

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY MR S.S. TEO
CHAIRMAN, SINGAPORE BUSINESS FEDERATION**

**SINGAPORE REGIONAL BUSINESS FORUM
27 AUGUST 2018, MONDAY, 9.00AM
GRAND BALLROOM, LEVEL 1
THE RITZ CARLTON, MILLENIA SINGAPORE**

Good morning.
早上好！

On behalf of the Singapore Business Federation (SBF), I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of you.
我谨代表新加坡工商联合总会，诚挚欢迎各位的到来。

Since 2015, SBF has held the Singapore Regional Business Forum as our annual flagship event, providing a high-profile, open, inclusive and constructive platform for regional business leaders, diplomats, senior government officials and policy-makers in the region to network and discuss important issues.

自 2015 年起，新加坡工商联合总会每年举办一次“新加坡暨区域商务论坛”，至今已经第四年。作为一个高规格、开放、包容和具建设性的年度旗舰活动，新加坡暨区域商务论坛为区域内的商界领袖、外交官、高级政府代表及决策制定者提供一个重要的交流平台，让出席者商讨国际和区域的关键话题。

This year, SBF is very pleased to collaborate with Business China to present a special joint forum. We have brought together two of our annual flagship events – SBF’s Singapore Regional Business Forum and Business China’s FutureChina Global Forum – to be held over today and tomorrow. Its theme “Basis for Future Prosperity and Innovation” focusing on ASEAN, the Belt and Road Initiative, innovation, and connectivity were selected in view of Singapore’s chairmanship of ASEAN in 2018. These areas of focus are aligned with ASEAN’s guiding themes and regional priorities of innovation and resilience.

今年，新加坡工商联合总会非常荣幸与通商中国联袂举办“慧眼中国环球论坛”暨“新加坡暨区域商务论坛”2018 特别年会，把我们两个旗舰论坛合二为一，围绕亚细安今年“坚韧团结·创新求变”的主题与区域发展重点，于今、明两天为来自海内外的嘉宾举办主题为“坚韧、创新、合作、未来”的特别年会，旨在通过创新与发展推动区域合作与互联互通。

We are also holding this Forum in conjunction with the ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) meeting two days later. I am delighted that this morning, we have more than 800 representatives from over 30 countries and regions joining us today. It is heartening to see growing interest in our Forum to share your insights and expertise on important regional topics.

因此，我们特意将本届特别年会安排在今明两天，以配合接下来在周二周三举行的亚细安经济部长会议。我很高兴得知今年的论坛获得了社会各界精英的大力支持，共有来自 30 多个国家和地区、超过 800 名政商界高管踊跃参与。这也证明了各界对我们论坛在分享与讨论重要区域课题上的兴趣日益增强。

Progressive Regional Cooperation and Connectivity
区域合作与互联互通的发展

Let me now move on to a key topic for this Forum – ASEAN.

接下来，我将与大家探讨关于亚细安这个关键话题。

With rapid technological advances, a young population, increasing standard of living, with a fast growing middle class, ASEAN will continue to grow strongly.

一方面，随着科技的高速发展，以及年轻人口保持稳定增长、生活品质不断提高、中产阶级增多，亚细安整个地区将保持强劲的发展势头。

As ASEAN become more integrated, it will also be more attractive to investors.

亚细安市场的融合度也越来越高，这也吸引了更多投资者前来开发本区域的市场。

However, some risks could derail ASEAN's growth, such as the shift towards protectionism in some markets.

但另一方面，日渐彰显的贸易保护主义将对亚细安市场的发展带来危机。

To guard ourselves against such risks, it is important to leverage on existing trade networks, strengthen our bilateral, regional and global partnerships, as well as seize the rising opportunities from projects such as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and Southern Transport Corridor to enhance cooperation and build connectivity in the region.

为了要避开这些贸易风险，我们必须充分利用好现有的贸易网络，加强双边、区域性及国际间的合作关系，紧紧把握日益剧增的项目合作机会，比如通过“一带一路”和“南向通道”等来加强合作、建立区域互联互通。

For Singapore businesses, ASEAN remains a key focus region for internationalization, with half the companies surveyed keen to expand further into ASEAN, according to SBF's latest National Business Survey. ASEAN countries, located along the BRI, can look forward to rising opportunities relating to regional infrastructure development.

