



SICCI CONNECT

BUILDING BUSINESSES | BUILDING COMMUNITIES

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SICCI hosts a dialogue session on the topic of Green Transition.



SICCI chairman Neil Parekh introduced Hong Tat Chee and Alvin Tan, SICCI's advisor, to host a dialogue with our members on Green Transition: The challenges and opportunities for SMEs.

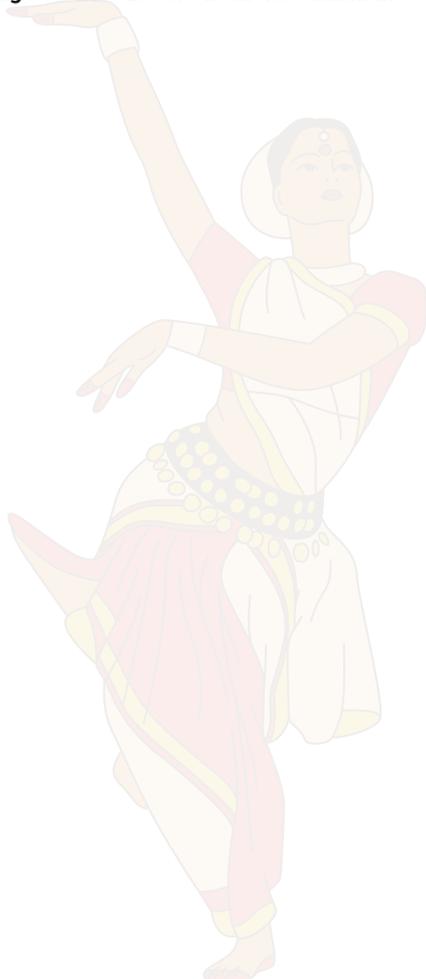
Sustainability expert Dr Darian McBain was invited to moderate the dialogue. We had 150 dignitaries, members and associates in attendance at One Farrer Hotel.

In summary, the Ministers outlined four "Ts" for a successful and effective transition to a green economy and the importance for SMEs to adopt and implement sustainability policies.

The 4Ts are.

Trust: Singapore government has a trusted and well-functioned regulatory system which implements sustainability policies, but they emphasise the need to have consistency and transparency in ESG data for industry implementation.

Technology: Singapore becomes a launchpad for companies to implement green technology using platforms such as Cloud infrastructure, APIs that enable data interchange, Blockchain-based platforms for trust and the use of Data and AI to report action and trigger outcomes.



Training: The institutes of higher learning(IHLs) are well equipped to prepare workers for the green transition with an early and higher learning focus.

Tripartite: The Government works closely with unions and TACs to rally the companies to implement the changes and create a digital infrastructure focusing on SMEs. A strong Tripartite partnership of Government, Businesses and People will be the key to making Singapore a Sustainability hub.

MOS Mr Alvin Tan also introduced GERI (Green Economy Regulatory Initiative)to the audience, emphasising, “Despite our drive towards sustainability, don’t take your eyes off cost. Despite costs, don’t take your foot off the pedal towards sustainability.”

SICCI Chairman, Mr Neil Parekh, noted, “Many important announcements on helping small and medium enterprises transition into the green economy were made during Budget 2023, which included the extension of the energy efficiency grant by a further year to encourage companies to be more energy efficient, this is the opportune time for SMEs to embark on the sustainability initiatives supported by Government.





Celebrating Milestones with a Charity Golf Tournament



The Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry(SICCI) and the Sree Narayana Mission (Singapore) have almost 174 years of history and achievement in Singapore.

SICCI CARES, a charity arm of SICCI, proposed to raise \$750,000 for SNM's 75th Anniversary. The two organisations celebrated this important milestone through charity fundraising golf yesterday at the Orchid Country Club, which ended with resounding success.

\$774,000 was raised at the SICCI CARES Charity Golf 2023 through donations and an auction at the dinner following the game. This amount includes the Community Silver Trust Grant, a dollar-for-dollar matching grant from the government for charities operating in the Community Care Sector.

A cheque was presented to SNM by SICCI's Chairman, Neil Parekh, to SNM's management team in the presence of the event's guest-of-honour, Mr Chan Yeng Kit, the Permanent Secretary for Health. Mr Chan stood in for Health Minister Mr Ong Ye Kung, who was away in China.

