping on the bandwagon, companies must be aware of Greenwashing. It's the practice of making a company or product appear more environmentally friendly than it truly is. With no global standards of Sustainability, or to define what a truly sustainable product is, there's low accountability in the industry currently.

It's easy to incorporate eco-friendly buzzwords or symbols into the products. Some companies even create their own certifications or awards and use them to promote the environmental benefits of their products. However, without providing any real information about environmental practices or product design, it can cause irreparable damage to a company's reputation once discrepancies come to light.

Embracing ESG

Some ESG practices, such as reducing energy consumption or water usage can help SMEs save money by lowering their energy bills and other costs. However, other ESG practices, like investing in renewables, can potentially involve hefty upfront costs, increasing the company's expenses in the short term.

Fortunately, companies now have access to funding for green projects from private investors, financial institutions, and the government, which can help to offset some of the costs or risks.

The Enterprise Financing Scheme Green (EFS Green), administered by Enterprise Singapore, provides a 70% risk-share to support lending of up to S\$50 million from partner banks, for relevant "green" activities in development, acquiring fixed assets, and even M&A.

More directly, the Energy Efficiency Fund administered by NEA issues grants for adopting energy efficiency technologies, equipment, or monitoring systems.

Emerging Compliance

The National Environment Agency (NEA) has recently introduced the Mandatory Packaging Reporting (MPR) scheme, where companies must declare their packaging materials used and active steps to reduce or recycle. Carbon tax is S\$5/tCO_{2e} until the end of 2023, where it will jump five times to S\$25/tCO_{2e} in 2025, and may reach S\$80/tCO_{2e} by 2030.

For listed companies, the Singapore Exchange (SGX) has developed an SGX Sustainability Reporting Guide assisting companies on how to report on their ESG performance. The Singapore Manufacturing Federation is currently developing a simpler and condensed version to assist SMEs in reporting on sustainability performance.

Conclusion

In 1985, when the "ozone hole" was first discovered, it kick-started a flurry of actions including a ban on CFC (chlorofluorocarbons). Fast forward to today, the ozone hole is now shrinking, and scientists believe it will heal by 2050.

A few days ago, I walked past a bookstore and saw a box of "Made from Ocean Plastics + Recycled plastic" PILOT ballpoint pens selling for \$12 a box of 10.

If a box of "sustainable" pens made in Japan can be sold at such a price point, saving the earth and making reasonable profits ethically can go hand in hand.



PILOT ballpoint pens made of recycled materials.

Perhaps Earth can still be saved.

THE SMF SIGNS MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING WITH OVERSEAS PARTNERS

THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY OF UZBEKISTAN

To help Singapore companies explore further possibilities in the Uzbekistan market, the SMF has renewed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Uzbekistan (CCI) at the Singapore-Uzbekistan Business Forum on 16 January 2023.

The MOU was exchanged by SMF President Mr Lennon Tan and CCI Chairman Mr Davron Vakhobov, in the presence of Singapore's Minister for Trade and Industry Mr Gan Kim Yong and Uzbekistan's First Deputy Minister of Investments and Foreign Trade Mr Laziz Kudratov.

The SMF looks forward to a closer collaboration with the Chamber!



SMF President Mr Lennon Tan and CCI Chairman Mr Davron Vakhobov (front left) exchange the MOU in the presence of Minister Gan Kim Yong (behind left) Minister Laziz Kudratov (behind right).

The SMF has created a highlights video of the event. To view the video, click [here](#).

NATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY OF MALAYSIA

The SMF was honoured to welcome the President of National Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia (NCCIM) Tan Sri Dato' Soh Thian Lai and his delegates from various Trade Associations and Chambers in Malaysia on 24 March 2023.

During their visit at the SMF, SMF President Mr Lennon Tan and NCCIM President Tan Sri Dato' Soh Thian Lai signed a MOU where they aimed to support their respective members in connecting and collaborating with one another, fostering business growth and contributing to the economies of both our countries.

NCCIM is also a partner in the ABC Platform by Kankeiren. This MOU marks another milestone in both organisations' relationship, drawing us closer together.



SMF President Mr Lennon Tan and NCCIM President Tan Sri Dato' Soh Thian Lai (front right, holding folder) signed a MOU where they aimed to support their respective members in connecting and collaborating with one another, fostering business growth and contributing to the economies of both our countries.

