sfic

Industry Nexus

Annual Report

About SFIC

The Singapore Furniture Industries Council (SFIC) is established since 1981 as the official representative body of Singapore's furniture and furnishings industry. It has a membership of over 360 companies, spanning across five key industry clusters: furniture manufacturers, interior fit-out specialists, retailers, designers and materials/components/services providers. Collectively, our industry players have a global footprint in over 80 countries todate.

As an aggregator and multiplier in the furniture ecosystem, the SFIC's vision is to position the Singapore furniture industry as the nexus of tomorrow's work-life integration for sustainable urban living. In essence, the industry aims to pursue the three key pillars of market agility, urbanite-centricity and enterprise adeptness to drive the industry further.

SFIC's priority initiatives include internationalisation, design development, business innovation, digitalisation and sustainability to enable members to stay future-ready and competitive while upgrading enterprise and human capital capabilities within the industry.

The SFIC also helms as the Chairman of the ASEAN Furniture Industries Council (AFIC), with the aim of further strengthening intra-ASEAN trade and its competitive advantage in the global market.

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President's Message

"No one can whistle a symphony. It takes a whole orchestra to play it."



In a year marked by reconnections, collaboration has been re-established as a critical aspect of businesses. Given the global backdrop of economic uncertainty, working together is not just desirable but essential for companies to thrive.

The reopening of borders has ushered in a new era of heighted global business dynamics. Challenges, both local and international, demand our adaptability. Market saturation, brand recognition, and evolving consumer preferences are universal driving forces compelling us to seek innovative solutions for continual improvement. I wholeheartedly support the concept of co-opetition, where collaboration takes centre stage. Together, we can tackle global and industry challenges to achieve collective success.

Collaboration is thus at the core of SFIC's vision for Singapore's furniture industry, underpinned by the core principles of Sustainability and Design. We value our partnerships with both international and local stakeholders, taking significant steps towards establishing the Singapore furniture industry as the nexus of tomorrow's work-life integration for sustainable urban living.

As we approach the midpoint of our 2025 roadmap, our efforts remained anchored in three foundational pillars: market agility, urbanite-centricity, and enterprise adeptness. These pillars enable us to create programmes that promote internationalisation, design development, business innovation and sustainability. Our strategic initiatives empower members to stay future-ready and competitive while enhancing industry capabilities.

INTERNATIONALISATION - FORGING GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS

In a constantly evolving industry, fostering connections with international counterparts is paramount. Over the past year, we have actively participated in

10 trade fairs and missions spanning China, India, Japan, Malaysia and Vietnam. These initiatives provided our members with valuable platforms to explore new opportunities and build bridges that transcend geographical boundaries.

We have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), opening new avenues for business growth and employment opportunities in India and Singapore. Our SFIC Mentorship Programme, where industry veterans guide fellow members in international expansion, has also demonstrated our commitment to collective success beyond our global achievements.

SUSTAINABILITY - CRAFTING A GREENER BLUEPRINT

Sustainability remains central to our efforts. We have launched our Sustainability Leadership Programme and organised a series of local and overseas learning journeys reaching out to nearly 100 companies throughout the year.

Our 2nd Sustainability Business Model Transformation Mission to Tokyo, Japan, following our first in Denmark, provided valuable insights from local sustainability-focused furniture companies. Japan's similar urban challenges and demographics to Singapore made it an ideal reference point. Our delegation learned from their best practices and explored potential partnerships with Japanese industry leaders.

The Sustainability Leaders Recognition (SLR) initiative, spotlighting businesses that integrate sustainability into their operations as well as products and solutions, is a testament to our dedication to promoting sustainability standards.

The inaugural Sustainability Summit, which brought together industry leaders from Singapore, ASEAN countries and Japan, served as a platform for meaningful dialogues and collaborations on eco-friendly solutions, aligning with Singapore's Green Plan 2030.

Looking ahead, we are excited to launch the Furniture Sustainability Mark (FSM) and the SFIC Sustainability Clinic, providing guidance to our members for more sustainable business practices.

DESIGN - SHAPING INNOVATION FOR THE FUTURE

Our commitment to design is evident through our Design Innovation Programme (DIP) initiative, where we have successfully fostered partnerships

between designers and brands/manufacturers, resulting in the launch of 30 collections for Urban Living.

