



JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

NEW PRODUCTIVITY CENTRE TO BOOST MANUFACTURING GROWTH

Strengthening innovation and productivity offerings for industry

October 30, 2012 – Singapore Manufacturing Federation (SMF) today unveiled its sixth centre of excellence, dedicated to providing a slew of industry initiatives on innovation and productivity for SMEs in Singapore. The Singapore Innovation and Productivity Institute (SiPi) was officially launched by Senior Minister of State for Trade & Industry and National Development, Lee Yi Shyan at the Singapore Innovation & Productivity Conference 2012. The institute is supported by the Local Enterprise and Association Development (LEAD) programme funded by SPRING Singapore and International Enterprise (IE) Singapore.

SiPi's significance to the Industry

SiPi is a knowledge enterprise that champions excellence in innovation and productivity through methodology-based solutions and industry best practices. The institute leverages on the four applications of knowledge – generation, dissemination, resources, and implementation.

Its offerings range from bite-sized improvement and innovation tools for professionals to full-deployment projects in companies. Some examples include productivity gaps diagnosis, innovation and productivity tools-coaching workshop, road mapping and project coaching to hand-hold companies towards quick wins to achieve company-wide buy-in and commitment.

In addition to methodologies and application, the value-add of SiPi is to ease SMEs' access to technical solutions from various knowledge institutes and centres of innovation in the process of improvement and innovation.

In its initial stages of set-up, SiPi has engaged the interest of three companies from both manufacturing and service industries to boost enterprise productivity through project coaching. The three companies include a local fish farming business, a local metal and engineering company and a new hotel.

“SiPi aspires to be first-stop for manufacturing and the preferred-stop for other sectors. We are glad the federation’s first-mover advantage in championing productivity three years ago has set the stage for our consistent contribution to the manufacturing sector. SiPi represents an amalgamation of current productivity offerings, opportunities for synergistic collaboration across the eco-system, and the next frontier – innovation for productivity,” shared Mr George Huang, President of SMF.

Mr Valerio Nannini, Chairman of SiPi Board of Advisors and Managing Director of Nestlé Singapore, shared the relevance of SiPi to the growth of the industry especially for SMEs, “There are aplenty growth opportunities for manufacturing SMEs as a result of the blurring boundaries between manufacturing and service sectors. The way to tap on these opportunities is to be open and committed to Change and initiate Innovation, be it in product, process or business model.”

WDA-SMF Productivity & Innovation Awards 2012

Besides officiating at the launch of SiPi, Senior Minister of State for Trade & Industry and National Development, Lee Yi Shyan also presented awards to the winners of the WDA-SMF Productivity & Innovation Awards 2012. The Awards, jointly organised by WDA and SMF, recognises companies for implementing and achieving significant productivity improvements as part of the practical curriculum of primarily two training courses - WSQ CPI Manager and SME QIANG. This year marks the second edition of the Awards, and a total of 11 companies were recognized.

Since the introduction of the WSQ CPI Manager and SME Qiang courses by SMF Centre for Corporate Learning (CCL) and Singapore Workforce Development Agency (WDA) in 2010, more than 65 companies participated and saw on average 25% improvement in productivity and other operational indicators.

This year’s Gold Award winner, Combustor Automotive Services, a Combustor & fuel nozzle repair and overhaul centre, reported a 30% improvement in productivity of its combustion chamber cells which translated into dollar savings of more than \$100,000. The company underwent an exercise of re-layout of cells to remove apparent and unseen non-value added activities in the process, otherwise known as ‘lean waste’ in terms of walking distances, space and communication.

The judging panel for the 2012 Awards noted the growth in participation and performance from the companies. The judging panel consists of the following industry practitioners, academicians and government officials.

Chairman: Dr Raj Thampuran, Managing Director, Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR)

Mr Lam Joon Khoi, Secretary General of Singapore Manufacturing Federation (SMF)

Ms Julia Ng, Senior Director, Singapore Workforce Development Agency (WDA)

Mr Valerio Nannini, Managing Director, Nestlé Singapore

(Represented by Mr Hong Kok Leong, AOA Master Pillar Lead, Nestlé Singapore)

Mr Tetsuji Saikawa, Chief Consultant, Japan Management Association Consultants (JMAC)

About SMF

Established since 1932, SMF represents the interest of the Singapore manufacturing community, driving its competitiveness and sustainable growth through serving industry-specific needs. Supported by 11 industry groups and 6 Centres of Excellence, SMF offers a holistic approach towards enhancing competitiveness of its members. Current membership stands at more than 3,000 corporate members ranging from SMEs to MNCs. For more information, please visit www.smfederation.org.sg

About SiPi

Singapore Innovation & Productivity Institute (SiPi) is a knowledge enterprise that champions manufacturing excellence through innovation & productivity for Singapore's manufacturing sector. Its key functions include providing productivity resources & customized roadmapping/ coaching support to help enterprises implement their specific productivity roadmaps. SiPi also undertakes research & benchmarking to steer industry development, and collaborates closely with the Singapore government agencies, industry experts, academia & overseas institutes to develop tools, case studies & localize best practices. SiPi also leverages highly on Singapore Manufacturers' Federation's several centres of excellence to provide a one-stop solution for productivity & innovation.

About SMF CCL

SMF Centre for Corporate Learning (SMF CCL) is a leading training provider with over 45 years of establishment in Singapore. At SMF CCL, we take pride in providing productivity improvement, manufacturing-related, thought-leadership and personal development programmes to empower people to achieve optimum results. SMF CCL is also an approved Continuing Education and Training (CET) Centre with Singapore Workforce Development Agency (WDA) and an Authorised Training Provider with APICS (The Association of Operations Management). At SMF CCL, we aim to equip our learners with the best practices and most updated skill-sets through active collaboration with government agencies and established training centres.

About Singapore Workforce Development Agency (WDA)

The Singapore Workforce Development Agency (WDA) enhances the competitiveness of our workforce by encouraging workers to learn for life and advance with skills. In today's economy, most jobs require not just knowledge, but also skills. WDA collaborates with employers, industry associations, the Union and training organisations, to develop and strengthen the Continuing Education and Training system that is skills-based, open and accessible, as a mainstream pathway for all workers - young and older, from rank and file to professionals and executives - to upgrade and advance in their careers and lives. For more information, please visit <http://www.wda.gov.sg>

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Images from the Event

Image	Caption
	<p>Guest-of-Honour, Senior Minister of State for Trade & Industry and National Development, Mr Lee Yi Shyan delivering his opening remarks on stage.</p>
	<p>The launch ceremony of Singapore Innovation & Productivity Institute by (from left) Mr Tan Kai Hoe (Deputy Chief Executive, SPRING Singapore), Mr George Huang (President, SMF) Mr Lee Yi Shyan (Senior Minister of State for Trade & Industry and National Development), Mr Valerio Nannini (Chairman of SiPi Board of Advisors)</p>
	<p>Award recipients of the WDA-SMF Productivity & Innovation Awards 2012</p>