

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY MR JEFFREY SIOW, MANAGING DIRECTOR & CHIEF
OPERATING OFFICER, ENTERPRISE SINGAPORE, AT THE QUALITY &
STANDARDS CONFERENCE, ON 29 SEPTEMBER 2023, FRIDAY**

Mr Tay Jih-Hsin, Chairman of the Singapore Standards Council

Mr Tan Kai Hoe, Chairman of the Singapore Accreditation Council

Distinguished guests, partners, friends from the media and colleagues

1. Good morning and thank you for joining us at the bi-annual Quality and Standards (QS) Conference.
2. The theme of this year's conference is on the role of standards and conformance in Singapore's Green Economy.
3. Two years ago, we launched the Singapore Green Plan 2030, which outlines our ambitions to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.
4. We have started implementing these plans, which include establishing renewable energy sources, transforming our businesses, and creating new opportunities in the green economy.
5. We were the first country in Southeast Asia to implement a carbon tax in 2019, to encourage the shift away from carbon-intensive products and services.
6. To advance our national agenda on sustainable development, Enterprise Singapore is leading the effort to raise awareness among businesses on the importance of developing sustainability capabilities and worked with partners to help businesses build these capabilities.
7. We launched the Enterprise Sustainability Programme (ESP) in 2021.
8. This programme includes a series of courses designed to help companies understand sustainability concepts, undertake projects, and develop sustainability strategies and solutions.

9. Since 2021, we have supported more than 700 companies as part of the programme.

- a. Tru-Marine is one company that has benefited from the programme.
- b. To meet international clients' expectations for sustainable business practices, they are now using 100% renewable energy in their Singapore-based workshop, and have developed an environmental, social and governance (ESG) roadmap with clear targets.
- c. Tru-Marine is also adopting ISO 50001 Energy Management Systems which enhances the robustness of their processes and provides assurance to clients and stakeholders around the world.

10. Standards and conformance play a critical role to catalyse solution to the complex issues of climate change and sustainability. They help stakeholders and organisations set clear goals and expectations, measure progress and drive innovation.

11. One example is carbon accounting. The lack of common standards for carbon accounting can lead to inaccurate, incomparable, and misleading carbon emissions data. This makes accountability difficult and tracking of progress towards climate goals challenging.

12. Enterprise Singapore, as the national enterprise development agency and also the National Standards and Accreditation Body, works with our partners to harmonise standards and requirements that address different aspects of sustainability in a way that makes sense for businesses.

13. Over the years, we have worked with the Singapore Standards Council (SSC) and Singapore Accreditation Council (SAC) to strengthen our Quality and Standards Ecosystem.

14. This public-private partnership in standards and accreditation development and promotion is crucial, especially in new areas like sustainability.

- a. Close collaboration between the government and industry experts aids in the development of effective standards and conformance solutions.
- b. It enables us to leverage each other's strengths and resources to tackle global sustainability challenges and capitalise on opportunities in the Green Economy.
- c. EnterpriseSG will work with SSC and SAC to develop more than 25 sustainability-related national standards and accreditation programmes over the next 2 years. These will cover a range of sustainability capabilities - from standards targeted to accelerate decarbonisation efforts in the energy and maritime sectors, to sector-agnostic standards to help enterprises improve their environmental performance in carbon emissions, energy, water efficiency, and material management.
- d. Ultimately, these efforts reinforce trust and confidence in Singapore, and our companies' products and services.

15. EnterpriseSG, SSC, SAC are organising several platforms and initiatives to facilitate discussions and engagements between different stakeholders.

- a. One such platform to discuss topics like sustainability or upcoming trends is the Quality and Standards Conference. Every two years, we gather members of the standards and conformance ecosystem to exchange views and share the latest developments.
- b. This conference is also a platform for the SSC and SAC to share more about their efforts and future plans. You will hear more from my colleague Sauw Kook and the two Councils Chairmen in the next segments.

16. On the international front, Singapore is also set to play a greater role in the standards development community. Represented by Sauw Kook, Singapore was elected as an ISO Council member last week.

17. Being part of the Council will enable Singapore to contribute towards charting the strategic directions of international standards development. Please join me in congratulating Sauw Kook on this new appointment.

18. Let me conclude by thanking SSC and SAC Chairmen and members for their strong leadership. I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of our Quality and Standards partners for your significant contributions in supporting our national Standardisation and Accreditation Programmes. In particular, I would like to express our deepest appreciation to this year's recipients of the Distinguished Partner and Commendation Awards.

19. I wish you all a fruitful conference ahead. Thank you.