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**WELCOME REMARKS BY
MR TEO SIONG SENG, SBF CHAIRMAN**

**2014 NATIONAL SECURITY CONFERENCE: BUSINESS CONTINUITY
THROUGH CYBER SECURITY**

WEDNESDAY, 1 OCTOBER 2014, 9.00am

Mr S Iswaran, Minister, Prime Minister's Office, Second Minister for Home Affairs and Second Minister for Trade and Industry

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen

Good morning and a very warm welcome to all.

Introduction

I am glad to see so many of you here today. This illustrates the consciousness on the importance of national security and resilience in fuelling a robust business community.

Organised by the Singapore Business Federation (SBF) and supported by the National Security Coordination Secretariat (NSCS) the National Security Conference (NSC) is an annual forum aimed at providing thought-leadership on current security issues.

This platform is a good example of the close partnership between the government and business community, in enhancing capabilities of businesses in overcoming evolving security threats and risks. This year, the focus of the conference will be on business continuity through cyber security. We are happy to have the support of the Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore (IDA).

Importance of Resilience against Global Uncertainties

As one of the world's most open economies, Singapore remains highly vulnerable to global uncertainties and threats.

We have seen fair share of crises in the past decade. These include global and domestic crises such as the recent Ebola outbreak in West Africa; the annual haze phenomenon that affect air quality; the 2009 H1N1 global pandemic that claimed more than 18,000 lives worldwide; the 2013 Singapore cyber-attacks that targeted at several websites and social media platforms. All these episodes have severe economic, environmental and social implications.

Therefore, the ability to weather through crises and threats is crucial for Singapore businesses to remain competitive domestically and internationally.

Singapore as a Resilient and Trusted Business Hub

Singapore, as one of Asia's leading economies, has been ranked as the only Asian city in the top 10 in health, safety and security in the Cities of Opportunity study by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC).

In addition, in the 2013 Digital Realty Report, 67% of respondents considered Singapore as the preferred location for their companies to base their data centre due to high security. Such accolades are the results of the collective commitment by the business community and government in building a resilient and trusted business hub.

SBF as the National Business Continuity Management (BCM) Focal Point

As the National Business Continuity Management (BCM) Focal Point, SBF has been working closely with SPRING Singapore, as well as industry partners since 2008, to enhance enterprises' capabilities in risk management and BCM.

The Federation has since reached out to over 20,000 companies in building awareness and assisted over 200 organisations, both large and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) from various sectors, in building their BCM capabilities.

We have helped and seen many enterprises that have successfully enhanced capabilities and preparedness against risks and threats. For example, Teckwah, a printing and package company, is the first company in the industry to achieve BCM standard SS540, it has implemented contingency measures against threats such as natural disaster, fire hazards and disease pandemic.

Another SME, IPS Securex, a security system integrator, recognised the need to keep its operations secure and crisis resilient and hence implemented BCM plans to set up backup systems and facilities.

In addition, SBF has introduced the BCM Online Resource Library which includes a BCM self-assessment tool. This tool enables enterprises to conduct a self-assessment on their risk profiles and identify areas for improvements.

Over the years, the Federation has also published BCM booklets that feature success case-studies; on how Singapore enterprises have embarked on BCM journey to sustain resilience and competitiveness advantage.

To encourage more adoption, we have also started to appoint BCM Ambassadors from various industries, to help advocate on the importance of BCM and share their BCM journey and experience.

SBF's Continued Effort in Engaging Business Community in Business Resilience

As national security and resilience is imperative to sustaining a robust Singapore, SBF, as the apex business chamber, will continue to work with the government and business community.

Today's conference is a good testament of private-public partnership in driving this important agenda.

This year, the theme of the conference is "Business Continuity through Cyber Security".

It is very timely given the growing opportunities and dependency on digital technology in businesses going forward. I hope all of you would benefit from today's conference.

The keynote presentation by Mr Liew Min Chee, Chair of ABS Standing Committee for Cyber Security will highlight the nature and impact of cyber threats that enterprises face today and the importance of building resilience in the business operations. You will also gain insights on how to secure your businesses against cyber threats from industry experts in the panel discussion.

On this note, I wish all of you a fruitful time at the conference and may I now invite Minister Iswaran to address us.

Minister, please.

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