YANTAI CITY SEMINAR AND MOU SIGNING

SMF President Mr Lennon Tan was invited by the Mayor of Yantai City Mr Zheng Deyan to give a speech at the Yantai Offshore Industry Investment Engagement Meeting on 18 March 2023.

At the event, SMF President shared about Singapore's Offshore and Marine Engineering industry and how the SMF can collaborate with Yantai officials to connect SMF members with Yantai companies for business expansion.

Following after the seminar, the SMF hosted the Mayor Mr Zheng Deyan and his senior delegates on 20 March 2023. A MOU was then signed between the SMF and the Yantai Bureau of Commerce which will assist Singapore companies looking to expand their businesses in Yantai.

During the courtesy visit, SMF members also shared and presented their business to the Yantai delegation.

The SMF looks forward to continue bringing value and opportunities to our members beginning or expanding their internationalisation journey!



SMF President Mr Lennon Tan was invited by Mayor Zheng Deyan to speak at the seminar.



The SMF signed a MOU with the Yantai Bureau of Commerce.

DIALOGUE SESSION WITH THE MINISTER COUNSELLOR FROM THE EMBASSY OF CHINA

The SMF was honoured to host Ms Zhong Manying, Economic & Commercial Minister Counsellor from the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the Republic of Singapore for a dialogue session on 10 March 2023! Invited by SMF President Mr Lennon Tan, Ms Zhong met with many SMF members and shared the economic outlook and opportunities for overseas investors in post-COVID-19 China. Company representatives raised many questions which include market access for foreign companies, cross-border fund transfer, internationalisation of the RMB, etc. It was a fruitful and conducive session for all as participants went away with their queries answered by Ms Zhong.

The SMF greatly appreciates the close relationship we have with the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the Republic of Singapore and is committed to continually developing our strong ties.



Economic & Commercial Minister Counsellor from the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the Republic of Singapore Ms Zhong Manying answering questions raised by company representatives on the economic climate in Post-COVID-19 China.

THE SMF WELCOMES THE MENTERI BESAR OF JOHOR

The Menteri Besar of Johor, Yang Amat Berhormat Datuk Onn Hafiz Ghazi chaired the Johor-Singapore Business Forum at the SMF on 13 February 2023!

Hosted by SMF President Mr Lennon Tan, the SMF was humbled to have the Menteri Besar with his high-profile delegates including the High Commissioner of Malaysia to Singapore His Excellency Dato Dr Azfar Bin Mohamad Mustafar, Yang Berhormat Datuk Lee Ting Han and Mr Jeevan Singh, Consul-General of the Consulate-General of the Republic of Singapore in Johor Bahru, present to engage with Singapore business leaders and Trade Associations and Chambers (TAC) representatives.

The visit to the SMF was part of a broader three-day tour by the Menteri Besar to Singapore, with a distinct purpose: to enhance collaborative connections and promote the vast investment prospects in Johor. This engagement was not merely a diplomatic visit; it was a strategic endeavour to consolidate and expand the business synergies between Johor and Singapore.

The Johor-Singapore Business Forum served as an optimal platform for the Menteri Besar and his delegates to engage directly with Singapore business leaders and representatives from various TACs. This event provided an opportunity for open dialogue and the exchange of ideas, fostering greater understanding and collaboration between the two regions.

As the representatives of Johor and Singapore came together, it was clear that the shared goal was to pursue mutual growth and prosperity. The Menteri Besar expressed his gratitude for the warm reception and the productive discussions that took place during the forum.

This visit further underscores the importance of the relationship between Johor and Singapore, and the significant role the SMF plays in strengthening these ties. The SMF expressed its gratitude towards the Menteri Besar and his delegates, acknowledging the positive impact of their visit.



The Menteri Besar of Johor, Yang Amat Berhormat Datuk Onn Hafiz Ghazi (second from right) chaired the Johor-Singapore Business Forum at the SMF.



The Menteri Besar led his high-profile delegates to engage with Singapore business leaders and TAC representatives.



