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MANAGEMENT HIGHLIGHT

Government to assist companies develop new products and services for export: DPM Teo

By: PC Lee
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SINGAPORE (March 24): The government will assist them to develop new products and services which can be exported to overseas markets enable firms to tap growth opportunities, said Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean on Friday.

Enhancing partnerships with growing economies such as India and China will also enable companies here to collaborate on joint projects.

For example, companies here can venture into markets along China's "Belt and Road" initiative – a trade corridor spanning across Central Asia to the Middle East and Europe.

Speaking at the Singapore International Chamber of Commerce (SICC) 180th anniversary gala dinner, Teo also pointed out that the new Global Innovation Alliance – announced in this year's Budget – will give Singaporeans, including tertiary students, overseas experience so that they can build connections in global innovation hubs.

Building a pipeline of talent is a "key factor for companies to grow their operations from Singapore".

"We will continue to strengthen our tripartite partnership - employers, trade associations and chambers, unions and workers and the Government - coming together and putting ideas into action," said Teo.

To support tertiary students to gain overseas exposure, the SICC announced during the dinner that it would be making a \$400,000 donation each to the Singapore Management University (SMU) and the Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD). The government will match the donations.

For SMU, the money will be used for the SICC International Exchange Scholarship, which will be given to three undergraduates in each academic year.

They will spend a semester studying at overseas universities, including the Wharton School in University of Pennsylvania. SMU said 47 students had benefited from the scholarship since it was introduced in 2005.

SUTD will use the donation to establish the SICC Global Exchange Award.

With up to six undergraduates to receive the award each year, it will help to defray their expenses when they go for overseas exchange programmes, which will run between three and 16 weeks.

Singapore must remain attractive for companies to invest in the country, help firms seize new growth opportunities and further develop its workforce, said Teo.

Teo said strengthening the country's telecommunication and transportation networks can boost its "value proposition" as a base for companies to tap the regional market.

At present, the republic is in the midst of rolling out its Smart Nation initiative, building a fifth terminal at Changi Airport – which will double its passenger capacity – and developing a new container port at Tuas.

An existing comprehensive network of 20 Free Trade Agreements with 31 trading partners, including Asean and key economies such as the United States and China, will also ease and lower the cost of doing business in those countries from Singapore.

Winners of the 2017 SICC Awards

1. Most Transformational Collaboration Winner

Made in Singapore for Asia Pacific

By Kimberly-Clark Asia Pacific + Essential Engineering & Construction

This award honours the collaboration that results in the biggest gains either by or both the large organisation and the SME in the areas of increased capacity, value creation, productivity improvements, revenue growth and/or return on investments.

Kimberly-Clark (K-C) collaborated with homegrown SME Essential Engineering (EEC) to produce one of its biggest global innovations, Huggies Baby Wipes, using its patented, advanced and automated technologies – not just for Singapore but for export to 11 countries in the Asia Pacific. Designed and executed in Singapore, the solution leveraged EEC's strength in the Food and Pharmaceutical industries, to create a world-class system for the new manufacturing line. This transformational collaboration helped K-C reduce costs by 21%, save 25% of man hours and accelerate project completion.

2. Most Scalable Collaboration Winner

The Brownstone Executive Condominium

By Canvey Developments + Teambuild Engineering & Construction

This award recognises the collaboration the methodology or process of which can be most easily transferred within the same industry and/or across industries.

Leading eco-developer City Developments, together with its project partners TID and TeamBuild Engineering & Construction adopted the groundbreaking Prefabricated Prefinished Volumetric Construction (PPVC) advanced technology for The Brownstone Executive Condominium (EC) in Sembawang. In PPVC, building modules completed with finished, fixtures and fittings are manufactured off-site in factories then transported to the site for installation in a 'Lego-like' manner. This is expected to lead to productivity gains of over 40%. More than 4,000 building modules will be used for The Brownstone, likely the world's largest and first-of-its-kind application of concrete PPVC for a large-scale private residential development.

3. Most Technologically Disruptive Collaboration Winner

Collaboration Towards Smart Factory Using Autonomous Guided Vehicles

By Infineon Technologies AP + Hope Technik

This award honours the collaborative project that best harnesses the power of technology to positively disrupt the status quo to innovate processes, products or services and, thus, create new value for the collaborators and their customers.

Adopting capabilities of modern technology advancement to reduce the reliance of human resource for labour intensive and low value processes – Infineon is moving in this direction to sustain its presence in a high cost society like Singapore. This led to a collaboration between Infineon, and a local SME, HOPE Technik, to introduce Autonomous Guided Vehicles to automate material transportation within the factory. This is the first of a kind for assembly manufacturing in Singapore and for Infineon assembly factories worldwide as well as a key cornerstone in Infineon Singapore's journey to transform itself into a Smart Factory of the future.

4. Most Green Collaboration Winner

Packaging Re-Design "Holistic Carbon Footprint Reduction & Productivity Improvement"

By Leica Instruments Singapore + Fagerdala Singapore

This award primarily celebrates the collaborative project that results in the most positive impact on the environment achieved by utilising the integrated design process in building design and construction. This award is also open to all collaborations which achieve a reduced carbon footprint or less pollution, or resource conservation or waste reduction or wildlife preservation.

Leica Singapore and Fagerdala Singapore collaborated on a joint Value Analysis, Value Engineering (VAVE) project to improve product packaging for Leica microscopes, "CATS" and "SPIDER". This project created an innovative packaging solution that reduced transportation and material cost while improving workflow productivity. The re-designed packaging is also more environmentally friendly and leaves a smaller carbon footprint. For 6 months, the team embarked on a Lean journey to drive improvement in areas of quality, delivery, cost, inventory and productivity. While Leica trained Fagerdala on Danaher Business System (DBS) quality tools to ensure common understanding of project methodologies and expectations, Fagerdala also shared their expert knowledge in packaging with Leica. Both companies gained new insights and knowledge from the project on top of award winning packaging solutions.