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### **SBF helped 13,800 businesses build future ready capabilities amid global trade headwinds and economic uncertainties; Membership increased to 34,200**

**Friday, 23 January 2026 [Singapore]**

The Singapore Business Federation (SBF) supported 13,800 companies in 2025 through programmes across its six Action Agendas, an increase of more than 70% from 2024. Despite a challenging global environment shaped by trade tensions and economic uncertainty, SBF's membership grew by about 7% to 34,200 members.

2. The significant increase in companies supported was driven by the expansion of programmes across our internationalisation, human capital, sustainability and social impact action agendas. Strategic initiatives – including the Centre for the Future of Trade and Investment, Overseas Market Immersion Programme and the Jobs-Skills Integrator for Wholesale Trade Sector – strengthened business capabilities and enabled job placements both locally and overseas. The expansion of Singapore Emission Factors Registry and the scaling of social impact initiatives such as EmployWell, together with the introduction of VolunteerInc. also broadened our engagement across the business community.

#### **Key achievements in 2025**

- **Scaled Internationally:** SBF facilitated 232 overseas projects in 27 countries and delivered 1,659 trade and investment advisories to help companies navigate shifting global trade conditions. Two new Singapore Enterprise Centres were established in India and the United Arab Emirates, expanding support for companies exploring emerging markets.
- **Skills Empowered:** 432 placements were facilitated through the Career Conversion Programmes, of which 124 placements were under the Overseas Markets Immersion Programme. SBF also co-organised the Career Health Summit and the SkillsFuture Human Capital Conference with a total of more than 1,800 participants.
- **Smart Enabled:** To boost cyber-resilience, SBF co-organised the inaugural Nationwide Business Phishing Exercise with MINDEF, involving 7,000 employees from about 200 companies. It also announced a partnership with CSA, SCCCI and SGTech to establish the Cyber Resilience Centre, supporting firms in strengthening cyber defences.
- **Sustainability Centric:** SBF expanded the Singapore Emission Factors Registry by more than 90 emission factor datapoints, and enhanced features on NetZeroHub.SG, benefitting more than 800 companies with their carbon accounting and other sustainability transformation needs.
- **Socially Impactful:** SBF launched VolunteerInc. in partnership with MCCY and SBF Foundation (SBFF) to mobilise the Singapore business community toward structured, high impact corporate volunteering; SBFF's inaugural EmployWell Walk for Work raised S\$1.48 million from 30 corporates to support inclusive hiring initiatives.



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- **Synergistic TACs:** SBF launched the Trade Associations and Chambers (TAC) Sector Transformation Map. The Digitalisation of TACs (Digi-TAC) programme enabled more than 20 TACs to modernise their operations such as HR and accounting, and 50 TAC leaders underwent the SBF-SID Leadership Programme for TAC Councils.

*(Refer to Annex for fuller details of SBF's 2025 Year in Review)*

3. Beyond these milestones, SBF's flagship events in 2025 - including the Singapore Budget Symposium, the ASEAN Conference, the Institute of Policy Studies-SBF SG60 Conference, and the Singapore Regional Business Forum held in Bangkok – drew more than 3,000 participants.

4. **Mr. Kok Ping Soon, CEO of Singapore Business Federation** said, "In a year of global turbulence, SBF moved swiftly to help Singapore businesses stay competitive—strengthening trade support, expanding overseas pathways, and driving workforce, digital and sustainability capabilities that deliver real results. The sharp rise in companies supported underscores the strength of our public-private partnerships and our shared commitment to building a future-ready business community."

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

Singapore Business Federation (SBF) is the apex business chamber with over 34,000 members across diverse industries. With a vision to advance Singapore towards a globally competitive and sustainable economy, SBF mobilises the business community to be future-ready and magnify transformation opportunities through policy advocacy, partnership platforms and capability programmes. For more information, please visit:

[www.sbf.org.sg](http://www.sbf.org.sg)



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### **ANNEX: 2025 YEAR IN REVIEW**

#### **Scaled Internationally – Enabling enterprises to mitigate impact of U.S. tariffs and expand to new markets**

As trade tensions and U.S. tariffs reshaped global markets, SBF's Centre the Future of Trade & Investment (CFOTI) became a critical pillar for Singapore firms. To augment trade advisory services, CFOTI will soon launch the world's first Trade AI Advisor (TAIA) which can help simplify complex trade rules, providing clear guidance on free trade agreements, tariffs, and compliance requirements for the business community.