Moving forward, we will be launching another 20 partnerships, bringing a total of 50 sustainable urban living collections by 2025.

SKILLING UP - PREPARING TODAY, THRIVING TOMORROW

SFIC is partnering with government and trade agencies for a three-year Jobs Development Partner Programme to help our furniture SMEs transform. This initiative encompasses a comprehensive advisory service provided by our Senior Industry Transformation Advisor to over 30 member companies, addressing their needs and gaps as well as offering tailored solutions. Our holistic approach also extends to a review of job roles and skillsets to support business transformation.

We recognise the importance of equipping our leaders and workforce the requisite skills needed to adapt and meet both present and future demands. This forward-thinking and proactive approach of both SFIC and the SFIC Institute play an instrumental role in nurturing talent development and industry advancement.

IN APPRECIATION

Our achievements during the year are made possible, thanks to the invaluable contributions of our diverse partners. Together, we have turned challenges into opportunities and uncertainties into successes.

We are grateful to our stakeholders, including government agencies, trade partners and business allies, for their steadfast support on our journey. We also appreciate our Executive Committee leaders and the secretariat for consistently going above and beyond to uphold SFIC's excellence standards. Above all, we extend our profound thanks to our members, whose active involvement drives industry transformation.

As we approach another promising year, we look forward to SFIC's and our industry's growth. The road ahead may hold challenges, but as one industry, let us meet them head-on together. In this symphony of collaboration, the future brims with potential and possibilities.

Phua Boon Huat, SFIC President

Internationalisation

In an increasingly interconnected world, the furniture industry is no exception to the global marketplace. Even amidst global headwinds, SFIC efforts to expand our horizons beyond borders, forging international partnerships, and navigating the complexities of global trade remains an integral part of our industry.



Connecting Opportunities, Forging Partnerships

142

PARTICIPATING
COMPANIES

10

TRADE FAIRS & MISSIONS

221

BUSINESS LEADS GENERATED

Global expansion remains a pivotal strategy embraced by Singapore businesses and the furniture sector is no exception. SFIC plays a proactive role in supporting companies by providing them with essential market insights and facilitating connections with prospective business partners to harness lead-generation opportunities.

Thanks to the strong support of Enterprise Singapore, our members have actively participated in 10 international exhibitions and trade missions during the year.

Trade Fairs & Missions









ASEAN Furniture Industries Council (AFIC)



SFIC assumed the two-year Chairmanship of the ASEAN Furniture Industries Council (AFIC) in November 2021, with the aim to further strengthen intra-ASEAN trade and enhancing its competitiveness in the global market.

The eight-member AFIC organisation also aspires to embrace greener practices in pursuit of sustainable business development. This year, the AFIC conference was held in Singapore, in conjunction with the SFIC Sustainability Summit. The gathering of AFIC delegation served as a platform for extensive discussions on the future of the furniture industry and ways to enhance the region's appeal.

As Singapore completes its term as AFIC Chairman and Secretariat in the coming months, our dedication to promoting ASEAN as a global furniture source remains steadfast. In the face of ongoing global trade tensions, ASEAN stands resilient, poised to provide robust alternatives for the industry's advancement.





An ASEAN e-roundtable brought together over 50 regional leaders, including H.E. Mr Satvinder Singh, Deputy Secretary-General for ASEAN Economic Community, and industry experts. Key takeaways included the need for collaboration, improving supply chains, going digital, focusing on sustainability and talent, as well as addressing cashflow and financial risks.



HAWA Expo, Vietnam



Member countries of AFIC also demonstrated a strong collective ASEAN pavilion presence at trade fairs held in Vietnam and Indonesia.

IFFINA, Indonesia

Design Development

In the dynamic world of furniture design, SFIC continues to be a driving force in shaping the future. We are committed to excellence, pushing creative boundaries, fostering innovation, and staying attuned to evolving consumer preferences.



Urban Living Showcase at FIND - Design Fair Asia



SUCCESSFUL COLLABORATIONS BETWEEN DESIGNERS & MANUFACTURERS

Urban Living Showcase at FIND Design Fair Asia

Shaping Urban Living through design

Since the introduction of the Design Innovation Programme (DIP), it has successfully facilitated partnerships between 30 brands/manufacturers and designers, resulting in the development of 30 commercially viable collections tailored for urban living.