The high-profile delegates include the High Commissioner of Malaysia to Singapore His Excellency Dato Dr Azfar Bin Mohamad Mustafar (second from right), Yang Berhormat Datuk Lee Ting Han (second from left) and Mr Jeevan Singh, Consul-General of the Consulate-General of the Republic of Singapore in Johor Bahru.

Click [here](#) to view more photos.

THE SMF HOSTS SECOND GENERAL MEETING OF THE ASIA BUSINESS CREATION PLATFORM

The SMF was privileged to host the second general meeting of the Asia Business Creation Platform (ABC Platform) in collaboration with the Kansai Economic Federation (Kankeiren) on 16 March 2023. Endearingly referred to as the "Orchid Meeting," the meeting saw an engaging and fruitful discussion among the delegates.

The meeting brought together a diverse delegation from Kankeiren and Trade Associations and Chambers (TACs) across the ASEAN region, including representatives from Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Led by SMF President Mr Lennon Tan and Kankeiren Chairman Mr Masayoshi Matsumoto, the meeting also served as a platform for participants to present their businesses services and offerings under the ABC Challenge Support Programme. This initiative enabled companies recommended by each TAC to outline their aspirations for collaboration with Japanese counterparts.

The discussion proved to be engaging, paving the way for future partnerships and cementing the spirit of cooperation and shared goals among the attendees.

In celebration of 50 years of friendship and collaboration between Japan and the ASEAN region, a networking reception was held. It was a momentous occasion that further symbolised the unity and resilience of these economies during challenging times. A high point of the evening was the painting of the right eye of the Daruma Doll, a Japanese tradition signifying overcoming adversity and achieving goals, in this case, the collective triumph over the COVID-19 pandemic.

The SMF is eager to continue this series of productive meetings, with the third general meeting already scheduled to take place in Indonesia next year.

The attendees included the following organisations:

- Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KADIN)
- National Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia (NCCIM)
- Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- The Federation of Thai Industries
- Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI)



The "Orchid Meeting" was led by SMF President Mr Lennon Tan (second from left) and Kankeiren Chairman Mr Masayoshi Matsumoto (second from right).



The meeting was attended by the partners under the ABC Platform from the ASEAN region.



The Managing Director of Flexspeed Technology Pte Ltd and Chairman of SMF's Advanced Engineering and Manufacturing Industry Group Mr Chan Hai Kiang (middle) was recommended by the SMF to take part in the ABC Challenge Support Programme.

Click [here](#) to view more photos from the event.

INAUGURAL FOOD TECH 2023 AND LAUNCH OF SS 687

The SMF's Singapore Innovation and Productivity Institute (SIPI) and the SME Centre@SMF jointly organised Food Tech 2023 on 13 January 2023.

Food Tech 2023 showcases the SMF's efforts in supporting the emerging food tech industry. The event saw over 100 participants from the food tech industry with various speakers and experts covering topics such as food trends, food safety, standards and regulations.

With the increasing demand for food products sold through online platforms, the SMF-Standards Development Organisation (SMF-SDO), through the Working Group for food e-commerce, which was led by the Food Industry Asia (FIA), the Singapore Food Agency (SFA) and the SMF Food & Beverage Industry Group (FB IG), together with various industry partners, co-developed the Singapore Standard (SS) 687 Guidelines for food e-commerce (SS 687).

SS 687 was officially launched at Food Tech 2023 by Minister for Sustainability and the Environment, Ms Grace Fu.

At the launch, Minister Grace Fu shared that the food e-commerce industry is growing exponentially, where some 2.5 million consumers in Singapore used online platforms to purchase their food products, an increase of 14 per cent as compared to 2020.

Given the significant role that food e-commerce and delivery companies play in the food supply chain, and in order to ensure food safety for consumers, SS 687 will provide food business operators, e-commerce platforms and food delivery companies with best practices in ensuring food safety throughout the different stages of the food e-commerce supply chain, as well as their responsibilities in food traceability and recalls. By applying this standard in their business operations, not only can companies uphold the high standards of food safety, they can also contribute to increased consumer confidence.

The SS 687 Guidelines for Food e-Commerce can be purchased from the Singapore Standards e-shop. Click [here](#) to purchase the SS 687.



SIPI Chairman Ms Audrey Yap delivered the opening speech at Food Tech 2023.



