

Media Release

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SBF and SBF Foundation encourage an inclusive Singapore

- ***SBF Foundation unveils plans to step up efforts to enhance the welfare and employability of disadvantaged groups in the workforce***
- ***Urges business community to come forward to give back to society and transform lives of the underprivileged***

Singapore, Tuesday, 5 September 2017 – At a joint media conference today, the Singapore Business Federation (SBF) and SBF Foundation encourage business leaders and the business community to come forward to collaborate and help build a more inclusive Singapore.

The call comes amidst the official opening of the new SBF and SBF Foundation premises at SBF Center today. Gracing the occasion were Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and Minister for Trade and Industry (Industry) S Iswaran, who delivered a speech. Some 150 guests comprising SBF Foundation donors, SBF member companies, partners, stakeholders and the media attended.

The Gift of a New Home

At the official opening, the SBF and SBF Foundation expressed their gratitude to Far East Organization for gifting the office space to the Foundation under the Community Sports Facilities Scheme and naming the development after SBF.

SBF Foundation – mobilizing the business community

The SBF Foundation was set up in response to our Prime Minister's call in 2012 for businesses to be more active and engaged in corporate philanthropy and Corporate Social Responsibility.

Founded by SBF in 2013, SBF Foundation is an independent charity with Institution of Public Charter (IPC) status. Since its inception, it has received generous donations in



cash and kind from the business community and strong support for its programmes. In this regard, we commend Far East Organization for setting the good example of giving back to the community.

As a collective foundation for the business community to serve the needs of society, the Foundation has set its objectives as:

1. To champion and multiply the efforts of the business community in corporate social responsibility (CSR) and corporate giving; and
2. To promote the welfare and employability in the workforce of the following disadvantaged persons: low wage workers, low income families, persons with disabilities and youth-at-risk.

To date, the Foundation has worked with 7 partner organisations and engaged 515 companies. Through its 10 programmes, it has committed total funding of S\$3.2 million and benefitted more than 1,000 beneficiaries.

Future Plans

To further the CSR cause, SBF Foundation partners the National Volunteer and Philanthropy Centre (NVPC) on Company of Good which helps companies gain a better understanding of their existing giving profiles, as well as to build their knowledge, capabilities and network. It plans to roll out a fellowship programme that will allow companies to begin and enhance their giving journeys.

In 2017, SBF Foundation inaugurated two new initiatives with SG Enable and New Hope Community Services.

The partnership with SG Enable aims to establish “An Inclusive Index for Persons-With-Disabilities (PWDs)” which is a self-assessment tool to facilitate a more holistic evaluation of employers’ inclusiveness in their efforts to hire PWDs. The data from the Index would be used to develop an Inclusive Trustmark, which would be a benchmark to differentiate employers’ effort in inclusive hiring and provide meaningful recognition to deserving employers.



With New Hope Community Services, SBF Foundation aims to create a job support and retention programme to enhance the long-term employability of the homeless. The programme aims to help 200 beneficiaries secure employment with at least 30% of them staying on the job for more than six months.

With regards to SBF Foundation's future plans, Mrs Theresa Foo, SBF Foundation's Chairman said "We are committed to continually explore new strategic partnerships to fulfil our mission to encourage, enable and enhance the contributions of the business community to the social, vocational and educational upliftment of all in Singapore. We would like to urge SBF member companies and the business community to come forward and provide opportunities for our beneficiaries."

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About the SBF Foundation

The SBF Foundation is an independent charity set up by the Singapore Business Federation in 2013 with Institution of Public Charter (IPC) status. The Foundation encourages businesses to be more engaged in corporate philanthropy and corporate social responsibility, to foster a more inclusive society. The Foundation is envisioned to be a collective foundation of the business community, serving the needs of the local community. It seeks to promote CSR and corporate philanthropy, partner Singapore based companies to assist underprivileged and disadvantaged workers, and support education and training for disadvantaged youth.

For more information, please visit our website: www.sbfoundation.org.sg