

SINGAPORE AND INDONESIA CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF BILATERAL RELATIONS

17 January 2017, SINGAPORE – Singapore and Indonesia started their celebrations of 50 years of bilateral relations today with the unveiling of a commemorative pin to celebrate the 50th anniversary during the ‘Indonesia-Singapore Business Partnerships 50 years and Beyond’ event. This event was co-organised by the Singapore Manufacturing Federation (SMF) and the Embassy of Indonesia the Republic of Indonesia in Singapore with the support of the Indonesia Investment Coordinating Board (BKPM) and KADIN Indonesia held at the Mandarin Orchard Hotel.

Speaking at the event as the Guest-of-Honour to a crowd of 250 guests of government officials and business leaders from Indonesia and Singapore, Mr Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for the Ministry of Trade & Industry (Trade) said that Indonesia and Singapore had enjoyed an enduring bilateral relationship which has grown from strength to strength with robust economic ties being a hallmark of both countries. Together with Mr A.M. Fachir, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs for Indonesia, they witnessed the launched of the commemorative pin designed by the Indonesian Embassy.

In 2015, bilateral trade between Singapore and Indonesia reached more than S\$58.7 billion, making Indonesia Singapore’s fourth largest trading partner while Singapore was Indonesia’s third largest trading partner. FDI from Singapore was US\$5.9 billion (S\$8.3 billion). In 2016, Singapore companies invested almost US\$7.1 billion in Indonesia for the first nine months, doubling that for the same period in 2015. This maintains Singapore’s position as Indonesia’s largest foreign investor. Singapore and Indonesia are also among each other’s top sources of tourist arrivals.

In view of Singapore’s small domestic market and the competitive economic landscape, Minister Lim also encouraged Singapore manufacturing companies especially our SMEs to

internationalise so as to gain economies of scale. And being one of the closest neighbours to Singapore, Indonesia is a strategic option for our companies to consider with its robust economic fundamentals - size of economy, growing urbanization and middle class as well as its demographic dividend – providing increasing opportunities in service sectors such as tourism, healthcare and education. Moreover, companies can also leverage on the networks of IE Singapore and TACs like SMF, for matching of business interests and to help in navigating the operating environment.

Cyclect Holdings Pte Ltd, a home-grown engineering firm that provides electrical, mechanical and automation solutions for several areas such as building, infrastructure, and marine and offshore segments is one such example that has leveraged on such assistance from the government and SMF to successfully enhanced its competitiveness by partnering with Indonesia.

Mr Melvin Tan, Managing Director of Cyclect Holdings said, “Being in Indonesia has increased the available market for us to provide our products and services. And we are glad that we have had the opportunity to work with Indonesians since the 1980s. Initially, we looked towards Indonesia as merely a market for us to extend our reach and sell more of our products and services. However, today, we look towards Indonesia as a collaborative partner with a joint venture with an Indonesian genset manufacturer to distribute gensets globally and further invested into the power systems for the telecommunications towers in Indonesia.”

Mr Douglas Foo, SMF President said, “Given the foundational framework already established by both governments from Singapore and Indonesia with the forging of strong diplomatic ties, SMF is all geared up to further build on this robust structure to further deepen economic partnerships. SMF is well-positioned to drive industry-level transformation and lead the development of industry wide solutions for the common challenges faced by our businesses with the support from our strategic partners such as IE Singapore, BKPM and KADIN Indonesia.

According to a recent members' survey of SMF, Indonesia emerged as the top choice for an overseas market that members would want to explore in 2017. Hence, the federation has lined up 8-9 business mission trips to Indonesia to visit industrial parks and to connect these delegates to potential partners and clients this year. The first business mission trip is scheduled for Jakarta and Bandung from 15 to 17 March 2017.

<END>

For Media Enquiries, please contact:

Andrew Ong (Mr) Manager, Corporate Communications Singapore Manufacturing Federation (SMF) Mobile: (65) 9695-5755 DID: (65) 6826-3013 Fax: (65) 6826-3068 Email: andrew.ong@smfederation.org.sg	Debra Toh (Ms) Executive, Corporate Communications Singapore Manufacturing Federation (SMF) Mobile: (65) 9856-3453 DID: (65) 6826-3034 Fax: (65) 6826-3068 Email: debra.toh@smfederation.org.sg
---	--

About Singapore Manufacturing Federation

Established since 1932, SMF represents the interest of the manufacturing community in Singapore, driving its competitiveness and sustainable growth through serving industry-specific needs. Supported by 10 industry groups and its Centres of Excellence, SMF enhances the competitiveness of the industry by encouraging capacity development and capability building, innovation and productivity.

SMF provides opportunities for companies to collaborate, network; and to grow and expand both locally and internationally. Current membership stands at about 3,000 corporate members ranging from SMEs to MNCs.

For more information, please visit www.smfederation.org.sg.