Minister Grace Fu (middle) and SMF President Mr Lennon Tan (fourth from left), together with the working group that developed the SS 687.



After the launch of SS 687, Minister Grace Fu was accompanied by SMF President Mr Lennon Tan and SIPI Chairman Ms Audrey Yap to tour the booths setup by various food tech companies.

LAUNCH OF TR 108 SAFE DEPLOYMENT OF ROBOT SYSTEMS IN THE HEALTHCARE SECTOR



Minister Tan See Leng (fourth from left) launched the TR 108 at the NRP 6th Anniversary Festival. Minister of State for Trade and Industry & Culture, Community and Youth Mr Alvin Tan (third from left) was also present at the launch. (Photo Credit: CHART)

The Technical Reference (TR) 108 Safe Deployment of Robot Systems in the Healthcare Sector (TR 108) was launched by Minister for Manpower and Second Minister for Trade and Industry Dr Tan See Leng at the National Robotics Programme (NRP) 6th Anniversary Festival on 10 February 2023.

TR 108 was developed by the Working Group on Safe Deployment of Robots in Healthcare, which was led by Changi General Hospital's Centre for Healthcare Assistive and Robotics Technologies (CHART). The group included Institutes of Higher Learning (IHL), professional institutions, hospitals, and government agencies.

TR 108 covers safety in the planning, commissioning, and ongoing operations of robot services in healthcare environments. It details the activities to be undertaken by various stakeholders to meet deployment and safety requirements, as well as regulations specific to the healthcare sector.

The TR 108 Safe Deployment of Robot Systems in the Healthcare Sector can be purchased from the Singapore Standards e-shop. Click [here](#) to purchase the TR 108.

GLOBAL READY TALENT

The SMF is an Approved-In-Principle (AIP) partner of Enterprise Singapore to promote and manage the Global Ready Talent Programme (GRT) that facilitates Singaporean/Singapore Permanent Resident undergraduate students from autonomous universities and polytechnics in Singapore to perform their internships in local companies, particularly SMEs. The programme, formerly known as SME Talent Programme (STP) was enhanced by Enterprise Singapore with effect from 1 April 2019 to include overseas internships (focusing on South-East Asia, China and India) in addition to local internships.

The GRT programme provides three types of funding support to help local SMEs attract undergraduate

talents from the local Institutes of Higher Learning (IHLs):

- Full-time local internships
- Full-time hybrid (local + overseas) internships
- Full-time overseas internships

For local internships, SMEs can qualify up to 70% funding support on the internship stipend. For hybrid and overseas internships, besides the funding support for internship stipend by Enterprise Singapore, the IHLs will help fund the travel and subsistence allowance for interns.

If you would like to come on board the GRT programme with us, contact the GRT programme team at 6826 3028.

TESTIMONIES FROM COMPANIES

CYCLECT ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING PTE LTD

Cyclelect Electrical Engineering Pte Ltd is a leading provider of engineering, construction, technology, and maintenance solutions that has a long history of delivering innovative and sustainable solutions to complex challenges in various industries.



Cyclelect held its annual dinner with staff and interns in attendance.

Cyclelect embarked on the Global Ready Talent (GRT) Programme and benefitted greatly from the interns they received through the programme. This programme has allowed Cyclelect to identify and develop future talent while also increasing employee retention.



Staff and interns bonded during management dinner.

Furthermore, the internship experience has provided valuable learning opportunities for the interns, while also freeing up experienced employees to focus on their core responsibilities, leading to increased business productivity.

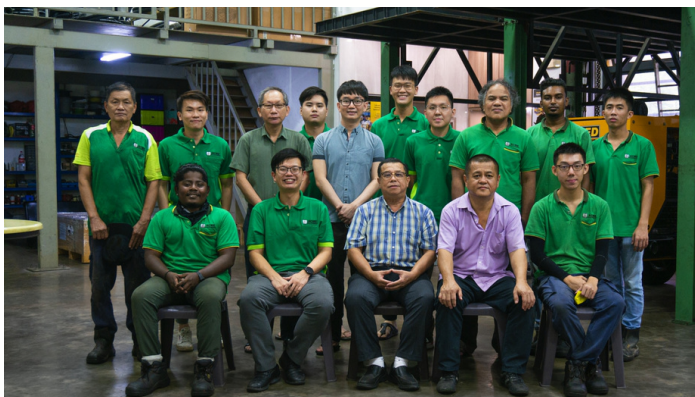


Chinese New Year celebration with staff and interns.