对新加坡商界而言，亚细安一直是其走向国际化的关键点。据新加坡工商联合总会最新的全国商业调查报告显示，超过一半的新加坡企业有意进一步开发亚细安市场。同时，位于“一带一路”沿线的亚细安国家更是面临更多机会发展其基础设施项目。

What will be the opportunities and challenges?

这样的发展又将带来哪些机遇与挑战呢？

It is one of many questions that this special edition of Singapore Regional Business Forum and FutureChina Global Forum will try to provide some insights.

带着这些问题，我们迎来了本届“慧眼中国环球论坛”暨“新加坡暨区域商务论坛”2018 特别年会，希望今天的讨论能为大家提供一些有实际意义的参考。

BRI Developments

“一带一路”倡议的发展

Since the Belt and Road Initiative strategy was announced 5 years ago, we have witnessed significant infrastructure development in the region.

Over time, BRI has become more inclusive, more consultative, and more constructive. China is helping to develop a system through BRI to allow countries to participate and contribute to the next phase of growth for the global economy.

自“一带一路”倡议 5 年前推出以来，我们见证了区域内许多重大的基础设施建设的发展。时至今日，“一带一路”已成为一个鼓励共商、共建、共享的重要举措。中国通过“一带一路”倡议帮助沿线国家建设起更为有效的系统，为世界经济进入下一个发展阶段贡献力量。

According to China's Ministry of Commerce in January, the trade volume among China and countries along the Belt and Road amounted to 7.4 trillion yuan (USD1.2 trillion) in 2017, increasing 17.8 percent year on year.

根据中国商务部今年一月份的经贸数据，在2017年，中国与“一带一路”沿线国家的贸易总量达到了7.4万亿元（约1.2万亿美元），同比增长17.8%。

By August 2017, the value of Chinese mergers and acquisitions in the 68 countries officially participating in the BRI had totaled US\$33 billion, surpassing the US\$31 billion tally for all of 2016.

截至2017年8月，参与“一带一路”项目的68个国家当中，中国兼并和收购总额已达330亿美元，超过2016年全年的310亿美元。

The Chinese Government's commitment to BRI positions it as a great growth driver for the global economy. The inaugural China International Import Expo to be held in Shanghai in November this year, will also help exporters from around the world launch into China.

中国政府对于一带一路的承诺已成为国际经济发展的重要推手。今年首届即将在上海于十一月举办的中国国际进口博览会亦将帮助世界各地的出口商把产品推销到中国内地市场。

The Expo will help promote and significantly increase business collaborations between China and its partners globally.

此次博览会也将促进和积极的提升中国与其贸易伙伴之间的贸易合作。

Role of Singapore as a Regional Connector and Aggregator

新加坡在“一带一路”倡议中扮演的区域性链接与聚合角色

Today, 33 per cent of all outward investments related to BRI flows through Singapore. Eighty-five per cent of inbound investments make their way into China through Singapore. For BRI activities, Singapore has become one of the most viable partners to work with.

今天，与一带一路相关的对外投资中有33%流经新加坡，而与该倡议相关的85%的国际投资通过新加坡进入中国。新加坡已成为“一带一路”倡议里最合适的合作伙伴之一。

As a global financial centre and one of the world's largest offshore *yuan* centres, many Chinese companies use Singapore as a base of operations in the region. Singapore has much to offer – strong financing capabilities, robust intellectual property and legal infrastructure, extensive business connections and a wide network of bilateral and regional trade and investment agreements. Singapore is also an ideal choice for China and regional partners for third-country collaborations, for instance, in capturing opportunities in vibrant and growing ASEAN markets.

作为国际金融中心及世界最大的离岸人民币中心之一，许多中国企业利用新加坡作为本区域的业务基地。新加坡的优势包括：强大的融资能力、健全的知识产权和法律架构、广大的贸易联系、以及广泛的双边和区域贸易协议网络。新加坡也是中国及区域贸易伙伴寻求第三方国合作的良好选择，特别是在充满活力与增长潜能的亚细安市场里捕获商机。

Singapore continues to actively contribute to BRI as a connector and aggregator for the region and beyond. As Singapore aspires to be the Infrastructure Hub for Asia, it can offer expertise across the infrastructure value chain, including master-planning, engineering design, financing, legal service, procurement, construction and operations.

