

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **FACILITATING INDUSTRY TRANSFORMATION: SCCCI'S TACOM TRANSFORMATION CENTRE MARKS ONE YEAR OF STRENGTHENING TRADE ASSOCIATIONS FOR THE FUTURE**

1. The TACOM Transformation Centre, an initiative by the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCCI), delivers strong first-year outcomes with a track record of empowering trade associations to drive industry development and transformation.
2. Officiated by Ms Low Yen Ling, Senior Minister of State for Trade and Industry and Culture, Community and Youth, the TACOM Transformation Centre (TTC) was launched on 28 August 2024 at the Trade Association Hub @ Jurong Town Hall. Supported by Enterprise Singapore (EnterpriseSG), TTC reflects SCCCI's commitment to partner government to strengthen the capabilities of trade associations amid a rapidly changing economic landscape.

#### **Tangible achievements in the first year of TTC**

3. Since its launch, TTC has emerged as a trusted partner and enabler to local trade associations and has helped to catalyse the transformation of trade associations through needs-driven and outcomes-oriented approach. Over the past year, TTC has supported a total of 13 local trade associations through more than 20 transformation projects spanning digitalisation and AI, internationalisation, sustainability and advocacy.
4. Among the trade associations that have benefited from TTC's facilitation and advisory services are the Singapore Timber Association (STA) and the Singapore Cycle & Motor Traders Association (SCMTA), whose initiatives highlight the breadth and depth of TTC's customised support for local trade associations:

- (a) Singapore Timber Association (STA)

- 5. Faced with rising operating costs, manpower challenges, limited industrial space and regulatory & environmental compliance, STA worked closely with TTC on a series of initiatives to strengthen industry readiness and long-term resilience.

6. TTC facilitated STA's industry survey on the Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone, providing end-to-end support from survey design and outreach to analysis and consolidation of industry recommendations. The initiative enabled STA to translate industry views into clear, actionable insights to support future policy engagement with the relevant government agencies.
7. To build sustainability capabilities, TTC also facilitated STA's partnership with the Singapore Chinese Chamber Institute of Business on a foundational "Sustainability 101" training programme, strengthening STA members' understanding of ESG principles and regulatory requirements.
8. In addition, TTC acts as the lead coordinator and strategic advisor to STA's Trade Association Transformation Roadmap, providing industry benchmarking and policy guidance, aligning the association's priorities with Singapore's economic transformation goals and equipping STA with a forward-looking and actionable plan to guide future industry initiatives.

(b) Singapore Cycle & Motor Traders Association (SCMTA)

9. SCMTA sought to improve the association's revenue, step up membership drive and manage market disruption. TTC's support focused on advocacy, digital transformation to modernise operations and strengthening the value proposition of its membership.
10. TTC facilitated SCMTA's long-standing request for controlled access to Land Transport Authority's Vehicle Registration & Licensing System (VRLS) to facilitate its members' automotive repair work, streamlining engagement with relevant authorities through data-backed advocacy and coordinated discussions with government agencies. These efforts have helped SCMTA members to streamline their operations, reduce errors and enhance industry efficiency.
11. In parallel, TTC is assisting SCMTA to apply for the Digital Transformation Acceleration (Digi-TAC) scheme to enhance the association's digital branding, improve operational efficiency and upskill the secretariat team, positioning SCMTA for long-term sustainability. This support by TTC includes providing end-to-end support through digital needs assessment, vendor coordination and project oversight.
12. TTC's support in SCMTA's strategic projects, including the VRLS advocacy and leveraging on the Digi-TAC scheme, plays a crucial role in modernizing the association's operations. By harnessing digital solutions and data access, SCMTA is better positioned to serve its members and navigate industry challenges effectively.

**Empowering trade associations to drive industry development**

Mr Thomas Pek, Chairman of SCCCI Trade Association and Membership Affairs Committee, said "Through strong collaboration with Enterprise Singapore and our trade association members, TACOM Transformation Centre has translated Singapore's industry transformation priorities into tangible, outcome-driven initiatives in digitalisation, productivity improvement,

sustainability and internationalisation. SCCCI remains committed to strengthening the capabilities and relevance of trade associations, so that they can better support enterprises, transform industries and contribute meaningfully to Singapore's long-term economic growth in an increasingly complex and competitive business landscape."

Ms May Yap, President of the Singapore Timber Association, said "TTC supported us in developing a clear and forward-looking strategic roadmap for STA. Their assistance in aligning our goals with national priorities and industry trends has strengthened our ability to plan ahead and stay resilient."

Mr Kelvin Ong, President of the Singapore Cycle & Motor Trading Association, said "With the support of SCCCI's TACOM Transformation Centre (TTC), SCMTA has been able to embark on its digital transformation journey. The TTC team provided structured support in grant application, project scoping and vendor coordination, enabling SCMTA to secure government funding and implement key digital initiatives such as the website revamp and digital membership management."

13. As Singapore's economy transforms, trade associations remain a crucial pillar of support for our local enterprises. SCCCI, with close to 150 trade association members, recognizes the continuous need to partner, uplift and support our local trade associations, particularly those in traditional industries, to ensure that they continue serving as key enablers to drive industry development and economic growth.

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### **Media Contact:**

Ms Kwong Jia Wen  
Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce  
& Industry  
Tel: 6430 8381  
HP: 8409 9751  
Email: [jiawen@sccci.org.sg](mailto:jiawen@sccci.org.sg)

Ms Tina Low  
Singapore Chinese Chamber of  
Commerce & Industry  
Tel: 6430 8311  
HP: 9729 4091  
Email: [tinalow@sccci.org.sg](mailto:tinalow@sccci.org.sg)

### **About Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry**

Established in 1906, the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCCI) is an internationally renowned business organisation and the apex body of the Chinese business community in Singapore. It is the founder of the biennial World Chinese Entrepreneurs Convention, a global business convention. It plays a key and pro-active role in representing the interests of the local business community.

The SCCCI has a membership network comprising 5,000 corporate members and has more than 150 trade association members, representing over 40,000 companies including large financial and business organisations, multinational corporations, government-linked companies, and small and medium enterprises from a wide spectrum of trades and industries. These members together provide vast resources and opportunities which enable the SCCCI to develop an influential global Chinese business network for business, education, culture and community development. In return, they share a strong sense of pride and identity together and benefit immensely from the SCCCI's membership services, facilities and activities.

For more information, please visit [www.sccci.org.sg](http://www.sccci.org.sg)