ACME EQUIPMENT PTE LTD



Established in 1981, ACME Equipment Pte Ltd supplies quality concrete and construction equipment products and services in Asia. It provides machinery of all sizes, which include grouting machines, trailer concrete pumps, batch concrete mixers, launching gantries, etc.



ACME's staff and interns.

Through the Global Ready Talent (GRT) Programme, ACME was able to interact with interns who provided them with fresh perspectives and ideas in areas such as new market trends, the latest technologies and branding. The interns also provided inputs in helping the company to improve its product designs.



ACME organised a staff meeting for staff bonding.

Interns also benefitted from on-job training where they had the opportunity to improve their classroom skills such as electrical wiring and circuit drawing. They were also involved in troubleshooting and ideation of product designs, applying theoretical knowledge to practice.

TENARCHITECTS PTE LTD

TENarchitects Pte Ltd is an architecture firm that strives to ensure its works are sustainable and practical, with a belief that "architecture is inspired by Nature, organised by Programme, corrupted by Context and subverted by Culture".



TENarchitects organised badminton sessions for staff and interns.

TENarchitect embarked on the Global Ready Talent (GRT) Programme and benefitted greatly from the interns they received through the programme. The interns played a crucial support role in providing architectural services to clients such as day-to-day drafting, communicating with suppliers and specifiers, and attending project meetings. To help interns with their development in architecture, each intern is paired with a mentor who supervises their

TENarchitects Pte Ltd



TENarchitects held a Christmas luncheon for staff and interns.

progress and offers support throughout their internship period. Interns also got to acquire invaluable skills and a deeper understanding of the architecture industry by getting them involved in actual architectural projects.



Interns were fully involved during work discussions.



At the SMF Centre for Corporate Learning (SMF CCL), we believe that the most important asset of any organisation is its people. We take pride in providing productivity improvement, manufacturing-related, thought-leadership and personal development programmes.



Scan or click the QR code to explore courses by the SMF CCL!

OUR FOCUS



SUSTAINABILITY

To create greater awareness and push companies to take the first step in the Green Economy, attend our courses such as:

- Leading the Manufacturing Sustainability**
- Manage Strategic Resources for Supply Chain (CSCP)**



HUMAN CAPITAL

To enhance the manufacturing sector by upskilling, building intellectual capital, and obtaining practitioner certification, attend our courses such as:

- How to Handle Conflict & Confrontation**
- Supervise Teams at Work**



INTERNATIONALISATION

To enhance companies' preparedness and value proposition for expanding internationally, attend our courses such as:

- Manage Strategic Resources for Logistics (CLTD)**
- Effective Uses and Applications of INCOTERMS in International**



PRODUCTIVITY

To proliferate the adoption of innovation and emerging best practices for optimising productivity, attend our courses such as:

- Manage Strategic Resources for Production (CPIM)**
- Lean Manufacturing Principles and Implementation**

BROAD-BASED CAREER CONVERSION PROGRAMME

Reskill and advance your career with our Broad-Based Career Conversion Programme (BBCCP)!

Looking to embark on a new career in the manufacturing sector? Look no further!

The BBCCP is designed to equip both Professionals, Managers, Engineers, and Technicians (PMETs) and Rank-and-File (RnF) workers with the necessary skills to excel in manufacturing job roles.

Plus! It also benefits companies by providing salary support during the conversion process. Click or scan the QR code to learn more about the BBCCP!





APICS COURSES

At the SMF Centre for Corporate Learning (SMF CCL), we offer APICS courses that are aimed at providing a comprehensive body of knowledge, best practices and standards for those keen to excel and advance their careers in Supply Chain, Production & Inventory Management and Logistics.

About ASCM/APICS courses



Improve your company's production productivity, profitability, and sustainability.



Improve the flow of products to your end customers through global collaboration, partnerships, process integration and technologies



Improve your company's warehouse logistics' productivity, efficiencies, and effectiveness.

