

# MESSAGE

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MINISTER FOR TRADE AND  
INDUSTRY (TRADE)

*Ministry of Trade and Industry*



Manufacturing continues to be an important pillar of Singapore's economy, contributing around 20 per cent of our Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2015. Manufacturing provides good jobs for Singaporeans, contributes significantly to productivity growth and generates positive spillovers to the rest of the economy, including our services industries.

It is important that we continue to keep pace as the nature of manufacturing evolves. For instance, high-value manufacturing-related services such as research & development, product design, engineering, logistics and after-sale services are an increasingly important part of manufacturing ecosystems. Digital manufacturing technologies are also enabling new products, services and business models. Externally, the dynamics of global supply chains are changing, driven by trends such as the growing middle-class in Asia.

It is encouraging that businesses in Singapore are preparing themselves for these trends. For instance, more companies are investing in advanced manufacturing technologies and entering new growth areas such as robotics and additive manufacturing. Our companies are also venturing overseas to capture growth opportunities in the region and scale their operations. In addition, more partnerships are being forged as companies work together to grow beyond traditional markets.

Trade Associations & Chambers (TACs), including the Singapore Manufacturing Federation (SMF), play important roles in working closely with the Government and industry players to support our businesses. SMF has introduced a number of initiatives to support manpower development, drive technology adoption, improve manufacturing standards, as well as strengthen cross-border business relations and economic co-operation. One specific initiative is the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) Singapore, a tripartite partnership between IE Singapore, SMF and Intellectual Property Intermediary (IPI) to help companies access technology and business opportunities in Europe.

As part of the S\$4.5 billion Industry Transformation Programme announced in Budget 2016, the Government will continue to work closely with industry partners, TACs and other key stakeholders to develop and implement customised roadmaps for our key industries. Each roadmap will comprise a growth and competitiveness plan, supported by strategies to upgrade productivity, develop skills, promote technology adoption and innovation, and help our companies expand overseas. These efforts will position Singapore well to transform our industries, seize growth opportunities and create good jobs for Singaporeans.

I would like to thank the SMF for its strong support and contributions in improving the manufacturing sector in Singapore. I look forward to seeing greater collaborations and more meaningful partnerships being forged and wish the SMF continued success in the coming years.