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To News Editor

SINGAPORE MANUFACTURING FEDERATION (SMF)-ZAOBAO POST SG
BUDGET 2018

5 March 2018 – SMF President Mr Douglas Foo was one of the panellists invited in the Lianhe Zaobao Singapore Budget 2018 Business Forum to have a Q-&-A session with Finance Minister and other representatives from other Trade Associations & Chambers (TACs) held at Novotel @ Stevens.

2. This year's post-budget forum delved on how SMEs could innovate, transform and go global. Mr Foo first gave an overview of SMF's 86-year-strong legacy and the critical role TACs play. He also mentioned that SMF has collaborated with other countries' TACs such as Federation of Manufacturing in Malaysia. He also highlighted Workforce Singapore (WSG)'s Capability Transfer Programme, lauding it as "good and progressive". How it benefited SMF was that its members could leverage on the programme to help fill up the gaps in the workforce, in order to remain competitive in the industry.

3. SMF has also been coming up with a series of programmes to help companies to innovate and digitise, transforming the manufacturing landscape in Singapore. With the many programmes the SMF has embarked on, Mr Foo asked Minister Heng – if the TACs continue to come up with programmes to help SMEs on a national level, what are the schemes available in turn for TACs that would help them to further help SMEs to innovate and transform?

4. Minister Heng agreed that the manufacturing sector's volume has increased significantly over the recent five years, but not in terms of manpower. He recognised the efforts put in by SMF to transform the manufacturing sector, especially in Digital Transformation and Innovation. In that aspect, he hoped that the TACs would continue to work closely together, especially when Singapore is chairing ASEAN 2018.



Singapore Manufacturing Federation (SMF) President Mr Douglas Foo was part of the panel in a Q-&-A session with Minister Heng Swee Keat. (From left): Mr Teo Siong Seng (Chairman, Singapore Business Federation), Mr Goh Sin Teck (Editor, Lianhe Zaobao & Lianhe Wanbao), Finance Minister Heng Swee Keat, Mr Roland Ng (President, Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry), and Mr Douglas Foo (President, SMF)



SMF President Mr Douglas Foo shared with the panel the critical role TACs played to help SMEs innovate.

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About Singapore Manufacturing Federation (SMF)

Established since 1932, SMF represents the interest of the manufacturing community in Singapore, driving its competitiveness and sustainable growth through serving industry-specific needs. Supported by 10 industry groups and its Centres of Excellence, SMF enhances the competitiveness of the industry by encouraging capacity development and capability building, innovation and productivity. SMF provides opportunities for companies to collaborate, network; and to grow and expand both locally and internationally. Current membership stands at about 3,000 corporate members ranging from SMEs to MNCs. For more information, please visit www.smfederation.org.sg.

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