Certification / Professional	CPIM Certified in Planning and Inventory Management Manage Strategic Resources for Production Level 5	CSCP Certified Supply Chain Professional Manage Strategic Resources for Supply Chain Level 6	CLTD Certified in Logistics, Transportation & Distribution Manage Strategic Resources for Logistics Level 4	
	Certificate / Application	Supply Chain PLANNING Certificate Apply Techniques in SCM to Production Level 4	Supply Chain PROCUREMENT Certificate Apply Techniques in SCM to Procurement Level 4	Supply Chain LOGISTICS Certificate Apply Techniques in SCM to Logistics Level 3
	Basic	Foundation of Supply Chain Management Level 2		

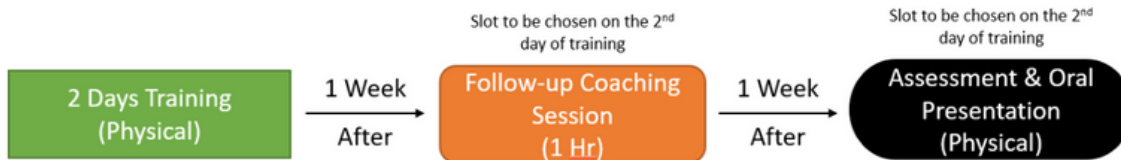
Note: Course fees listed on the website are before GST, and may be subject to changes, especially if they are pending funding approval. To obtain the WSQ Statement of Attainment (SOA) and funding criteria, you must complete and pass the assessment at the end of each module. Exam credits can be purchased from the SMF CCL after completion of the course.

Scan or click the QR code to browse for APICS courses!



WSQ LEADING THE MANUFACTURING SUSTAINABILITY

The SMF CCL has developed the FIRST sustainability programme that is specially for the manufacturing sector! The WSQ Leading The Manufacturing Sustainability aims to equip entrepreneurs and professionals with sustainable leadership skills, knowledge of sustainability frameworks, and their practical application in decision-making for sustainable manufacturing opportunities. Participants will learn how to identify values that can help businesses grow sustainably.



Scan or click this QR code to register NOW!



HELP US TO SERVE YOU BETTER!



We need your help! Simply scan or click the QR code to complete a **quick five-minute survey** to help us gain a better understanding of your needs and how we can better serve you.



SME CENTRE@SMF BUSINESS CARE CLINIC

FREE CONSULTATION & DIAGNOSIS

**Need help with
business concerns
and pain points?**



OUR DOORS ARE ALWAYS OPEN

Book an appointment at your preferred time and meet at our SME Centre or via video call from Monday to Friday, 9AM to 6PM.



CONSULTATION AND DIAGNOSIS

Identify business strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats; explore solutions to solve pain points and promote growth.



GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE / SUPPORT

Learn about government programmes and grants to leverage on for deeper business upgrading and transformation.



IMPLEMENTATION OF PLANS

Connect with solution providers, business partners, or like-minded industry players to carry out business project and overcome key challenges.



Email query@smecentre-smf.sg to book an appointment today!

Please provide the following information:

1. Company name
2. Company email address
3. Mobile contact
4. Short enquiry message



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PARTNERS FOR BUSINESS GROWTH PROGRAMME (PBG)



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Are you ready to scale up and become a future leader in your industry?



Calling promising SMEs who have...



**POSITIVE
REVENUE
GROWTH**



**AMBITION
FOR
GROWTH**



**SCALABLE
BUSINESS
MODEL**



**UNIQUE
BUSINESS
MODEL**



**READINESS TO
TRANSFORM
BUSINESS**

Join the PBG Programme to receive dedicated assistance from experienced **Business Development Advisors (BDAs)** to accelerate your growth plans!



IN-DEPTH BUSINESS DIAGNOSIS

Work with a BDA during the year-long programme to identify gaps and opportunities.



IDEATION OF BUSINESS GROWTH PLANS

Co-develop road maps with clear objectives and key milestones for your business.



GUIDANCE ON CAPABILITY PROJECTS

Work closely with your BDA to co-create and embark on projects that will build new capabilities.



NETWORKING AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Connect and collaborate with like-minded businesses, and gain valuable insights from industry experts.

Email query@smecentre-smf.sg to learn more and book an appointment today!

PBG SME Testimonials

"The Business Development Advisor provided valuable insights and clear action plans to help build our online presence..."

