

SBF Appreciation Awards

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The SBF Appreciation Awards honour respected individuals for their sustained and exceptional contributions and service to SBF. At SBF's 10th anniversary in 2012, Appreciation Awards were presented to individuals who were instrumental in SBF's founding. They were ESM Goh Chok Tong, former Minister George Yeo, the late Mr Kwek Leng Joo and Mr Stephen Lee.

The two individuals receiving the SBF Appreciation Awards at the Federation's 15th anniversary in 2017 continue our founders' tradition of providing strategic and exceptional service to SBF.

1. Mr Tony Chew

Chairman (June 2008 - June 2014)

Council Member (April 2002 - June 2014)

Executive Chairman, Asia Resource Corporation

Mr Tony Chew's association with SBF began even before the Federation was formed. In 2001, he was invited to join the ProTem Committee tasked to help set up SBF.

After SBF was established, Tony served on its Council from April 2002 to June 2008. Over his 12-year tenure, including six years as Chairman, Mr Chew played a significant role in SBF's development. With his bold vision and indomitable spirit, Mr Chew helped shape SBF's direction and growth. He worked tirelessly to bridge the private sector and the Government to foster a more conducive business environment.

Mr Chew also promoted a strong member-centric focus, contributing to an increase in members' participation for SBF activities both at home and abroad, which included helping members explore overseas markets. Under Mr Chew's leadership, SBF grew to be recognised locally and internationally as the apex business chamber. We also founded the SBF Foundation to take the lead in encouraging the business community in corporate social responsibility.

Mr Chew's invaluable contributions and ideas have had an enduring impact. They continue to be the springboard for many of our initiatives today and in the future.

2. Mr Philip Ng

Honorary Secretary (June 2010 - June 2016)

Council Member (June 2008 - June 2016)

CEO, Far East Organization

Mr Philip Ng was elected to SBF's Council in June 2008, serving six years till 2016.

We recognise Philip's contribution to SBF because he has gifted our new office premises at the SBF Center to SBF Foundation and granted naming rights of his commercial development to SBF. Far East Organization also donated \$10 million to seed the SBF Foundation at its launch in 2013. His initiative has strategic and sustained impact on the Federation.

Philip understands the challenges of the not-for-profit sector surviving in Singapore's high cost environment. As a developer, he has worked with the Government to leverage his real estate developments for the benefit of the non-for-profit sector and community organisations. SBF is grateful to be a beneficiary of his generosity under this arrangement.

With the launch of our SBF office premises by PM last month, our hall of business will be used for the growth of the economy and business community and the well-being of our nation.

SBF Recognition Awards

Individual

1. Mr Gautam Banerjee

Mr Banerjee joined the SBF Council since 2010 when he was PwC's Executive Chairman. He fostered strong collaboration between PwC and SBF during SBF's strategic review exercise in 2011. SBF has benefitted from Gautam's wise counsel in many areas. He chaired the Audit Committee and was a member of the Steering Committee of the "SBF Position Paper for a Vibrant Singapore", where he contributed valuable insights on Singapore's competitiveness and where we can do better to develop our local enterprises. He has also represented SBF in the APEC Business Advisory Council between 2011 and 2013, advocating the interests of Singapore businesses on regional economic integration and trade and investment issues with leaders of the APEC economies.

Gautam currently chairs SBF's South Asia Business Group Executive Committee.

2. Mr Shabbir H. Hassanbhai

A strong advocate of emerging markets, Mr Hassanbhai successfully initiated the SBF Middle East Business Group and Africa Business Group, sparking awareness of these regions and their potential to the Singapore business community. Passionate about internationalisation, he contributed to the development of business platforms and led business missions to connect Singapore companies with their overseas counterparts. He also helped raised SGD11 million from corporate donors and the Government to establish the NTU-SBF Centre for African Studies, ASEAN's first business think tank on Africa.

Shabbir is also a distinguished mentor of SBF's Mentorship Programme and participated in many experience-sharing sessions on succession planning and business transformation. His expertise and experience have helped many companies grow, including one listing on the Singapore Exchange.

3. Mr Lawrence Leow

Mr Lawrence Leow has been an SBF Council Member since 2006 and has held various appointments in the Council.

As Chairman of the SBF-led SME Committee (or SMEC in short) since its inception in 2011, Lawrence was instrumental in encouraging representatives from trade associations and chambers to join the committee and actively contribute ideas and feedback on key issues affecting businesses, particularly SMEs. He built up a strong community of business leaders who are passionate to help our smaller companies. Through Lawrence's leadership, SBF was able to better serve our members and their voice.