SBF also played a key role in the Singapore Economic Resilience Taskforce (SERT), which led to the introduction of the Business Adaptation (BizAdapt) Grant to help businesses reconfigure their operations and strengthen supply chain resilience. Other efforts included the launch of the Navigating U.S. Tariffs Playbook, six seminars to equip businesses to sense make and respond to the U.S. tariffs impact, and issuance of over 1,659 trade advisories to help businesses navigate new trade environment.

To accelerate the global footprint of local enterprise, SBF expanded the network of Singapore Enterprise Centres (SECs) beyond Southeast Asia, to India and UAE. These Centres would provide on-ground expertise and market access resources for companies seeking to scale in high-growth markets. In 2025, SBF organized 13 Overseas Market Workshops in 2025, involving 162 companies, and facilitated 232 overseas projects across 27 countries.

In addition, CFOTI secured DBS Bank Ltd, DHL Express (Singapore), Pacific International Lines, PwC Singapore, Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP, and Temasek Foundation as strategic partners to scale its programmes to advance regional trade integration and build capabilities in trade and investment.

#### **Skills Empowered – Supporting businesses in workforce development and capability-building**

SBF continued to support businesses in building future-ready capabilities through a broad suite of programmes spanning workforce development, sustainability, digitalisation, and internationalisation. These programmes accounted for approximately 68% of total engagements across 2024 and 2025, with 4,362 businesses benefitted in 2025 alone, reflecting sustained demand for capability building and transformation support.

In workforce development, SBF's initiatives continued to help companies reduce hiring friction while enabling mid-career professionals to gain overseas market exposure in support of business growth. Through the Career Conversion Programme, 432 placements were facilitated in 2025, of which 124 placements were facilitated under the Overseas Market Immersion Programme (OMIP). Further, SBF's Jobs-Skills Integrator for Wholesale Trade Sector (JSIT-WST) programme successfully aggregated 367 jobs and benefitted 733 WST companies. The total number of businesses accredited with the Progressive Wage Mark (PW Mark), administered by SBF on behalf of Tripartite Partners to recognise employers that commit to fair wages, also increased to 8,852.

SBF also co-organised the Career Health Summit and the SkillsFuture Human Capital Conference that engaged more than 1,800 participants from enterprises, trade associations and chambers, and industry partners. In line with SkillsFuture Singapore's (SSG) commitment to build a network of partners that can support enterprises in their workforce development efforts, SSG has appointed SBF as the latest Skills



## MEDIA RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Development Partner (SDP) for the domains of Trade, Investment and Internationalisation (TII) and Green Skills. Under this appointment, SBF will work closely with industry stakeholders to identify emerging and in-demand skills, co-develop relevant training solutions, and promote skills recognition through structured, skills-based career pathways.

#### **Smart Enabled – Driving digitalisation and building cyber resilience**

Stepping up to support businesses in their cyber resilience, SBF collaborated with MINDEF to organise the inaugural Nationwide Business Phishing Exercise, involving 7,000 employees across 200 companies. The exercise aimed to raise companies' sensitivity and preparedness in tackling potential cyberattacks and other digital disruptions.

Building on this momentum, SBF announced that it will partner the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCCI) and SGTech to launch the Cyber Resilience Centre (CRC). Supported by the Cyber Security Agency of Singapore (CSA), the CRC will serve as a central node to bring together ecosystem partners and resources to help Singapore businesses enhance their cyber defences and recover swiftly when cyber incidents occur.

