

WELCOME ADDRESS BY MR SS TEO, SBF CHAIRMAN, AT THE SBF 15th ANNIVERSARY GALA DINNER ON 6 OCT 2017

Guest-of-Honour Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam

Minister for Manpower Mr Lim Swee Say

Minister for Communications and Information Dr Yaacob Ibrahim

Senior Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office Mr Heng Chee How

Senior Minister of State for Defence and Foreign Affairs Dr Maliki Osman

Senior Minister of State for Trade and Industry, and Culture, Community and Youth
Ms Sim Ann

Excellencies

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

1. A very good evening to everyone and a very warm welcome to this gala dinner. It is part of SBF's 15th anniversary celebrations. Thank you for making time to join us today.
2. A month ago on 5 September 2017, SBF and SBF Foundation held the official opening of its new premises at SBF Center. We were honoured to have Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, Minister Iswaran, Minister Chan Chun Sing, political office holders from MTI and other distinguished guests grace the momentous occasion.

Repositioning of SBF

3. The official opening was a milestone for SBF where we also unveiled our repositioning. We shared that we will be a growth platform championing the interests of the Singapore business community. We will sense, prioritise, analyse and help resolve burning issues facing significant segments of businesses.

4. The repositioned SBF will also form Issues Committees led by SBF Council Members. These Committees will deep dive into business issues. They will be platforms for collaborations with the Government and industry. They will undertake activities in support of the growth of businesses and the economy.
5. As announced at our official opening, the first Committee to be set up is on digitalisation. It will be headed by our Council Member, Ms Janet Ang, from IBM Asia Pacific.
6. We look forward to having more Singapore business leaders from large companies and SMEs, both local and foreign-owned, come forward to serve on these Issues Committees or SBF's Council. If more like Janet can step up to share their expertise and deep insights, we can work together to give back and shape a better future for our economic prosperity.
7. At our official opening, SBF signed a Compact with 30 trade associations and chambers (TACs) to form the TAC Alliance. This is to strengthen the working relationship between Business Organisations and TACs in Singapore to be strategic partners and collaborators. By working together, we will further the interests of our members and facilitate the growth of the business community.
8. SBF's repositioning was prompted by the fast changing external environment, slow global growth and disruption in many industries and markets. We reflected deeply on how we can do better in the future. We wanted to reposition SBF to play a more active and relevant role. We wanted to deliver more value and services that meet the expectations of our members and the wider business community.

SBF Appreciation and Recognition Awards

9. Over the last 15 years, SBF has had many significant milestones. We would not have come this far without the help and encouragement of the Singapore Government, the outstanding leadership of our former Chairmen Mr Stephen Lee and Mr Tony Chew, the good work of our past and present Council Members, Board of Trustees, various Committee members, Secretariat staff led by Mr Ho Meng Kit, and most importantly, support from our member companies.
10. This evening, we will be honouring individuals, businesses and TACs who have contributed significantly to the development and accomplishments of SBF. The SBF Appreciation Awards will be presented to two individuals who have made

significant and impactful contributions to SBF. We will also unveil the SBF Recognition Awards which will be presented to five individuals, two companies and two TACs for their invaluable contributions. We look forward to recognising them all later.

11. As we wrap up our first 15 years, we look ahead to the next 15 years. There is much to do. Collaboration will be the hallmark of SBF's repositioning. We will be a more effective national business voice and bridge between the business community and the Government. We will work more collaboratively with various stakeholders to shape the national business environment
12. The theme for SBF's 15th anniversary "Collaborating to Shape the Business Future" is a celebration of the journey SBF has taken together with all its partners and our shared achievements. It is also an aspiration for the future. Together, we look forward to continue collaborating with businesses, TACs and the Government to chart more important milestones in the future.

Closing

13. In closing, SBF would like to thank our President sponsors – Asia Resource Corporation, Crescendas Group, Far East Organization, Keppel Corporation, Pacific International Lines, Pontiac Land and Xurun Holdings – as well as all our other sponsors. You have been exceedingly generous with your contributions and support.
14. Our appreciation goes to ITE and SUTD as well. The mob dance we enjoyed just now was performed by SUTD students and specially choreographed for today's gala dinner. To tie in with SBF's 15th anniversary theme of collaboration, ITE students have concocted a mocktail named "Collabo" for this evening. All guests can also take away a special souvenir – an animated picture using augmented reality, available outside the ballroom, made possible by ITE students.
15. Deserving special mention as well is the organising committee led by Cheryl Kong. Thank you for all your hard work in putting together this special event. Many thanks also to our other SBF colleagues for helping out.
16. May I also thank our Guest-of-Honour Dr Tan, Ministers, and all our distinguished guests for being here at SBF's 15th anniversary gala dinner.
17. Thank you, and we wish you a memorable and enjoyable evening.