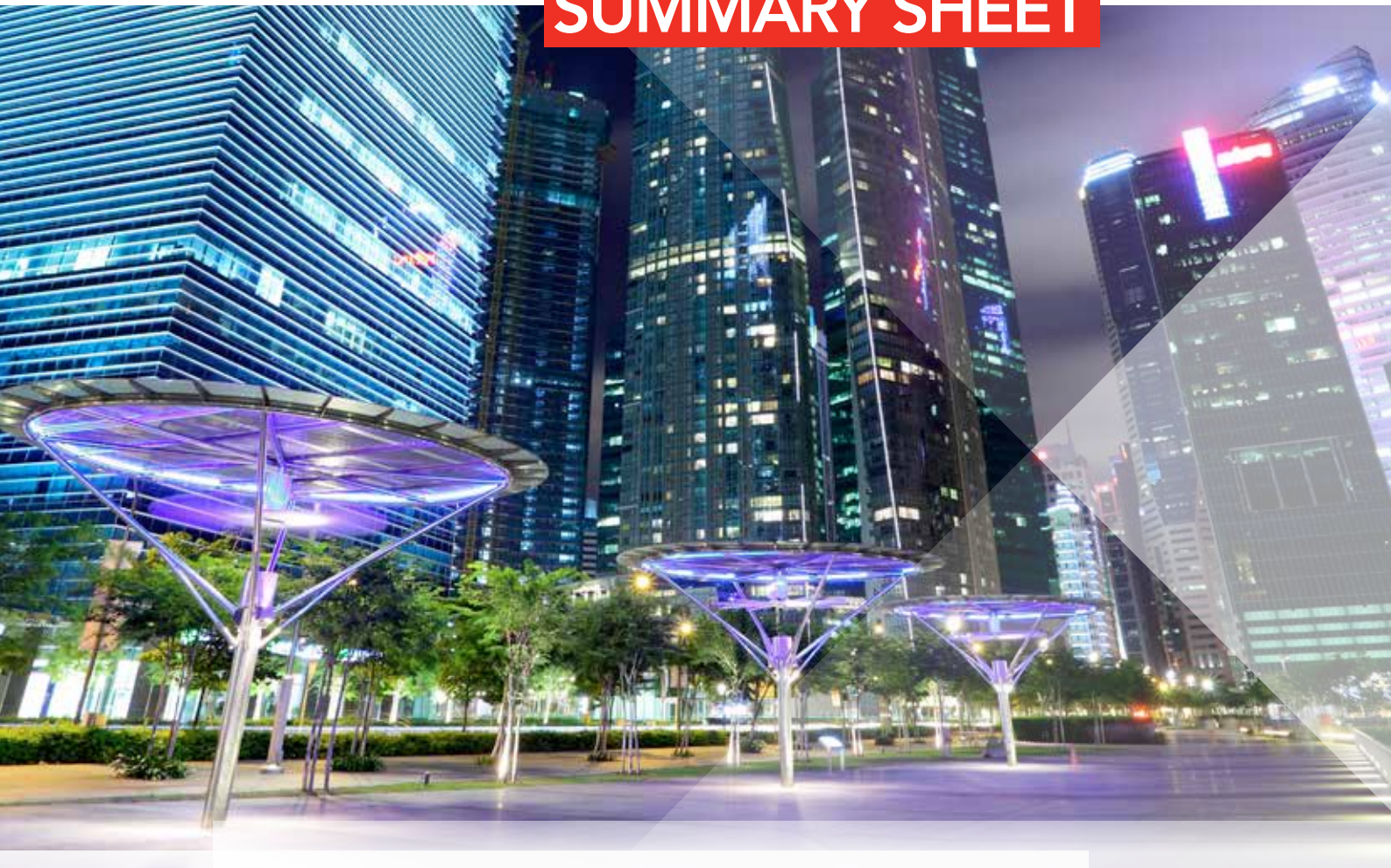


SINGAPORE BUSINESS FEDERATION POSITION PAPER FOR A VIBRANT SINGAPORE

SUMMARY SHEET



Knowledge Partner





OVERVIEW

Singapore has achieved tremendous progress over the last 50 years. However, we are currently at a new crossroads, facing a more challenging environment internally and externally. Sustained economic growth is needed for Singapore's longer-term development and to fund the future increase in social spending to build an inclusive society.