On the AI front, SBF partnered with leading industry players – including Amazon Web Services (AWS), Canon, Google, Microsoft, and RSM Stone Forest – to deliver more than 20 events and workshops in 2025. These sessions equipped businesses with practical insights and hands-on experience, enabling them to explore AI solutions tailored to their operational needs.

For digitalisation, SBF, together with our technology partners, have been helping companies navigate the complexities of technology adoption with our Technology Implementation Advisory Services (TIAS), supported by EnterpriseSG and IMDA. The service focuses on mid-sized companies that have more complex technological needs and guides them on evaluating the solutioning options and the selection of vendors. In 2025, we and our partners provided advisory services to almost 100 companies.

#### **Sustainability Centric – Advocating sustainability transformation and net zero transition**

Through proactive advocacy, SBF secured a crucial extension of the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) compliance deadline, granting companies with more time to build capabilities and prepare high quality disclosures. The Federation also expanded the Singapore Emission Factors Registry (SEFR) by more than 90 emission factor datapoints, and enhanced features on NetZeroHub.sg. In total, more than 1,500 companies benefitted from SEFR, NetZeroHub.SG and SBF's sustainability capability building initiatives such as the Cost and Carbon Reduction Programme (CCRP), Queen Bee Enabled Sustainability Transition (QUEST) programme, and sustainability advisory (where fractional talent was deployed to businesses to implement sustainability projects).

#### **Socially Impactful – Mobilising businesses for corporate volunteering and inclusive growths**

SBF launched VolunteerInc., a landmark programme designed to mobilise businesses – at all stages of their volunteering journey – into structured volunteering that delivers measurable social impact. The programme was developed in response to the Federation's inaugural Social Sustainability and Corporate Volunteering



## MEDIA RELEASE

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studies, which provided a data-driven look at the sentiments and social impact landscape of Singapore's business community.

Since its launch in Jul 2025, VolunteerInc. has successfully paired 24 companies with eight community partners to enable meaningful corporate volunteering. Most recently, in Dec 2025, five companies – PIL, GCNS, LOGEL, IHH, and Sedgwick Richardson, deployed a combined total of 51 volunteers to support seniors through our *Giving Back to Chinatown* collaboration with Yong-en.

In 2025, SBF Foundation's (SBFF) social impact initiatives benefitted 4,784 companies. These included 32 companies that collectively hired 233 clients through EmployWell, an inclusive hiring initiative, as well as over 40 companies that participated in its fundraiser Walk for Work. More than 150 companies also benefitted from programmes such as Community Marketplace, In Their Shoes, and Youth Connections. In addition, migrant workers from 4,590 companies received support through MigrantWell's care gap programmes, including dental, physiotherapy, and psychological services.

Collectively, these efforts uplifted over 12,000 lives, benefitting 4815 companies. SBFF's inaugural EmployWell-Walk for Work also raised S\$1.48million from 30 corporates to support inclusive hiring initiatives.

#### **Synergistic TACs – Transforming the Trade Associations and Chambers (TACs) sector**

To strengthen the backbone of Singapore's business ecosystem, SBF spearheaded the introduction of a TAC Sector Transformation Map that would see nearly 20 new initiatives rolled out progressively over the next three years to enhance capabilities of our TACs. Simultaneously, SBF drove operational excellence through the Digitalisation of TACs (Digi-TAC) programme which enabled more than 20 TACs to modernise their HR, accounting, and event management systems and the SBF-SID Leadership Programme for TAC Councils which equipped nearly 50 leaders with enhanced governance capabilities.

Next generation leadership continued to be a priority. The inaugural ASEANext, held in conjunction with the ASEAN Conference, convened over 300 next-generation business leaders with nearly 120 of them from other ASEAN countries. The Young Business Leaders Network (YBLN) further expanded its membership by 20% to reach 258. The Federation also rolled out the Standard Chartered X Singapore Women Entrepreneurs Network RISE Programme to help women entrepreneurs elevate their leadership, strengthen their strategic capabilities, and scale their businesses. Membership for Singapore Women Entrepreneur Network (SG-WEN) increased by 7% to reach 831.