Lawrence also played a key role, giving his time selflessly, providing advice on the design and outfitting work for SBF's new office at SBF Center. He is a staunch supporter of many SBF initiatives. He contributed generously to the SBF Foundation, and led numerous overseas missions, helping our SMEs venture into emerging ASEAN economies such as Cambodia.

4. Mr Bob Tan

Mr Bob Tan is one of SBF's longest serving Council Members. He joined the SBF Council in 2004, serving for a decade until 2014. During his term, he helped improve the financial management system of the Federation, especially during the APEC CEO Summit in 2009. This was critical in the earlier years of SBF's development as it had to deal with the proper management, accounting and governance of its funds.

Between 2009 and 2014, Bob represented SBF on the National Wages Council, a tripartite body comprising representatives from trade unions, employers and the government to formulate guidelines on wage policy. With his strong relationship with our tripartite partners, Bob was able to put forward the views of employers in a balanced and constructive manner.

5. Dr Robert Yap

Dr Robert Yap has made invaluable contributions to SBF, particularly in initiatives relating to ASEAN. Robert is the current Singapore Chairman of the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (BAC), ASEAN Business Group as well as the Malaysia-Singapore Business Council (MSBC). Through these platforms, he provided private sector feedback to the Singapore Government on business issues related to ASEAN.

A firm believer in the potential of ASEAN, Dr Yap championed the 'ASEAN Economic Community 2015' initiative and advocated support for it among businesses. When Singapore was ASEAN Chair in 2007, Robert initiated the ASEAN Business Awards, and advocated its inclusion into ASEAN BAC's agenda. The ASEAN Business Awards has since been incorporated as an annual flagship event by all ASEAN Countries. SBF looks forward to Robert's leadership again in leading our businesses' engagement in ASEAN as Singapore chairs ASEAN in 2018.

Company

1. DBS Bank Ltd

DBS Bank Ltd actively promoted and supported SBF's local and overseas activities over the years, particularly to China and North Asia. These include signature events, such as the Singapore Regional Business Forum, Singapore-Japan Business Forum, and the launch of the "One Belt, One Road" portal.

DBS's senior management, including its Chairman Mr Peter Seah, have been very supportive with their time and expertise, participating in diverse roles as sponsors, speakers, hosts and business mission leaders for various SBF events. DBS has been a sponsor of the joint meetings between SBF and the Chinese International Economic Cooperation Association, to foster closer economic ties between the business communities of Singapore and Taiwan, with Mr Seah as Co-Chair, since 2010.

2. Olam International Ltd

Olam International Ltd is a staunch supporter of SBF's Africa-related activities, helping to further the interest and understanding of the African market among our businesses.

Its management and staff, in Singapore and Africa, have shared their expertise and experience on numerous occasions, from leading business missions, participating in courtesy calls, speaking at seminars and forums to advocate better market access for Singapore businesses.

Two of Olam's managing directors serve as Vice Chairman of SBF's Africa Business Group and the NTU-SBF Centre for African Studies' Advisory Board and Exco. Olam is also a founding donor of the NTU-SBF Centre for African Studies, established to address the knowledge gap between Africa and Southeast Asia, as well as to build human capital to support Singapore companies' engagement and expansion in Africa.

Trade Association and Chamber

1. Singapore Hotel Association

The Singapore Hotel Association (SHA) has been an unwavering supporter of SBF's initiatives and outreach to the business community. For the 'SBF Position Paper for a Vibrant Singapore' unveiled last year, SHA provided insights and recommendations to address issues facing the hotel industry.

When former Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew passed away in 2015, SHA contributed funds and proactively supported a joint tribute by the business community. It also partnered SBF to support the SG50 Seniors package to recognise the contributions of our seniors to nation-building. Thanks to SHA's help and partnership, several hoteliers came on-board, contributing to a successful launch of this national initiative. SHA also generously donated \$100,000 to SBF Foundation.

2. Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry

The Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI) has been a steadfast supporter of SBF's initiatives. When SBF was developing the 'SBF Position Paper for a Vibrant Singapore', SICCI contributed recommendations supportive of business and economic growth. It was also a firm supporter of the tribute in memory of former Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew.

SICCI was also steadfast in its support of SBF's India-related business missions and trade seminars. SBF's strong partnership with SICCI has opened up a wealth of opportunities for SBF's member companies keen to venture into the South Asian market.