A team from SICCI CARES led the fundraising effort under Vice Chairman SICCI and Chairman SICCI CARES, M S Maniam Seagull.

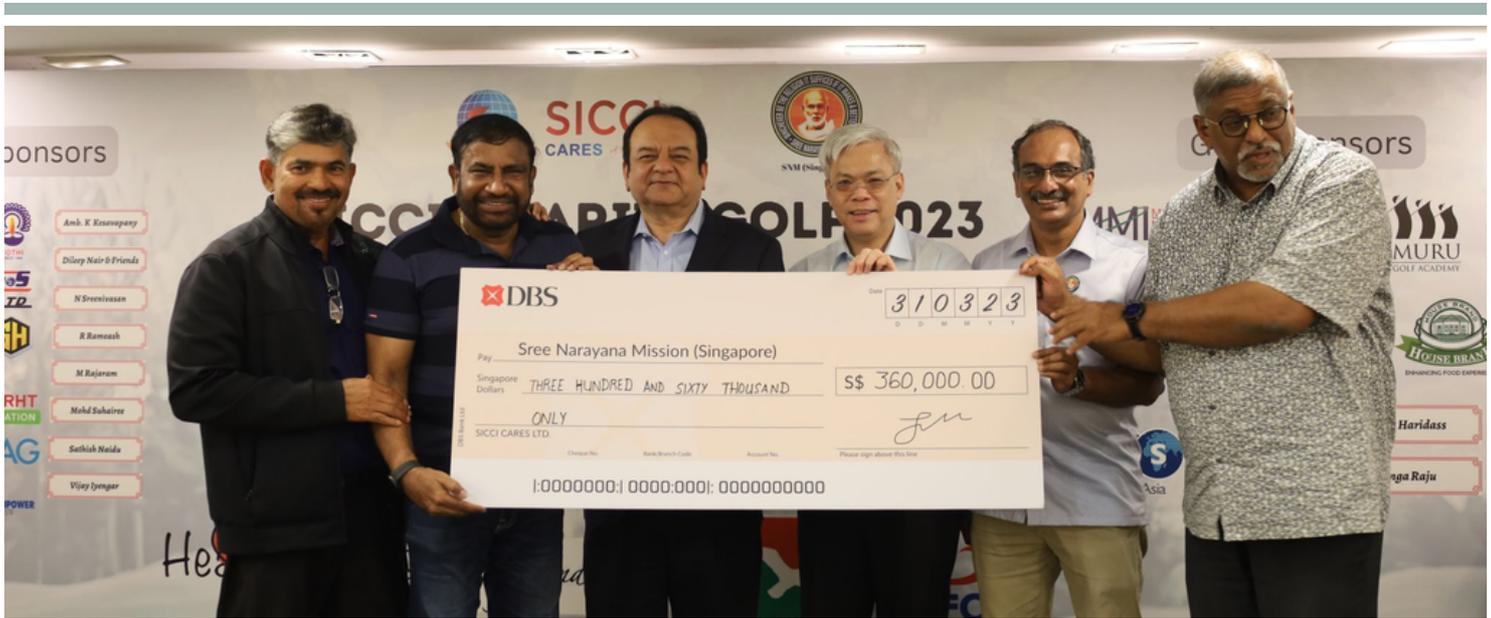


Says Mr Maniam, "I grew up in a humble background and helping to organise this charity golf event to raise funds for Sree Narayana Mission (Singapore) is one way to return to the community which stood by me in my formative years".

Mr Neil emphasised, "SNM is a household name for many in this country. It serves the needs of many, and its able team of doctors, nurses, healthcare professionals, therapists and administrators deserve our support to ensure that there is no lack of resources to ensure its day-to-day operations proceed smoothly".

Sree Narayana Mission celebrates its 75th Anniversary this year, while the Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry will turn 100 in 2024.

Here's a toast to more good years for both the stalwarts!



Networking to build bonds and friendship



In its on-going efforts to welcome new members into the Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI) family, the chamber's board of directors held a networking session for some 30 new members who have signed on to the chamber in the past few months.

And it was an evening of exchanging business cards, getting to know one another with a brief introduction of their work and family, and sharing with the audience what they hope to see the Chamber do to enrich their involvement in giving the Indian business community a bigger boost. Not to forget the wine and the array of finger foods and cheese platters to go alongside with the chit-chat sessions.



