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To News Editor

**SINGAPORE MANUFACTURING FEDERATION HELD CLOSED-DOOR
DIALOGUE SESSION WITH MINISTER CHAN CHUN SING**

23 February 2018 – SMF held a closed-door dialogue session with Minister Chan Chun Sing, Secretary-General of the National Trades Union Congress (NTUC) to discuss possible strategic collaborations with NTUC to re-skill, re-employ and create more employment opportunities for workers in the manufacturing sector. It was a timely session to know how SMF could work together with NTUC and the Government to forge strong tripartite relationships, as Trade Associations and Chambers (TACs) such as SMF was recently recognised by the Government in playing a critical role in driving innovation, building capabilities and forging partnership.

2. During the dialogue session, Minister Chan addressed challenges raised by the SMF Council and members, with SMF President, Mr. Douglas Foo as the dialogue's moderator. On manpower challenges, Minister Chan suggested for NTUC to work with TACs such as SMF, to develop internship programmes for SMEs to help build and maintain the interest of young working people in the industries for a longer period. This

could be done through collaborations with Institutes of Higher Learning, NTUC's Young NTUC and e2i (Employment and Employability Institute) as well as Workforce Singapore. Minister Chan also noted that SMF's current programmes such as the SME Talent Programme (STP) could also be an extension and area of collaboration as part of the internship programmes.

3. He concluded with "Organisations like SMF play an important role in our efforts to transform the economy and help our businesses seize opportunities ahead," and urged SMF and its members to work closely with NTUC and Government partners, to translate Government initiatives and schemes into tangible outcomes for their businesses and workforce.

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About Singapore Manufacturing Federation (SMF)

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.

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