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**WELCOME REMARKS BY
MR TEO SIONG SENG, SBF CHAIRMAN
2015 NATIONAL SECURITY CONFERENCE
27 OCTOBER 2015, TUESDAY • 9.00AM**

Dr Yaacob Ibrahim, Minister for Communications and Information,
& Minister-in-charge of Cyber Security

Distinguished guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning and a very warm welcome to all.

Last year, we discussed how important it was for companies to be proactive in maintaining the cyber security of their business.

This year, the focus remains on cyber security, with emphasis on the role of employees. It is a key concern that impacts all of us because nowadays we rely so heavily on IT across so many aspects of our lives and work – from social interaction and information-sharing, to banking and commerce, and government services like healthcare. As more businesses increase productivity by digitising databases, automating processes, and migrating service delivery to online platforms; our dependence on technology will only grow.

The likelihood of a cyber-attack and its detrimental impact cannot be under estimated.

Having strong security technology is not enough. Employees' behaviour and their awareness of security are as important. Hence training employees in cyber security is critical.

Building Resilient People and Systems

To this end, our conference this year continues to promote a holistic strategy – one integrating the three elements of technology, process as well as people. Only then can businesses have an effective defence against cyber threats.

On employees, we have to ensure they help keep computers and networks safe. They also need to know the policies and practices regarding Internet safety that they are expected to follow. Their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding sensitive data and protecting company resources must also be clear.

To help businesses educate and engage their employees, we have created the *Employee Cyber Security Kit*, which will be unveiled later today. It is a plug-and-play digital toolkit for companies to guide employee cyber security awareness efforts.

We hope businesses will find this kit useful in educating their employees as cyber threats often originates from within.

Business Continuity Management

Equally important for companies is the need to have business continuity management programmes in place. They are critical for businesses to be prepared in tackling crises, including cyberattacks, pandemics or the haze. Business continuity management, or BCM for short, helps companies identify threats, assess the potential impact of these threats, and develop measures to enable business operations to stay on course in the face of crises.

As the BCM focal point, SBF has been working closely with the Singapore Government and industry partners to build capabilities on risk management and business continuity. Since 2008, SBF has reached out to some 20,500 companies and helped 250 organisations in applying for SPRING Singapore's support to build their BCM capabilities.

Today, I am confident you will benefit much from Dr Janson Yap's keynote presentation on cyber threats and opportunities, as well as the importance of a paradigm shift. You can also look forward to gaining fresh insights from industry experts on safeguarding your business from cyber threats during the panel discussion later.

Conclusion

In closing, I wish all of you a fruitful time in learning more about cyber security today.

May I now invite Minister Yaacob to address us.

Minister, please.