SBF BUSINESS POSITION PAPER

This is a private sector initiative led by the Singapore Business Federation (SBF), supported by major trade associations and chambers and prominent members of the business community. The Paper addresses key immediate concerns of businesses as well as longer-term issues to strengthen the Singapore economy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Paper calls for a deep review of Singapore's existing economic strategies and for Government to formulate new responses to the challenges and opportunities in an increasingly uncertain and volatile operating environment.

IMMEDIATE-TERM

■ **Assist businesses to transit through this difficult period into the new restructured economy for sustainable growth.** Government to take a deep dive to analyse and address cost and manpower issues.

SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.** Identify the key reasons for the sharp increase in costs faced by businesses in recent years and study how to manage them
- 12.** Work with SBF and the Trade Associations & Chambers (TACs) to
 - Review the manpower-lean policy as businesses need time to adjust
 - Refine the foreign manpower policies in different sectors for Singapore to continue to be attractive to foreign talent, but discerning in its selection

MEDIUM TO LONG-TERM

Twin Overarching Strategies

■ **Create an economy that is not constrained by our geographical boundaries.**

To extend our economy beyond Singapore, Government needs to do more to encourage Singapore-based companies expand overseas both in terms of operations and markets, but with their homes base firmly anchored here. More needs to be done to encourage our companies to leverage the digital economy to expand their markets and opportunities.

■ **Develop Singapore as a strong home base for nerve centre, thought leadership, innovation and growth activities.**

We should capitalise on our competitive strengths to anchor and grow key activities here to continue to provide good jobs for our people.



SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS



R1. Government to review the approach to developing and upscaling local enterprises as they are critical in our next phase of economic development

- Create the economic infrastructure to upscale local companies and encourage them to expand overseas with their home bases anchored here. This involves
 - Developing new mindsets, skill sets, programmes and approaches in our public agencies to champion the growth of our companies overseas
 - Providing more opportunities for local enterprises to participate in major Government procurement projects
 - Appointing champion public agencies to lead the development of key industry sectors
- Appoint a Minister to provide political leadership for a whole-of-Government approach in the development of local enterprises
- Invest a larger part of our reserves in more direct ways, and on a more active and wider scale, in local enterprises that have the potential to expand overseas

- Promote platforms that allow companies to collaborate with each other
- Facilitate the creation, acquisition and use of Intellectual Property as a competitive edge
- Look into how our securities market can be made more vibrant and liquid so that it can provide enterprises good access to capital
- Develop differential policy options based on the roles of local enterprises in our economy and society so that the assistance rendered can be more targeted



R2. Government to adopt a more pro-active approach to promoting entrepreneurship

- Continue to foster a more entrepreneurial mindset and culture
- Help local start-ups go global, and expose them to global competition



R3. Government to promote the flow of talent to the growth sectors identified, and work with business to inculcate the right attitude in our workforce

- Offer more public scholarships to growth enterprises, and rotate our public officers to these enterprises
- Inculcate the right attitudes and values
- Inculcate values and foster the right attitude in SkillsFuture, rather than the technicalities of the schemes
- Educate and groom more international managers who are capable of operating across different cultures and geographies



R4. Government to adopt a more pro-business approach in policy formulation and the development of enterprises

- Review the organisation of Government and its approaches to be more pro-business
- Collaborate with businesses more – it is crucial for Government and businesses to have greater and closer collaboration under a more complex operating environment

We make this Position Paper public to elicit further feedback and suggestions from SBF members and the wider business community. We hope that wider public discussion will lead to the formulation of better Government policies for the future of Singapore and our businesses. We look forward to working closely with the Government to create an even more vibrant and sustainable Singapore that is the pride of its people and admired by others for its resilience and 'can do' spirit.



10 Hoe Chiang Road
#22-01 Keppel Towers Singapore 089315
Tel +65 6827 6828 Fax +65 6827 6807
www.sbf.org.sg

For more information on the paper, please visit sbfpositionpaper2016.org.sg