

## 21<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Singapore Business Federation

### Questions Received and Responses

#### Question 1:

SBF should organise Member's Networking Sessions - for focused business groups or in general.

As members of SBF, we seldom get opportunity to interact amongst its fellow members - except either at AGM or through International Delegation Trips.

#### Response:

Other than overseas mission trips, SBF organises over 30 networking events annually for members based on focus areas and themes, for example global markets, digitalisation and sustainability, etc. These events allow members with common interests and similar agenda to interact and network with one another for potential collaborations.

Apart from the AGM, ministerial and budget dialogues, SBF also organised conferences and workshops, such as the Singapore Apex Business Summit, Singapore Regional Business Forum, ASEAN Conference, and FTA Day sessions which facilitated networking among attendees.

SBF will continue to curate opportunities to allow our members to network and engage including organising more broad-based and general networking events. Members can view our list of events at <https://www.sbf.org.sg/events/events-trainings> and register to sign up for these events.

#### Question 2:

How does SBF help companies develop skill set in AI?

#### Response:

SBF takes a partnership approach with other ecosystem players to help companies develop the skill set in AI. A multi-faceted approach involving raising awareness, providing training and enabling practical experience is needed.

To deepen companies' capabilities and usage of AI, SBF works with technology and consulting partners in initiatives such as MAP, Boost Up and I4.0 Human Capital Initiative (IHCI) to tackle a wide range of challenges across various areas. Through these programmes, companies can attend workshops and access resources offered by our partners to deploy AI-enabled tools to support them in data analytics and insights, improve customers' experience and personalization, as well as automation and efficiency. For example, in the current run of Boost Up (until July 2023), businesses can learn how to automate processes and workflows using AI software and visualization tools to interpret data and make informed decisions.

In addition, to upskill companies in the area of AI, SBF Business Institute (SBI) runs programmes such as "Using AI & Machine Learning for Market Segmentation" and "Strategic Planning + Understanding ChatGPT" to help companies gain a better understanding of AI/Machine Learning, with the training also including case studies.

SBI also partners NUS-ISS on a series of blended learning programmes under the Digitalisation Passport that can help in developing companies' digital capabilities.

**Question 3:**

I find the SBF charges for Courses and Seminars are quite high. With lower charges, SMEs can then send many more of their staff for further training and knowledge acquisition. I believe training is one of the key missions for SBF.

**Response:**

As our key consideration and efforts are in keeping affordable fees for training, in 2022, SBF Business Institute (SBI) started to develop workshops to be approved by SSG for funding support. Currently, there are 4 SSG approved funded workshops. The funding support from SSG ranges from 50% to 70% which will help defray the fee. SBI will continue to develop more SSG funded support workshops for members.

**Question 4:**

- 1) We would like to find out more on Free Trade Agreement between Singapore and Central & Eastern Europe relating to renewable energy.
- 2) If a Singapore company invests on the renewable energy in Central or Eastern Europe country(ies), how the Singapore company can obtain carbon credits?

**Response:**

Thank you for your company's interest in the Central and Eastern Europe region. The SBF FTA Team would be contacting you soon for a follow-up meeting to better understand your business needs.