For almost all of the attendees, the networking evening has been an opportunity to spread their business wings further and checking out what their peers do for work and how they can leverage on new opportunities and ventures.

And they look up to SICCI to organise more networking events and dialogue sessions with leaders and thinkers, both local and foreign.

Heading the SICCI Board of directors in welcoming them onboard was the chamber's Honorary Treasurer, Mr. R Jayapal and joined by directors Jayanthi Maniam, Purnima Kamath, and Janakaraj Jeyakumar who most graciously hosted the event at his office in the central business district.

Mr. Jayapal thanked the new members for coming forward to play their part in the growth of the Chamber and urged them to pass on the word to many more of their friends who have yet to join the Chamber, to consider membership.

And wrapping up the session, SICCI's Executive Director Jamuna Rani informed the gathering of the Chamber's upcoming centenary celebrations and the array of events that are being planned and she urged the new members to come forward and be part of the celebrations in helping with the organisation of the centenary too.



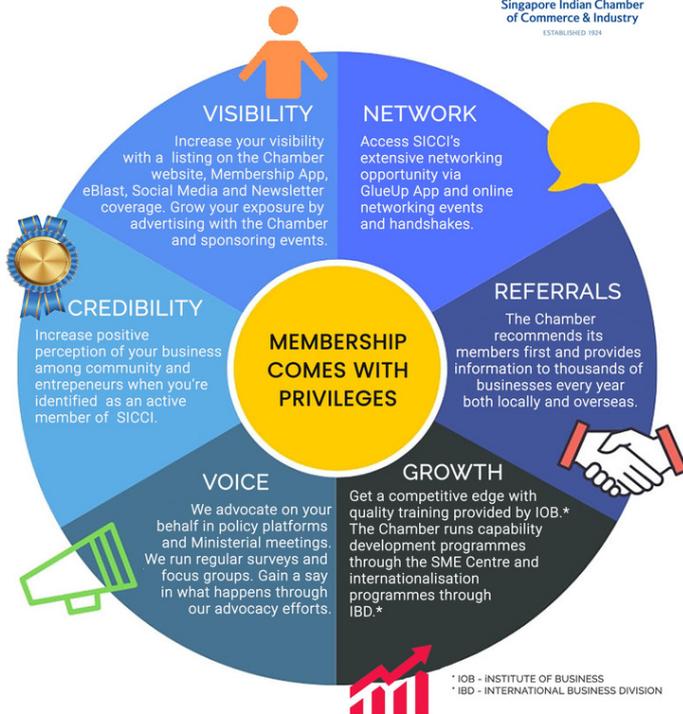


WHY JOIN SICCI?

LET US HELP YOUR BUSINESS



Singapore Indian Chamber
of Commerce & Industry
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Apply for SICCI Membership now!
<https://sicci.glueup.com/register/account>

Contact us to find out more!
Email : sheila@sicci.com
membership@sicci.com
Call: 6222 2855 / 9654 1346

Apply for Membership

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My Glue - Apps on Google Play
The ultimate mobile hub for your events and membership experience.

SICCI Welcomes our New Members March and April 2023

Ordinary Corporate

- OTC Global (S) Pte Ltd
- DMY Jewellers Pte Ltd
- Discover The World Marketing Pte Ltd
- IC Singapore Pte Ltd
- Alegre Ventures Pte Ltd
- Euro Healthcare Pte Ltd
- Synergy Marine Pte Ltd
- Metier Pte Ltd
- Garrnnetts Marine Services (S) Pte Ltd
- SNG Centric (Singapore)
- IA Services (SG) Pte Ltd

Ordinary Individual

- Krati Agrawal
- Shivali Bhargava
- Saket Bhartia
- Avinash Kadam
- Arumugam Kalimuthu
- Divyesh Menon
- Harree Anand Babu
- Ahgilen Perumal
- Suresh Murugian
- Amit Sheopuri
- Radhika Sheopuri

Associate Corporate

- Ananda Bhavan Restaurant
- SPN IMPEX Pte Ltd
- Ventura Pranas Pte Ltd

Associate Individual

-

The Bhutan Connection

SICCI hosted a group of business leaders and government officials from the world's happiest country- the Kingdom of Bhutan.

