



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ANNUAL SINGAPORE-ASEAN BUSINESS CLIMATE SURVEY

German Companies Want to Hire More – Qualified Workforce in Demand

Singapore, 14 August 2018 – German companies are keen to hire more qualified personnel for various technical positions but there is a shortage of qualified workers in Singapore. This message was highlighted by the Singaporean-German Chamber of Industry and Commerce (SGC) at a media briefing today where the President of the chamber, Dr Claus Trenner, shared the results of their Annual Singapore-ASEAN Business Climate Survey.

“The aim of the survey is to acquire a larger picture about businesses in the region, economic developments, the companies’ situation and outlook, as well as the importance of variables that contribute towards businesses in the ASEAN region, especially in Singapore. From this year’s results, it is very clear that German companies believe that the economic outlook and investment opportunities are attractive and therefore offer them the opportunity to hire more in Singapore. However, there is a shortage of qualified workers and that seems to be a challenge for the companies, “says Dr Trenner.

The annual survey is conducted by the German Chamber ASEAN Business Council (GCABC) comprising of the seven German bilateral Chambers of Industry and Commerce (AHKs) in the ASEAN region. To strengthen the regional cooperation and to promote trade and investment this survey is conducted with the companies who are members of the chambers (currently GCABC has around 3500-member companies all together in ASEAN). The questions of the survey focus on business confidence, growth expectations, investments, local risk factors, trade and education. All in all, 267 companies participated in this year’s survey of which 68 are from Singapore.



In emphasizing the need for a qualified workforce, Dr Trenner mentioned that the survey results also show on the overall, a high standard of education in Singapore. Almost half of the respondents agreed that the standard of education is high at Universities and Polytechnics. While there are many institutions that offer outstanding programs in technical fields, there is still a shortage of workers with the right skills, since German companies are predominantly active in technical related and R&D intensive industries.

Ms Jeanne Liew, Principal and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Nanyang Polytechnic (NYP) was also present at today's Media Briefing to share how NYP is collaborating with SGC and the industry to offer more programmes aligned to the needs of the industry. In addition, Dr Lim Boon Huat, Honorary Secretary of the SGC Board shared his experiences coming from a German 'Mittelstand' company and reiterated on the vocational training which are relevant opportunities for learning.

Notes to editors:

About the German-ASEAN Business Council (GCABC)

Consisting of the seven bilateral German Chambers (AHK) in the ASEAN region, the GCABC is a business platform across ASEAN for enterprises and policy-makers from ASEAN and Germany. It provides a space to meet, network and exchange knowledge towards a sustainable trade and investment-friendly environment. GCABC identifies future fields and business opportunities to foster the relationship between ASEAN and German companies in general and to identify and to develop business opportunities for companies in particular.

About the Singaporean-German Chamber of Industry and Commerce (SGC)

The Singaporean-German Chamber of Industry and Commerce (SGC) is part of a network of 140 offices of the German bilateral Chambers of Industry and Commerce abroad in 92 countries. The Chamber is one of the largest national Business Chambers in Singapore with a membership of close to 550 representatives from a variety of industries from Germany and Singapore. The SGC is a valuable and well-established networking platform and well connected with authorities in Singapore and Germany. Through its active industry committees SGC gives a voice to businesses. With its distinct service unit and trade fairs arms - DEinternational and Fairs & More respectively - the SGC builds a primary source for receiving reliable



Singaporean-German Chamber
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information on the German and Singapore business environment as well as bilateral trade relations. DEinternational serves clients in their business needs e.g. searching for business partners, organizing business missions and business trips, finding staff members and providing market analysis. DEinternational has worked in many areas such as Energy Efficiency, education, Industrie 4.0, finance, research and many more.

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