Kenneth Ong, General Manager
Long Pun Enterprise

"... with deeper engagement, sound advice was given on human capital management and development as part of our HR transformation."

Kaden Choa, Marketing Director
Excel Hardware



The barcode turns 50 and is about to change our lives—again

There is a reason that BBC has called the barcode “one of the 50 things that made the modern economy”. Since its creation in 1973, this humble—yet powerful—symbol is now on over 1 billion products, and the “beep” at the checkout counter is instantly recognisable around the world.

The barcode forever changed the way we shop. All barcodes may look the same, but the power lies inside. Thanks to GS1 global standards, a simple scan connects a physical product to digital information that flows seamlessly across the supply chain. From farm to store, barcodes—and the data behind them—enable more resilient and transparent supply chains.

As the barcode turns 50, next-generation barcodes, such as two dimensional QR codes, promise to once again change our lives in new ways. These new codes can capture unprecedented amounts of trusted data for businesses, regulators, consumers, and patients alike, offering much more than just links to webpages. They can tell a product’s “story”, where it comes from, if it contains allergens, is it organic, how it can be recycled—and what its environmental footprint is. This new level of transparency will ultimately help people make informed decisions about what they buy and use.

To usher in this new reality, GS1 is building a coalition of industry leaders to deploy next generation barcodes around the world. At the end of 2020, GS1 launched a global initiative to transition from traditional to next generation barcodes together with key players in the retail sector. There are over 20 countries and districts including China, US, Australia and Brazil that have already started successful pilots. In 2021, GS1 China started to promote 2D barcodes and 20 major key branches—including the Zhejiang Branch of GS1 China (Zhejiang Institute of Standardisation)—have joined the project.

GS1, the organisation behind the barcode, has evolved over the last five decades, from a standards organisation towards a standards and services organisation currently present in 116 markets. More and more, GS1 is empowering businesses of all sizes take their digital transformation journey to the next level, ultimately benefitting consumers and patients.



Scan to watch video



Global Trade Item Number (GTIN): 50 years of collaboration, innovation and leadership



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GS1 2D barcodes gain momentum in China. Renaud de Barbuat, President & CEO of GS1, highlighting the progress made in the GM2D project on 11 December 2022.

Results of the GS1 2D barcode pilots in the Zhejiang province positively recognised at First Global Digital Trade Expo.



At GS1 Singapore, we help business achieve visibility, authenticity, interoperability and consumer trusts.

Get started with GS1 Standards today!

Sign up now to enjoy exclusive rate and immediate benefits.



Scan to find out more

2D in Retail: A new generation of barcodes. One scan. Infinite possibilities.



Paving the way for a global migration to 2D barcodes

2D barcodes connect businesspeople and consumers to the information they need for inventory management, traceability programmes, sustainability initiatives and other engagement actions that will dramatically enhance the experiences for all.

First-generation barcodes, currently used for over 1 billion products, contain a unique product identifier (GTIN). Thanks to GS1 standards, a simple scan connects each of these products to digital information that flows seamlessly across the supply chain. Now, 50 years after the first barcode was introduced, GS1 is launching two-dimensional (2D) barcodes capable of carrying additional data that can be shared beyond the “beep” at the checkout.

These new 2D barcodes are being used in manufacturing, warehousing, logistics and healthcare. They connect businesspeople to the information they need for inventory management, traceability programmes, sustainability initiatives, consumer engagement actions and more.

Brand owners can tap even more fully into their power and flexibility by encoding them with a GS1 Digital Link: in the same way a URL points to a website, a GS1 Digital Link enables connections to all types of business-to-business and business-to-consumer information.

GS1 is supporting industry with an ambition to read 2D barcodes at retail points of sale around the world by the end of 2027.

Because 2D barcodes enhance the experiences and capabilities of people up and down the supply chain, GS1 is working with industry to support the ambition to have all retailers able to read 2D barcodes at their points of sale by the end of 2027. One-dimensional barcodes will not completely go away: we expect 1D, QR and DataMatrix codes to coexist in the retail landscape.

During the last year, our teams have made tremendous progress in launching a framework to manage and support this global migration to 2D. An industry-led Mission-Specific Work Group successfully developed a future-state agreement that maps out how 2D barcodes could be used, and then group members prepared the necessary changes to the GS1 General Specifications.