On April 27, 25 officials from Bhutan's varied business sectors visited the Chamber to connect and build ties with Singapore's

apex chamber for the Indian business community.

On hand to receive and brief them about the Chamber, its role in Singapore's business community, and how both sides can enhance their ties were SICCI's Directors, Mr. Maneesh Tripathi and Ms. Purnima Kamath, joined by Executive Director Ms. Jamuna Rani Govindaraju and SICCI staff.



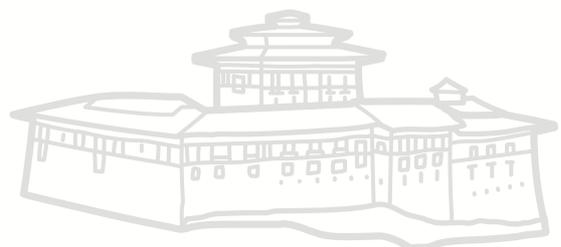
The delegation had representatives from various Bhutanese businesses, the International Trade Centre, and the country's Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Employment. Their objective is to promote Brand Bhutan and explore avenues for cooperation with Singapore businesses.

Among the sectors represented at the discussion were business people from Bhutan's food, wellness, and tourism & handicrafts sectors.

Mr. Maneesh welcomed the Bhutanese team to explore using Singapore and, in particular, the links that SICCI has with the chambers of commerce in the ASEAN countries to expand their business links with Southeast Asia.



"SICCI can serve as a springboard for you to connect with various markets in this region; at the same time, we can also work together to bring our businesses into Bhutan to explore other markets in the South Asian region," said Mr. Maneesh.



Ms. Purnima, a leader in the events industry, invited the Bhutanese delegation to work with SICCI to organise events to promote Bhutanese products in Singapore, particularly those which will capture the tourist market, with Singapore attracting millions of tourists each year.

Both sides welcomed the discussion and exchange of business ideas as a good start to build ties between both sides further.

A move welcomed by SICCI's Chairman, Mr. Neil Parekh, who said, "With the opening up of borders and with our Chamber making major inroads into India in particular and next Sri Lanka, the Bhutanese delegation's visit is a very timely one. It adds another dimension to our efforts to build strong links with the South Asian economies. Singapore and Bhutan enjoy excellent ties at all levels, and with our Chamber celebrating our centenary in 2024, strengthening our business links with Bhutan will be a priority task in the run-up to the Chamber's 100th birthday".



Here are some facts about Singapore's relations with Bhutan.

- **Singapore and Bhutan celebrated 20 years of cordial relations in 2022.**
- **In 2021, Singapore exported almost \$9.5 million worth of products to Bhutan.**
- **The main items exported include broadcasting equipment, computers, and medical instruments, to name a few.**
- **Singapore and Bhutan have collaborated in skills development, and this is one area SICCI can work with the Bhutanese institutions in linking up with leading skills trainers and educational institutions.**



Deepening SICCI's Business Ties with Malaysia

At a time when the relationship between Singapore and Malaysia is being strengthened at various levels, the Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry finds it most opportune to also take stock of its business interests with our closest neighbour.

To this end, a discussion was held on 27 April 2023 with representatives from Enterprise Singapore and the Singapore Ministry of Trade and Industry (Singapore) at the SICCI Headquarters.

The team was headed by Ms. Jing Jun Lim, EnterpriseSG's southeast Asia Director, who was joined by 2 colleagues, and Ms. Joanne Tan from the MTI.

The meeting, initiated by EnterpriseSG was aimed at getting a sense from the SICCI Board of our membership's interest in expanding into Malaysia.

SICCI was represented by Chairman, Mr. Neil Parekh, Board Director & Chairman for Internationalisation, Mr. Maneesh Tripathi, and Executive Director, Ms. Jamuna Rani Govindaraju

Mr. Neil Parekh, in his welcome remarks, spoke about the MoUs SICCI has with various Malaysian business associations, including the KL and Selangor Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the Johor Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

EnterpriseSG's team gave SICCI an update about their renewed efforts to encourage Singapore companies to visit Malaysia, especially after the travel restrictions were relaxed last year and to broaden business ties. Other topics discussed during the meeting included the political stability, Malaysia's keenness to revive its manufacturing sector, welcoming overseas partners, and possible sectors where the Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry can look at when exploring tie ups and business ventures.

