

Media Release

For Immediate Release

SG-WEN Partners Standard Chartered to Launch Signature Training Programme for Women Entrepreneurs

Singapore, 25 September 2024 – The Singapore Women Entrepreneurs Network (SG-WEN), a network established by the Singapore Business Federation (SBF) celebrated its third anniversary with the launch of SC X SG-WEN RISE and the inaugural SG-WEN Awards ceremony at a gala event that was held on 24 September. Deputy Prime Minister Heng Swee Keat was the guest of honour at the event that was attended by over 180 business leaders.

2 Deputy Prime Minister Heng Swee Keat participated in a fireside chat on ‘New pathway for societal growth: Unlocking the potential of Singapore women entrepreneurs’ with Rachel Lim, Co-Founder, Love, Bonito. The fireside chat emphasised the importance of effective advocacy of the Singapore women entrepreneurial landscape that unlocks new avenues of economic growth in Singapore.

SC X SG-WEN RISE

3 **Ms Rachel Eng, Chairperson of SG-WEN**, said: “SG-WEN is pleased to partner Standard Chartered to launch our signature training programme for women entrepreneurs. Aligned with our joint vision, this programme works towards empowering women entrepreneurs to scale their businesses and become more effective social entrepreneurs through both personal and professional development. Women entrepreneurs in Singapore continue to face challenges in their entrepreneurial efforts. They struggle with access to business networks, access to capital and perception bias. We want to address these concerns through SC X SG-WEN RISE.”

4 SG-WEN conducted an opinion poll in September 2024 across its network to better understand the challenges and mindsets of women entrepreneurs, and how best to support them. The findings showed that women entrepreneurs in Singapore continue to face challenges in their entrepreneurial efforts, and the top two obstacles indicated are access to professional business networks and balancing business and family life. More than half of the respondents also perceived that it is more difficult for women to be entrepreneurs as compared to their male counterparts. Facing challenges such as perception bias and access to market, 85% of the respondents feel that entrepreneur networks is the most beneficial resource, with close to half of them stating that they have benefitted from SG-WEN as women entrepreneurs.

5 SC X SG-WEN RISE is designed to empower women entrepreneurs to scale their business through a range of thought leadership dialogues, mentorship opportunities and tailored financing solutions offered by Standard Chartered. The year-long programme aims to equip women leaders with effective leadership and communication skills, board readiness, sustainability and corporate governance knowledge and critical ‘know-how’ instrumental for business success. This programme is open to women entrepreneurs who are members of SG-WEN, SBF, Standard Chartered clients, and Women-in-Business Committees of Singapore’s trade associations and chambers.

6 **Ms Teresa Tah, General Manager, SME Banking, Standard Chartered Singapore**, said: “We strongly believe in empowering female entrepreneurs in Singapore through equitable access to financial services and opportunities to connect to a global network of like-minded entrepreneurs. We are delighted to further deepen our partnership with SBF through the launch of SC X SG-WEN RISE, a specially curated curriculum that provides female entrepreneurs with a wealth of resources offered by both SBF and Standard Chartered to scale their businesses.”

7 Standard Chartered is one of the key corporate partners of SG-WEN. Last year, the Bank launched its Standard Chartered Women’s International Network (SC WIN), a global initiative that offers women entrepreneurs tailored financial solutions, business education and opportunities to connect to a network with like-minded female entrepreneurs.

SG-WEN Award

8 The inaugural SG-WEN Award was presented to six outstanding Singapore women entrepreneurs who have made a remarkable impact on Singapore’s economy and society. Selected by an independent judging panel comprising senior business leaders in Singapore and the Executive Committee of SG-WEN, each of these winners has demonstrated strength and resilience in her own field. The recipients were:

- Ms Anna Lim, Executive Director and SouperChef, The Soup Spoon
- Ms Jamie Lim, CEO, Scanteak Singapore
- Ms Jessie Tran, Managing Director, Asia Pacific Solutions Supply
- Ms Michelle Lim, CEO and Co-Founder, Make The Change
- Ms Renee Lim, Co-Founder, Lemonfridge
- Ms Suziana Binte Ahmed Ash’ Ali, Co-Founder and Director, SuzyAmeer Frozen

Growth of the SG-WEN Community and Beyond

9 Since its inception in 2021, SG-WEN has nurtured and grown its diverse community to more than 700 members. Committed to supporting the growing community of women entrepreneurs in Singapore, the network continues to look for and partner with like-minded individuals and organisations that can help to drive ground-up initiatives from educational events to seminars, workshops, mentorship and sponsorship opportunities.

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Singapore Business Federation

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About Singapore Business Federation (新加坡工商联合总会)

As the apex business chamber, the Singapore Business Federation (SBF) champions the interests of the business community in Singapore in trade, investment and industrial relations. Nationally, SBF acts as the bridge between the government and businesses in Singapore to create a conducive business environment. Internationally, SBF represents the business community in bilateral, regional and multilateral fora for the purpose of trade expansion and business networking.

For more information, please visit: www.sbf.org.sg

About Singapore Women Entrepreneurs Network

Launched on 21 September 2021, the Singapore Women Entrepreneurs Network (SG-WEN) is a network formed by SBF to coordinate the existing efforts of businesswomen within the community, and to serve as a platform to connect with other women-entrepreneurs associations in Asia-Pacific, particularly ASEAN.

Our vision is to be the preeminent network of women entrepreneurs in Singapore focused on helping them achieve the fullest potential in their businesses, for the benefit of the communities and economies they serve.

Our mission is to provide a platform where Singapore women entrepreneurs and existing women business networks can unite and collaborate to influence culture and policy, and drive industry change in Singapore and Asia-Pacific, particularly ASEAN.

We will do this by advocating and promoting women business perspectives, facilitating knowledge sharing, fostering business partnerships and growth. We have been designated to be Singapore's representative at the ASEAN Women Entrepreneurs Network (AWEN), a network of national women entrepreneurs and business associations from the ASEAN member states. We are also an associate member of Singapore Council Women's Organisations.

For more information, please visit the [SG-WEN website](#)