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SBF Supports ASEAN-BAC Singapore Engagements Ahead of 2027 Chairship

Tuesday, 17 November 2026

The Singapore Business Federation (SBF) commends the Philippines for its leadership as ASEAN Chair in 2026 and its efforts to deepen regional cooperation, foster inclusive growth and strengthen opportunities for businesses across the region. Building on the progress made under Malaysia's Chairship in 2025, the Philippines has continued to advance public-private sector collaboration and ASEAN's long-term economic resilience and competitiveness.

2. As national secretariat for ASEAN-BAC Singapore, SBF worked closely with its ASEAN counterparts and participated in ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC) activities under the Philippines' Chairship throughout 2026. This culminated in several key events in Manila in November, including the ASEAN Inclusive Growth Summit (AIGS), ASEAN Business and Investment Summit (ABIS) 2026 and ASEAN Business Awards (ABA). Ms Rachel Eng, Managing Director of Eng and Co. LLC, and Ms Lim Lay Wah, Managing Director and Group Head of Global Financial Institutions Group, Overseas Branches and ESG Strategy at UOB, participated in these November events in their capacities as ASEAN-BAC Singapore Council Members. SBF was also represented at these events by Mr Musa Fazal, SBF's Chief Policy & Operating Officer.

3. At AIGS on 11 November, Mr Musa Fazal shared perspectives on building a resilient and inclusive ASEAN, including the importance of social sustainability and enabling businesses and communities to participate in regional growth.

4. At ABIS 2026 on 14 November, Ms Rachel Eng, who is also Chairperson of SBF's Singapore Women Entrepreneurs Network (SG-WEN), moderated the session, "People at the Heart of ASEAN's Growth: How Can MSMEs, Women and Youth Participate, Prosper and Lead?", which explored how micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), women and youth can participate, grow and lead in ASEAN's growth.

5. Ms Rachel Eng and Ms Lim Lay Wah will be attending the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the 49th ASEAN Summit, including the handover of the ASEAN Chairship to Singapore on 17 November.

6. As Singapore looks ahead to the ASEAN-BAC Chairship in 2027, Mr Mark Lee, Chairman of SBF and Chair of ASEAN-BAC Singapore Council, said, "The Philippines has provided strong leadership in advancing ASEAN's economic agenda and strengthening collaboration between the public and private sectors. We will continue working closely with our ASEAN partners, building on the good work of the Philippines and maintaining momentum on shared business priorities. The private sector has an important role to play in translating regional cooperation into practical outcomes and creating opportunities for businesses across ASEAN."

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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