新加坡将继续扮演为“一带一路”倡议和本区域链接与聚合的关键角色。新加坡立志成为亚洲的基础设施中心，以提供发展蓝图计划、工程设计、金融和法律服务、采购、工程以及营运等服务。

SBF's Contributions to BRI

新加坡工商联合总会围绕“一带一路”倡议的举措

SBF has been actively supporting the BRI since the very beginning. Two years ago, SBF partnered Singapore Press Holdings to establish a dedicated portal to enable regional communities to stay updated on news and developments.

自“一带一路”倡议提出以来，新加坡工商联合总会便一直积极地推动该倡议的发展。两年前开始，我们与新加坡报业控股合作搭建了“一带一路”中英文专网，为区域内商界提供相关的发展资讯。

At last year's Singapore Regional Business Forum, SBF had also introduced a BRI Connect platform with the China Enterprises Association to strengthen efforts in providing a shared platform for business communities.

在去年的“新加坡暨区域商务论坛”上，我会与新加坡中资企业协会共同提出成立“BRI Connect（带路联商）”商务平台，通过共享平台来加强企业间的合作。

Later tomorrow, we will be glad to share with you the founding members of BRI Connect.

明天，我们将借助本论坛这个良好时机，向各位正式宣布“带路联商”的创始会员单位。

Another highlight today is the launch of an SBF Infrastructure Committee comprising 15 key stakeholders as founding members.

本论坛的另一亮点是由15名创始会员成立的S B F基础设施委员会，今天稍后时间将在大家的见证下正式成立。

This Infrastructure Committee is the third SBF Issue Committee after the SME and Digitalisation Committees.

S B F基础设施委员会是本会继中小型企业委员会和数码委员会创立之后的第三个专题委员会。

It is a national-level, private-sector initiative to bring together the Singapore business community, foster key capabilities and together seize regional infrastructure opportunities.

它是一个由私人企业为主导的国家级措施，旨在汇聚新加坡商界代表，提升企业竞争力，以及共同获取区域内基础设施建设的机会。

This committee will be chaired by one of SBF Vice Chairman, Mr Pek Lian Guan.

S B F基础设施委员会主席将由新加坡工商联合总会副主席白连源先生担任。

I am delighted to share that the launch of the SBF Infrastructure Committee later will be witnessed by DPM Teo.

我很荣幸今天的委员会成立仪式将在新加坡副总理兼国家安全统筹部长张志贤的见证下进行。

Conclusion

总结

With the common goals of SBF and Business China to promote regional collaboration and connectivity through innovation, we trust the two-day Forum will complement your business development strategies, identify potential partners and projects, and even plan for third-country collaborations.

I strongly encourage you to take part in the business matching sessions and roundtable discussions tomorrow.

新加坡工商联合总会与通商中国拥有共同的理念与目标，以创新来促进区域间的合作和互联互通。我们相信这两天论坛的商讨内容将为各位来宾的业务发展计划提供新思路，有助于大家结交新的贸易伙伴，以及为接洽新项目及促进第三国合作做出贡献。我也鼓励大家把握良机，参与明天的贸易配对活动和会议。

On this note, I would like to express my gratitude to DPM Teo Chee Hean for gracing this occasion, the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Embassy of the People's Republic of China to the Republic of Singapore.

在此，我衷心感谢新加坡副总理兼国家安全统筹部长张志贤出席本次论坛，使得本次论坛增色不少；也要感谢新加坡贸工部、中国驻新加坡大使馆等机构的鼎力支持。

My appreciation to our distinguished speakers, moderators, panelists, supporting organisations, sponsors and all participants, especially those who travelled from overseas to join us today.

同时，由衷感谢所有演讲嘉宾、支持机构、赞助单位，以及来自海内外的来宾们对我们论坛的大力支持。

Also, I look forward to the inspiring keynote address and panel discussions, and I wish everyone a very engaging, fruitful and insightful Forum!

我期待接下来的主旨演讲及分论坛，希望大家也能从中获益！

Thank you.

谢谢！