Meanwhile, SICCI is also keen to explore opportunities with Indonesia and EnterpriseSG will look into organizing a country brief for the chamber in due course.



Events at a Glance

Launch of Tamil Language Month

The Tamil Language Month in April each year got off to full swing in 2023 post-pandemic. The launch event was shown live on Mediacorp Vasantham Channel on 1 April 2023, and the event was graced by Minister for Home Affairs and Law, Mr K Shanmugam and MP for Sembawang GRC, Mr Vikram Nair.

Joining the audience of community leaders, Tamil language teachers, students, and parents at the launch was Ms Jamuna Rani Govindaraju, SICCI's Executive Director.



Launch of Indian cultural fiesta 2023

Celebrations of the Indian New Year got off to a vibrant and colourful start at the Little India district with an Indian Cultural Fiesta organised by several Indian organisations in Singapore, among them the Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Taking part in the launching event were SICCI's Chairman, Mr Neil Parekh and Treasurer, Mr K Jayapal.

They were joined by Minister of State for Culture, Community and Youth and Trade and Industry, Mr Alvin Tan, who reflected on then Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew's participation in the Indian New Year festivities 13 years ago at Little India.

Mr Tan says several generations of leaders continue with this tradition, and the 20233 celebrations saw the participation of many Indian communities in Singapore through song and dance and information booths about their community and activities in Singapore.



Aidilfitri open house

The Malaysian High Commission had an open house to celebrate the Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebrations on 22 April 2022 at Rumah, Malaysia. Joining His Excellency, the Malaysian High Commissioner, and guests at the event was SICCI's Executive Director, Ms Jamuna Rani Govindaraju.

Business interests in Malaysia and the Southeast Asian region have been picking up, and the Aidilfitri reception was an opportune moment for SICCI to renew its ties with the Malaysian business community and to engage them in discussions to explore not only Malaysian markets but also beyond into India and other south Asian economies.



Dato' Dr. Azfar Mohamad Mustafar

Events at a glance

China International Import Expo

The Singapore Business Federation (SBF) and the China International Import Expo (CIIE) Bureau co-organised the CIIE 2023 Promotion Conference.

CIIE is the world's largest import-oriented expo.

It is also a prestigious platform enabling companies to showcase their products and services to both China & regional markets.

SICCI's Executive Director, Ms Jamuna Rani Govindaraju, joined the delegates for the conference.

Organisers believe Singapore companies could leverage this platform to explore business opportunities, increase brand awareness and forge new partnerships between Singapore and Chinese companies.



Members-only Event



Singapore Indian Chamber
of Commerce & Industry

ESTABLISHED 1924

SICCI AGM 2023



18 MAY 2023

4.00 TO 6.00 PM - AGM

6.00 TO 9.00 PM - DINNER

Veranda Room, Level 3 - Grand Copthorne Waterfront, 392 Havelock Rd, Singapore 169663.

Dress code: Business Attire

SICCI's Thoughts

We bring you a summary of some of our commentaries published on our social media on policy announcements and events which matter to our members and all workers in Singapore. Do scan on the link for the full commentary.



Sharpening business continuity plans

It has been a bruising battle for almost three years, and many lessons can be learnt from how Singapore responded to the Covid-19 pandemic.

All these have now been documented in a wide-ranging White Paper on the nation's response to the crisis and areas which need to be looked at in preparation for the next pandemic when it does happen....

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Keeping Up The Momentum On Sustainability

Singapore's efforts to achieve sustainability amongst its small and medium enterprises will always be a work in progress, primarily when SMEs focus on achieving their bottom lines and remaining afloat in this challenging business environment. And that is where the TACs (Trade Associations and Chambers) play a critical role in keeping up the

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The Manpower Challenge

The formal budget debate in Singapore's Parliament has concluded, but discussions on various issues continue to attract attention after the committee of supply sessions, and one such Ministry is MOM.

The Singapore National Employers Federation (SNEF) held a post-budget dialogue on 28 March 2023, which attracted almost 1,000....

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On your Toes with Sustainability

Hot on the heels following the Budget debate in Parliament, leaders of trade associations & chambers of commerce have been busy attending briefings with various government agencies to chart out their work plans for the financial year 2023-2024.

Enterprise Singapore, which works closely with the various trade associations and chambers...

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Go International

Internationalisation is something which SICCI strongly supports and is also encouraging its members to pursue.

