

**Speech by Mr Henri Nejade**  
**SCIC Chairman**  
**SCIC Annual Dinner 2023 & Responsible Care® Awards 2022 Presentation**  
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Shangri-La Hotel Singapore

Senior Minister of State, Mr Zaqy Mohamad, Ministry of Manpower and Ministry of Defence, fellow SCIC Board of Directors, Industry Members, Ladies and Gentlemen, good evening.

I am happy to see all of you at the SCIC Annual Dinner 2023 and Responsible Care Awards 2022 Presentation. Despite the challenges, our industry has made significant strides in safety, innovation and sustainability.

Our commitment to sustainability is at the core of our efforts. The Energy & Chemicals (E&C) sector supports the demands for energy and materials that drive progress in society. We are dedicated to doing so in a responsible and sustainable manner. Yet we are aware of the environmental impacts and the urgency to address climate change issues. Across the industry, we are seeking sustainable feedstocks, embracing the use of cleaner and renewable energies, and improving energy efficiency. We're committed to reducing carbon emissions, enhancing safety and productivity through technology, and promoting circular economy principles to minimize waste and optimize resource use.

These are complex challenges that require collaboration among industry, government, and stakeholders. We cannot resolve them alone. As a key partner of the Singapore government, the chemical industry is playing a significant role in driving the nation's sustainability agenda, which includes initiatives such as the Singapore Green Plan 2030, the Zero Waste Master Plan, and the 2050 target on achieving net-zero emissions.

As we navigate the transformation phase of the industry, it is crucial that we work together to promote sustainable growth. The SCIC plays a constructive role to support our members in these efforts:

- SCIC works closely with the Ministries and Statutory Boards to promote a robust carbon tax regime framework that supports Singapore's economic development and the competitiveness of its trade-exposed industries.
- Globally, the E&C sector is evolving to meet their green and sustainable targets. These will have a significant impact to Singapore's ecosystem, as companies will need to respond to calls to decarbonise, achieve net zero emissions, transit towards higher-value chemical, low-carbon alternatives, and sustainable products and production. As businesses pivot towards sustainability and technological transformation, it is crucial to ensure that the workforce undergoes a similar transformation in terms of acquiring new knowledge and skill sets to support these new and enhanced roles. To this end, I am heartened to share that SCIC has been appointed by Workforce Singapore (WSG) as the programme partner to administer the new Career Conversion Programme (CCP) for future E&C Sector. This programme aims to support current and future manpower and business needs of E&C companies while providing locals with good job opportunities in the sector. If you are looking to hire new human resource or planning to reskill your existing workforce, I highly recommend you to approach SCIC to learn more about the benefits of this programme.
- The Standards Development Organization, SDO@SCIC, actively monitors global standards development and identifies local standardization needs relating to sustainability, particularly on circularity of materials and decarbonization. A Technical Reference (TR 109) has been developed to provide a framework for reducing packaging waste and improving recyclability of packaging during design phase. The guidance supports the NEA's Mandatory Packaging Reporting scheme and is applicable to all industries. Additionally, the SDO@SCIC has launched a new Workshop Agreement on marine biofuel that promotes the use of low carbon marine fuel as a near-term solution. It aims to help decarbonize the maritime industry amidst working on new standards to support other alternative fuels like methanol and ammonia. The adoption of circular economy approach in standards development work provides a holistic perspective, taking into consideration environmental impacts

of products and services throughout their entire life cycle, thus aiding Singapore in achieving the goal of sustainability.

- The Productivity Council's certification framework is a crucial benchmarking tool for the Process, Construction & Maintenance (PCM) sector, enabling targeted productivity improvements through a data-driven approach. So far, 4 PCM partners have already been certified and 28 more will be certified within two years. This will elevate industry productivity standards through skilled workers, mechanization and best practices. To support PCM workforce transformation, the Productivity Council has collaborated with MOM and ITE to create a new capability-building framework that prioritizes skilled training and upgrading. The initiative aims to build a competent and productive workforce through skill refresh, deep-skilling, and multi-skilling, thus enhancing Singapore's chemical industry competitiveness and creating career opportunities for ITE graduates.

As we gather here this evening, the significance of the Responsible Care programme is evident. The Responsible Care Awards acknowledge companies' exceptional commitment to improving health, safety, environment, and security (HSES) performances. The E&C sector's impact to the society highlights our collective obligation to operate responsibly, safely and sustainably. Congratulations to all award recipients for their remarkable accomplishments. Their Responsible Care practices serve as an exemplary model for others, both within and beyond our industry.

Our PCM partners plays an integral role in supporting the chemical companies' operations. Through the Responsible Care programme, we take the responsibility and ownership for managing and improving our HSES performances. We aim to support our PCM partners in demonstrating the same level of commitment. Working with ASPRI and its members, we will together curate a relevant and fit-for-purpose guidelines for our PCM partners to adopt the Responsible Care programme.

To promote a healthy workplace and align with the WSH 2028 strategies, SCIC will enhance the Responsible Care Employee Health and Safety code to include additional management practices on "health element". This enables signatory companies to include physical and mental well-being practices in their annual self-evaluation. The

sharing of good practices among industry players can further enhance our performances in this area.

On behalf of SCIC, I would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to the judges for reviewing submissions, industry representatives for their commitment, partner agencies for their support, and Brenntag for sponsoring the 2022 Responsible Care Awards. We are honored to have Senior Minister of State, Mr. Zaqy Mohamad, grace this event. Thank you SMS. Additionally, the SCIC team, led by Terence, deserves recognition for their efforts in organising this event.

Despite the challenges faced in recent years, let us continue work together towards a sustainable, responsible, and safe future for the Energy & Chemicals sector here in Singapore. Thank you, and enjoy the evening.