We are testing scanner capabilities in a lab environment and collaborating with solution providers on algorithms and logic to read items with multiple barcodes at optimum performance scan rates. We are also continually adding to our library of resources and tools to support industry on this journey. Want to know more? Talk to us to find out what 2D barcodes could bring to your business.



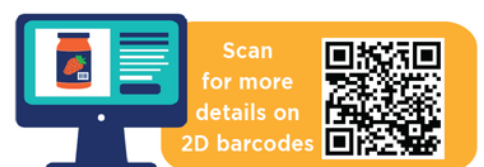
Parla Deli from Brazil scans the world's first 2D barcode

Parla Deli is unlocking business value and connecting to customers by implementing the very latest GS1 Standards.



Multiple benefits from 2D barcodes at Woolworths

Woolworths and selected suppliers are using 2D barcodes with GS1 Standards to achieve substantial results, including enhancing food safety and reducing food waste by 40%. With 2D barcodes now in place for many items at Woolworths stores across Australia, the retailer can manage store inventory at a more granular level, alert cashiers that a scanned product is past its expiry date—and in the future—connect a consumer to the web to provide traceability information about a product's origin and more.



THE SMF WELCOMES YOU!

The SMF welcomes our new members* to be part of the SMF family!

ACCURACY SINGAPORE CORPORATE ADVISORY PTE LTD
 A-EUROPE CERTIFICATION PTE LTD
 AGGASYS SOLUTIONS PTE LTD
 AIONA PTE LTD
 ANSAC TECHNOLOGY (S) PTE LTD
 AON SINGAPORE PTE LTD
 AUTOMATION SYSTEMS PTE LTD
 CUSHMAN & WAKEFIELD (S) PTE LTD
 ENERGI TRANZ PTE LTD
 EP-TEC SOLUTIONS PTE LTD
 EQUALITHIUM PTE LTD
 HH STAINLESS PTE LTD

JC RECRUITMENT AGENCY PTE LTD
 LOOPEDIN PTE LTD
 MI NET LTD
 OREMI AI PTE LTD
 PURE ACTIVE WATER PTE LTD
 SIMPLE-GROUP PTE LTD
 SJP (ASIA PACIFIC) PTE LTD
 SPHERE CONSUMER PRODUCTS ASIA PTE LTD
 TOPWAY HOLDINGS PTE LTD
 TRADEFLOW CAPITAL MANAGEMENT PTE LTD
 URS FAR EAST PTE LTD
 YEAN JAN FOODSTUFFS CO PTE LTD

* Listed in alphabetical order and information is accurate as of March 2023.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME SESSION

The SMF organised a new members welcome on 14 April 2023, providing an avenue for new members to familiarise themselves with the services and offerings of the SMF. The event also served as a platform for networking among members and engaging with SMF Secretariats for membership-related queries.

Representatives from various SMF business units, including the Centre for Corporate Learning (CCL), Global Ready Talent (GRT) Programme, SME Centre@SMF, and GSI, introduced their programmes and initiatives. They highlighted how members could utilise these services for their respective companies' benefit.

Additionally, new members had the chance to give a brief, one-minute introduction of their businesses, allowing other SMF members to learn more about them. The new members welcome session is just one of many benefits SMF members enjoy. Membership is free for the first 12 months! Sign up now to be a part of the big SMF family!



SAIL AHEAD WITH THE SMF!

Click [here](#) to sign up for your FREE Membership*



Sustainability

Access courses, seminars, and government grants to step ahead in preparation for a green world economy.



Human Capital

Employee reskilling and upskilling through the SMF various courses. Nurture the next generation of manufacturing talent through our Global Ready Talent Programme.



Internationalisation

Gain access to SMF's network of overseas partners to support business expansion in overseas markets.



Productivity and Innovation

Connect with SMF members and partners to adopt and create new innovations and boost productivity. Explore IP management strategies.

CONTACT US AT:



@smfederation



@smfsg



@smfederation



@smfhelps



T: (65) 6826 3000

membershipcare@smfederation.org.sg



SINGAPORE
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SINCE 1932

*For first-time members and members who have resigned for more than two years. Membership is free for the first 12 months.



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