Explains SICCI's Chairman, Mr Neil Parekh, " This is the whole purpose of our chamber recently taking part in two leading events in India, the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas and the Uttar Pradesh Global Investors Summit..."

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Better Skills for a Better Future

President Halimah Yacob's address at the opening of parliament carried many important proposals for the government to take the nation and its people forward in the next few years.

One area which stands out for businesses and TACs is the need to develop the talents and skills of citizens throughout their careers

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SICCI's May Day Wish List

Conveying his May Day greetings to SICCI's members and all workers in Singapore, the chamber's chairman, Mr. Neil Parekh, says, "Our workers have gone through many sacrifices in the past three years, and we wish to salute each one of them for their dedication and contribution to Singapore's economy. We thank you for your full support as we work together to make Singapore one of the best...."

Read the rest on our LinkedIn Page





Singapore Indian Chamber
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Chairman, Mr. Neil Parekh, the Board of Directors,
and the secretariat of SICCI wish all who have worked tirelessly and
made Singapore a wonderful nation

HAPPY LABOUR DAY

SICCI's Congratulatory message to the Sri Lankan High Commissioner on IMF's support for Sri Lanka.



Singapore Indian Chamber
of Commerce & Industry
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23 March 2023

Her Excellency Sashikala Premawardhane
Sri Lanka's High Commissioner to Singapore
51 Newton Road
#13-07/12 Goldhill Plaza
Singapore 308900

Dear Excellency Sashikala,

IMF'S SUPPORT FOR SRI LANKA

I am happy to join my board members in welcoming the news that the IMF and its executive board have approved a nearly US3 Billion-dollar support for Sri Lanka.

This amount is a beautiful birthday gift for Sri Lanka as it celebrates its 75th year of Independence.

I am confident that the President of Sri Lanka and his team of Ministers will swing into action immediately to take steps to bring about a recovery of the country's economy, attract more investments and create many more jobs for its people.

On its part, the Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry hopes its members can continue actively engaging their business counterparts in Colombo and the other cities and look forward to reviving business ventures and proposals with the various chambers and trade associations in Sri Lanka.

Let us work towards an exchange programme of strong business delegations from both sides to further cement our ties and commemorate Sri Lanka's 75th anniversary and the Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Centenary celebrations in 2024.

I wish you and your team at the High Commission good health and rewarding work in enhancing bilateral and business ties between our two nations.

Thank you,

Neil Parekh

Neil Parekh
Chairman, Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce, and Industry



SICCI's Congratulatory letter to Mr Lee Chuan Teck, CEO-Designate of Enterprise Singapore



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31 Stanley Street
Singapore 068740

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Email: sicci@sicci.com
Website: www.sicci.com

28 March 2023

Mr Lee Chuan Teck

CEO-designate

Enterprise Singapore
230 Victoria St,
#09-00 Bugis Junction Office Tower,
Singapore 188024

Dear Chuan Teck,

CONGRATULATIONS FROM SICCI'S BOARD

On behalf of our Board of Directors, I extend our best wishes and heartiest congratulations on your appointment as CEO of Enterprise Singapore from May 2023.

Our trade associations and chambers, particularly the Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, have benefitted from the excellent counsel and close relations with Enterprise Singapore since its inception.

This collaboration was exceptional and critical during the two tough years when our businesses had to endure a challenging period during the pandemic.

SICCI's SME Centre continues to work closely with Enterprise SG, aligning many of its programmes and courses to the needs of small and medium enterprises with inputs from ESG.

I am confident that our good ties will continue to grow under your leadership at Enterprise SG as we explore new markets and expand into emerging economic activities at home and abroad.

My board members and I would happily host you and your management team for a visit and dialogue with our chamber once you have settled into your new role.

I wish you good health.

Thank you.

Neil Parekh

Neil Parekh

Chairman, Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce, and Industry.



SICCI's congratulatory message to Mr. Png Cheong Boon on his move to the EDB.



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Website: www.sicci.com

28 March 2023

Mr Png Cheong Boon
Chairman-designate

Economic Development Board (EDB)
250 North Bridge Road
28-00 Raffles City Tower
Singapore 179101

Dear Mr Png,

CONGRATULATIONS FROM SICCI'S BOARD

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I extend our best wishes and heartiest congratulations on your move to the Economic Development Board (EDB) as its next Chairman.

