

**Speech by Mr Henri Nejade**  
**SCIC Responsible Care® Awards 2021 Presentation**

6 Apr 2022 (Wednesday) 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM  
Shangri-La Hotel Singapore

Minister Grace Fu, Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment,  
Fellow SCIC Board of Directors, Industry Members, Ladies and Gentlemen, good morning.  
Welcome to the SCIC Responsible Care Awards 2021 Presentation Ceremony.

Since the onset of Covid 2 years ago, various aspects of our lives have been inevitably changed. These changes pushed us to devise alternative methods of handling our work lives, which ultimately called for greater adoption of technologies and thus accelerating our transformation in the virtual space. The chemical industry has become all the more critical in supplying necessities such as protective equipment, cleaning and disinfectant agents, medical supplies & devices, food and packaging materials to combat the global pandemic.

While resources have been diverted to manage the fluid COVID circumstances, the sustainability drive and efforts continue to take on as the key priorities in the chemical industry. Climate change is an important and vitally pressing global issue that has to be tackled on multiple fronts with seamless co-operation between the Government, businesses and communities.

Following the introduction of a carbon tax regime in Singapore, chemical companies are continually engaged in decarbonisation and sustainability initiatives by utilising new technologies and enhancing existing facilities' energy efficiency. SCIC is committed to play a constructive role in this transition to a lower carbon future as we continue to work closely with the relevant Ministries and Statutory Boards in advocating a robust carbon tax regime framework that optimally facilitates Singapore's economic development while enhancing the competitiveness of its trade-exposed industries.

As we drive towards the Fourth Industrial Revolution, it is imperative that the industry is prepared to embrace the circularity landscape of the future economy.

Management of plastic waste has taken precedence as one of the world's most significant environmental issues. As a key stakeholder in the plastic value chain, the chemical industry is also exploring alternative sustainable feedstock as part of its commitment to environmental conservation and effective plastic waste management. On this front, the Technical Committee for Circularity of Materials supported by the Standards Development Organisation (SDO) at SCIC is actively tracking the development of international standards on circular economy framework and exploring local standardisation needs in the area of plastics waste recycling including collection, sorting and cleaning of plastics waste. A new Technical Reference on Sustainable Packaging Guiding Framework and Practices is being crafted, with the aim to support NEA's initiatives such as the Mandatory Packaging Framework (MPR) and the rollout of a suitable Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) system, both of which are being implemented in Singapore while holding close consultations with the chemical industry through SCIC. SCIC is also working closely with NEA and the Public Hygiene Council (PHC) in continued joint efforts to raise greater awareness and initiatives on plastic recycling and waste management. I believe many of you are familiar with the chemical industry's Clear Shores Clean Waters beach clean-up campaign and the SCIC inaugural Sustainability Conference on Waste Management & Circular Economy which received overwhelming support from our members.

The Alliance to End Plastic Waste (AEPW) takes this commitment to a global scale and many companies here are part of the alliance. SCIC engages the AEPW's secretariat office set-up in Singapore in joint collective actions to address the ambitious goal of ending plastic waste. SCIC is also one of the founding members of the Plastic Recycling Association of Singapore (PRAS). This provides a platform to enable synergistic collaboration among stakeholders across the plastic value-chain. SCIC also undertakes the role as the administrator for the global programme, Operation Clean Sweep (OCS). OCS calls for commitment to zero pellet loss to the environment through proper management of containment, reclamation, disposal and leakage by all value chain partners.

It is crucial that the industry is well positioned to keep pace with the rapidly transforming operating landscape. The recent Budget 2022 announcement highlighted key changes such as reduction of Dependency Ratio Ceiling, simplified levy structure for Work Permit Holders, and the phasing out of the Man-Year Entitlement framework. These changes call upon a new environment for businesses and amplify existing challenges such as manpower

constraints and overreliance on foreign workers. However, the industry can potentially leverage this situation to create new opportunities by utilising the suite of productivity improvement practices and tools offered by the Productivity Council. As early as 2015, the Productivity Council was formed to improve productivity performances through several cross-functional workgroups comprising a consortium of industry stakeholders. SCIC took the lead in overseeing the implementation of the project which was jointly funded by EDB Singapore, SCIC, members of the chemical industry, ASPRI and members of the process industry. As a culmination of efforts over the years, the Productivity Certification Framework (PCF) was launched in 2019. First in the world, PCF is a holistic framework that adopts a systematic approach to drive step improvement in productivity sustainably. With enhanced productivity standards, businesses can maintain or achieve sustainable outcomes with significant reduction in resources required, thereby improving the bottom line of businesses. As we progress to operationalise the PCF with an expanded network of chemical industry members in 2022, SCIC through the Productivity Council will pro-actively engage all our plant owners and their PCM companies to support them in their readiness to take on these obstacles to thrive in the new business environment. Do look out for the invites from SCIC.

The proper safeguards on Health, Safety, Environment & Security (HSES) of the chemical industry are vital elements in ensuring the continuity of the business enterprise. The Responsible Care Awards is in its 20<sup>th</sup> year, honouring companies amongst us who have practiced and implemented this global initiative. To companies who are receiving awards today, my heartiest congratulations to you! Your leadership and commitment in taking ownership of HSES performances through the Responsible Care programme are exemplary.

As we take pride in this self-regulating industry driven initiative to manage and improve our HSES performances, we strive to demonstrate the same commitments to the migrant workers workforce supporting the E&C sector. SCIC has led the formation of joint committee with the Association of Process Industry (ASPRI) in late 2021 which serves to enhance the overall welfare of the migrant workers. The committee looks into developing an industry aligned roadmap which leads the transition to the use of buses as a safer transportation mode for our migrant workers. We strongly encourage all our members to support this move. Stay tuned for upcoming forum to which you will be invited by SCIC.

On behalf of SCIC, I would also like to thank and recognise several groups of people:

- The panel of judges who have devoted their valuable time to painstakingly review all the submissions. Thank you for your support!
- Industry representatives, thank you for your dedication and contributions to the SCIC committees and workgroups
- Partner agencies, your support and involvement in the chemical industry is much appreciated. Thank you!
- Our sponsors, Air Liquide Singapore, Infineum Singapore, Mitsui Phenols Singapore, Neste Singapore and Petrochemical Corporation of Singapore for jointly sponsoring the 2021 Responsible Care Awards. You have made today's celebration possible.
- Minister Grace Fu, thank you for taking time to grace this event.
- And finally, Terence and the SCIC team, thank you for your tremendous effort in organizing the event.

Wish you all a pleasant session. Thank You.