

For Immediate Release

More Than 200 Business, Government and Diplomatic Leaders Convene at SICC AGM Luncheon to Explore the Intersections of People, Technology and Sovereignty

Minister Chan Chun Sing Joins Leaders From Over 30 Diplomatic Missions, Public Agencies and the Business Community Amid Growing Geopolitical and Technological Change

Singapore, 30 June 2026 – More than 200 senior business leaders, policymakers and diplomatic representatives gathered at the Singapore International Chamber of Commerce's (SICC) 185th Annual General Meeting (AGM) Luncheon to explore how the intersections of people, technology and sovereignty are reshaping business strategies, the future of work and Singapore's long-term competitiveness.

Guest-of-Honour Mr Chan Chun Sing, Coordinating Minister for Public Services and Minister for Defence, participated in a fireside dialogue moderated by Professor Kok-Kwang Phoon, President of the Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD).

The event welcomed over 30 ambassadors and senior diplomatic representatives, reflecting SICC's longstanding role in fostering international dialogue, business connectivity and trusted partnerships across borders. The luncheon was also attended by senior representatives from the Economic Development Board (EDB), Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI), Ministry of Manpower (MOM), Enterprise Singapore, the Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA), Singapore Customs and other public sector agencies.

The SICC AGM Luncheon is one of the Chamber's premier annual events and a longstanding tradition that embodies SICC's mission of connecting business, government and the international community to promote trade, investment and sustainable economic growth. As a leading convening platform, the SICC AGM Luncheon brings together senior business leaders, policymakers and the diplomatic community to exchange perspectives on the opportunities and challenges facing Singapore and the region, while reinforcing trusted partnerships that underpin Singapore's continued success as a global business hub and gateway to Asia.

Against a backdrop of rising geopolitical fragmentation, accelerating advances in artificial intelligence, evolving trade architectures and economic uncertainty, the dialogue focused on how enterprises can adapt to new realities while sustaining long-term growth, building institutional resilience and maintaining the ability to think beyond immediate challenges.

The discussion was anchored around three themes: resilience, renewal and collective responsibility, underscoring the importance of long-term thinking, institutional trust and strong partnerships between business, government and society.

Central to the conversation were two critical intersections shaping enterprise strategy today: people and technology, and sovereignty and technology, as organisations navigate the opportunities and risks presented by frontier innovation.

Participants explored the impact of artificial intelligence on jobs and the future of work, leadership in an era of accelerating technological change, and the implications of frontier technologies such as AI and quantum computing on trade, competitiveness, security and national resilience. The dialogue also underscored the importance of continuous learning, workforce adaptability and collaboration across business, government and society in preparing for technological disruption and building long-term resilience.

The dialogue further highlighted the growing importance of data, finance and energy as strategic forms of connectivity that will underpin Singapore's and ASEAN's future competitiveness. Trusted data flows, financial networks and resilient energy systems are increasingly becoming critical enablers of innovation, investment and enterprise growth, allowing businesses to remain connected and competitive despite global uncertainty.

Together, these interconnected ecosystems are emerging as new forms of strategic connectivity that will increasingly determine how nations and businesses compete, collaborate and create value in the decades ahead.

Strengthening these capabilities will be critical to reinforcing Singapore's position as a trusted, connected and resilient hub for trade, investment and innovation in Southeast Asia.

The dialogue also underscored that Singapore's competitive advantages cannot be taken for granted and must be continually renewed through innovation, strong institutions, trusted partnerships and sustained investments in people and capabilities.

Regional collaboration and stronger cross-border partnerships in these areas were recognised as essential to supporting ASEAN's long-term resilience and economic integration. The discussion reinforced the importance of trusted frameworks, predictable institutions and international connectivity in sustaining trade, investment and technological advancement across the region.

In an increasingly fragmented and uncertain world, the dialogue reaffirmed the importance of openness, long-term thinking and continual renewal in ensuring that Singapore and ASEAN remain competitive, resilient and well-positioned to seize future opportunities.

Reflecting on the role of dialogue, international connectivity and collective action in shaping Singapore's next chapter, Mr Wong Joo Seng, Chairman of the Singapore International Chamber of Commerce, said:

"At a time when geopolitical uncertainty and technological change are redefining the global landscape, dialogue and trust matter more than ever.

The presence of leaders from business, government and more than 30 diplomatic missions today reflects SICC's unique role as a bridge between Singapore and the international business community. Businesses cannot afford to stand still. They must continually renew their capabilities, embrace change and invest in people, technology and partnerships as they navigate new technologies, evolving trade dynamics and changing workforce expectations.

The issues discussed today, from artificial intelligence and the future of work to sovereignty, resilience and regional connectivity, are already shaping how organisations compete, innovate and create long-term value. Addressing these challenges and opportunities will require stronger collaboration between business, government and international partners."

As Singapore navigates profound shifts in the global economy, SICC remains committed to creating trusted platforms for dialogue and collaboration. By bringing together business leaders, policymakers and international partners, the Chamber seeks to strengthen resilience, deepen connectivity and contribute to a more prosperous, innovative and sustainable future for Singapore, ASEAN and the wider international business community.

About Singapore International Chamber of Commerce (SICC)

Singapore International Chamber of Commerce (SICC) is Singapore's first and longest-serving independent business association. Founded on 8 February 1837, the Chamber was established to advocate for the retention of Singapore's free port status. Its purpose has remained the same: to help businesses and Singapore.

SICC provides a neutral and trusted platform for members to engage on issues that affect business and the economy. SICC serves over 550 member companies, comprising an even mix of Singapore-owned and internationally-owned organisations, and a balanced representation of large companies, SMEs and start-ups. Executives from member companies represent more than 40 nationalities, reflecting the Chamber's diverse and inclusive community.

SICC stands for free and fair trade, multiculturalism, multilateralism, an open economy and responsible business.

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