While in Enterprise Singapore, you and your team helped our trade associations and chambers of commerce and many small and medium enterprises steer through two tough years of economic and business difficulties during a standstill globally due to the pandemic.

Through a slew of schemes and working closely with the TACs, we all emerged more robust with the guidance of the leadership team at EnterpriseSG.

We look forward to working closely with you both on a personal basis and in whatever way TACs can play a role in the work of EDB in attracting investments, connecting with overseas chambers of commerce and in, taking part in official business delegations, spreading our business ties far and wide and be part of Singapore's ever-evolving economic success story.

I also look forward to meeting your successor at EnterpriseSG and being assured of our strong support for our work together to grow small businesses in Singapore.

May I wish you good health and every success at EDB!

Thank you.

Neil Parekh

Neil Parekh

Chairman, Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce, and Industry.



SICCI's Congratulatory letter to Mr Kok Ping Soon, CEO-Designate of the Singapore Business Federation.



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31 March 2023

Mr Kok Ping Soon
Chief Executive Officer-designate
Singapore Business Federation.
160 Robinson Rd
#06-01 SBF Center
Singapore 068914

Dear Ping Soon,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, I offer my best wishes and congratulations on your appointment as the next Chief Executive Officer of the Singapore Business Federation (SBF).

Singapore's Trade Associations and Chambers of Commerce (TACs) face challenging times at home and abroad.

As the apex business body in Singapore, SBF plays a critical role in rallying all agencies, irrespective of size, to take care of the business interests as they expand their business.

SICCI and our team will extend our cooperation to your management team and staff in joint efforts to create opportunities for local businesses to fly the Singapore flag when we embark on joint business missions abroad.

I look forward to meeting you soon and discussing enhancing cooperation between our two organisations.

Wishing you good heal and all the very best.

Thank you.

Neil Parekh

Neil Parekh
Chairman, Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry



SICCI's Congratulatory letter to Ms Dilys Boey, CEO-Designate of Workforce Singapore



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Singapore 068740

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Email: sicci@sicci.com
Website: www.sicci.com

5 April 2023

Ms Dilys Boey
Chief Executive - Designate
Workforce Singapore
1 Paya Lebar Link
#08-08 PLQ 2 Paya Lebar Quarter
Singapore 408533

Dear Ms Boey,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, I wish to congratulate you on your upcoming appointment as Chief Executive of Workforce Singapore **from 1 July 2023**.

Your posting to Workforce Singapore puts you in good stead to share the rich experience you have gained in Enterprise Singapore all these years, particularly as the Deputy Chief Executive of industry clusters, to mould the workforce Singapore needs for the emerging economic challenges.

SICCI is delighted to have worked with you and your team in Enterprise Singapore, and my team and I would be pleased to continue our close relationship with you when you move over to Workforce Singapore and for us to tap on the programmes of WS for the benefits of our members and SMEs in the Indian business community.

I wish you good health and satisfaction in your new posting.

Thank you.

Neil Parekh

Neil Parekh
Chairman
Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry



SICCI's Hari Raya Greetings to the Singapore Malay Chamber of Commerce and Industry.



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19 April 2023

**President Farid Khan and Board Members
Singapore Malay Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SMCCI)**
15 Jalan Pinang,
Singapore 199147

Dear Farid and colleagues,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, I would like to convey my good wishes to you and your team on Hari Raya Aidilfitri on the first day of the Muslim month of Syawal.

Our two chambers have much to rejoice with the return to normalcy in the local and international business scenes.

Notwithstanding our global pressures, the business community continues to explore opportunities far and wide. It was with much pleasure that we collaborated with the SMCCI in 2022 to take a joint mission to the United Arab Emirates with the UAE-Singapore Business Council.

I look forward to working closely with you and your team to explore more joint missions to our neighbouring countries and also to South Asia, in particular India, where our chamber has entered into a wide-ranging MOU with some leading business chambers in the country.

I also understand that our three chambers will collaborate on projects to commemorate the 100th birth anniversary of our first Prime Minister, Mr Lee Kuan Yew.

May I take this opportunity to wish you, your loved ones and your board of directors and their families SelamatHari Raya Aidilfitri, good health!

Thank you,

Neil Parekh

Neil Parekh
Chairman, Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry



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