

## **SMF launches new ASEAN Collaborative Partnership Award**

SINGAPORE, 31 October 2017 – The Singapore Manufacturing Federation (SMF) launched the third edition of the SMF Awards today. This was declared by SMF's President, Mr Douglas Foo, at the ceremony launch this morning at Singapore Press Holdings' Auditorium. In attendance were over 100 industry leaders from SMF's ten industry groups.

SMF Awards 2018 introduces an extension to its Collaborative Partnership Award which recognises close partnerships with their supply chain companies. The award celebrates and encourages businesses towards collaborative efforts to strengthen the industry's value chain. The new segment within this award is called the **SMF-RHB Collaborative Partnership Award (ASEAN) 2018**, and comes on the back of the Singapore government's call to urge local companies to expand their businesses beyond Singapore. This award was formulated to recognise those who have benefitted from close collaboration with ASEAN partners.

SMF has partnered with RHB Bank under this new award segment. With the partnership RHB will be supporting SMF-led overseas business missions to four ASEAN countries next year - Indonesia in January, Malaysia in March, Thailand in May and Laos in July.

“Amid rising business costs and competitions from both developing and developed countries, our local companies must collaborate to seek new growth opportunities. Be it to venture overseas or to promote an innovation-based industrial cluster, the SMF Collaborative Partnership Award and SMF-RHB Collaborative Partnership Award (ASEAN) 2018 aim to encourage more of such collaborative efforts to strengthen the



industry's value chain," said Mr Philip Lee, Chairman of the SMF Awards Organising Committee.

The other award categories are the SMF Sustainable Growth Award and SMF Business Model Innovation Award.

"RHB Singapore is pleased to partner with Singapore Manufacturing Federation for the SMF Awards 2018. We look forward to a fruitful collaboration to showcase RHB's regional presence, and augment our commitment to companies through regional business missions to support their regionalisation efforts," said Mr Mike Chan, CEO and Country Head of RHB Singapore.

#### SMF Sustainable Growth Award

This award recognises companies that have proven themselves capable of adapting to different economic situations and have grown their profitability over the long term.

#### SMF Business Model Innovation Award

This award identifies companies that have successfully transformed their business models. It will also inspire the business community to achieve excellence in thinking innovatively and implement a change in their business model.

Please refer to Annex for the application criteria of all awards.

Application for the awards is open till 16 April 2018. All awardees will be receiving their awards on 26 September 2018 at SMF's anniversary gala dinner. This will be officiated by **Mr Heng Swee Keat, Minister for Finance**, who will be attending the awards ceremony as Guest-of-Honour.

For this edition of the SMF Awards, The Straits Times and RHB Bank have come on board as a media partner and bank partner, respectively.



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### **About Singapore Manufacturing Federation**

Established since 1932, SMF represents the interest of the Singapore manufacturing community, 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, visit [www.smfederation.org.sg](http://www.smfederation.org.sg).

### **About RHB Singapore**

RHB Singapore was first established in 1961 through a series of rapid expansion and strategic mergers. For more than half a century in Singapore, RHB has garnered invaluable financial experience and transferred those insights of service excellence on to clients, helping both individuals as well as corporations fulfil their business opportunities. Throughout these years of dedication in Singapore, RHB has built formidable ties with clients and is established as one of the Republic's most trusted financial institutions. RHB Singapore's core businesses are streamlined into eight pillars, namely Personal Financial Services and Wealth Management, Commercial Banking, Corporate Banking, Treasury, Structured Finance as well as Investment Banking, Brokerage and Asset Management businesses. All the eight business pillars are offered through RHB Bank Berhad (a fully-licensed bank), RHB Securities Singapore Pte Ltd and RHB Asset Management Pte Ltd. RHB Singapore is the local business operations of the RHB Banking Group, the fourth largest fully integrated financial services group in Malaysia. The Group's regional presence spans ten countries in ASEAN including Hong Kong. It is RHB Banking Group's aspiration to continue to deliver superior customer



experience and shareholder value; and to be recognised as a Leading Multinational Financial Services Group.

### **SMF Awards 2017 Official Media Partner**

## **THE STRAITS TIMES**

### **About Singapore Press Holdings Ltd**

Incorporated in 1984, main board-listed Singapore Press Holdings Ltd (SPH) is Asia's leading media organisation, engaging minds and enriching lives across multiple languages and platforms, ranging from print, digital, radio and out-of-home media.

SPH owns award-winning newspapers, magazines and best-selling books in both print and digital editions, as well as online classified businesses in the region. In addition, SPH has two English radio stations and one Chinese radio station, an out-of-home digital advertising unit, a regional events and conferences arm, and runs a chain of modern retail convenience stores.

SPH REIT comprises Paragon, a premier upscale retail mall and medical suite/office property in Orchard Road and The Clementi Mall, a mid-market suburban mall. SPH's latest retail development is The Seletar Mall located in Sengkang.

SPH is in the healthcare sector, operating private nursing homes under Orange Valley.

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

### **About The Straits Times**

The Straits Times, the English-language flagship daily of Singapore Press Holdings, is the most-read newspaper in Singapore and is followed widely in the region for its comprehensive coverage of local, regional and world news provided by its correspondents in 20 bureaus in major cities worldwide.

Launched on July 15, 1845, The Straits Times underwent a major redesign across all platforms in July 2015, when it celebrated its 170th anniversary. This revamp is part of its continuing efforts to refresh its products, maintain quality and stay relevant to the changing needs of its readers. Its integrated newsroom operates round-the-clock, providing readers with news as it happens on all platforms, from its website at [www.straitstimes.com](http://www.straitstimes.com), Apple and Android apps



to social media.

The Straits Times is a member of two media networks - the Asia News Network and the Impact Journalism Day alliance of newspapers - and it has won multiple international media awards, including from the Society of Publishers in Asia, the World Association of Newspapers and News Publishers, the Pacific Area Newspaper Publishers' Association (Panpa), Society of News Design and Wan-lfra. Its revamped paper won a gold medal for overall newspaper design by the World Association of Newspaper at the Asian Media Awards in Manila in 2016.