2022 DIP Collections GRAPH Zig Zag - Image Credit: Lim Yu Heng House of Teak - Leika MM Galleri - Farewell to Reason

The next DIP 2.0 seeks to develop 20 more sustainable urban living collections that will push the envelope of design. Through collaborative efforts with stakeholders, SFIC is reshaping the concept of sustainable urban living.



Sustainability Leaders Recognition Award Ceremony at SFIC 41st Gala Dinner

In an era where environmental consciousness and responsible practices are paramount, SFIC remains committed to be at the forefront of the furniture industry's efforts to promote sustainability.

Since introducing our Sustainability blueprint, we have launched various successful programmes and initiatives highlighting our dedication to reducing our ecological footprint, supporting responsible sourcing, and fostering a culture of sustainability while ensuring profitability for our member organisations.



Post-Tokyo Mission Trip Sharing at Build Built Pte Ltd



SFIC Sustainability Summit Learning Journey to CDL

601 PARTICIPANTS

> SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

The successful introduction of the pilot Sustainability Leaders Programme (SLP) brought together more than 60 companies in 6 interactive virtual sessions to gain a deeper understanding of sustainability practices that fit their business needs.



SFIC Sustainability Mission Trip to Okamura in Tokyo

Transformational and immersive visits to Denmark and Japan have provided industry players with valuable insights into how local businesses in these countries have progressed and gained recognition as leading sustainability brands.



Salad Stop Learning Journey



Choa Chu Kang Public Library Learning Journey



SFIC Sustainability Summit 2023

continuous Closer to home. local journeys equipped learning have companies to understand how homegrown brands leverage sustainability to gain a competitive edge. These learning journeys also revealed potential collaborative opportunities.

In addition, SFIC organised its inaugural Sustainability Summit, drawing participants from the ASEAN region and Japan for the first time.

Enterprise & Human Capital Development



SFIC CNY Industry Dialogue to right-skill for the future



MOU Signing with Singapore Timber Association

Within the industry, a strong focus remains on upskilling, reskilling, and talent placements.

SFIC Institute, SFIC's training arm, consistently offers industry-relevant programmes to adapt to the evolving landscape.

With strong support from Workforce Singapore, SkillsFuture Singapore, DesignSingapore Council, and e2i, our Career Conversion Programmes have successfully placed talent within companies, while others have gained from our masterclasses, short courses and consultancy services.

490

SHORT COURSE PARTICIPANTS

163

NATIONAL SILVER ACADEMY COURSE PARTICIPANTS

71

CCP COURSE PARTICIPANTS

Young Leaders Chapter





YLC PechaKucha Networking Session held at Admira Pte Ltd.

Embracing a vibrant community within the furniture industry is essential for growth, innovation, and leadership. Our next generation of leaders and entrepreneurs wield great potential as catalysts for propelling our industry to greater heights.

To align with the dynamic spirit of this group, a fresh YLC logo was unveiled. It features a youthful, rounded mascot symbolising friendliness, inclusivity and ongoing growth.





YLC sparks innovation and fresh perspectives, elevating the furniture industry.

These traits extend to the ASEAN Youth Furniture Exchange (AYFE), bringing together 80 nexgen leaders for inter-regional collaborations at the 6th ASEAN Youth Furniture Exchange Programme held in Malaysia.

Together, we shape a brighter future for our industry by nurturing the next generation of leaders.



AYFE in its 6th edition held in Malaysia

Industry Engagement



Design League Cycling Event with SFIC Leaders and MOS Low Yen Ling (in red blazer)



Sunon Job Sunon

AfA for Sustainable Spaces

Company visit to Sunon

One of the mainstays of SFIC is to continually provide updates to keep industry players well-informed about emerging trends. Through a combination of physical and virtual engagements, companies can keep up in a competitive environment.





Numerous companies reaped the benefits of webinars, seminars, fireside chats, networking gatherings, industry engagements and learning journeys, that were offered throughout the year.



Industry engagement session with Speco and Matex



CSLDPIA SFIC Fireside Chat



SFIC mentoring programme - Internationalisation



SFIC Chinese New Year 2023



SFIC 41st Gala Dinner 2022 - Above and Beyond

SFIC's annual corporate gala and Chinese New Year celebrations served as excellent networking opportunities, allowing attendees to establish new connections or connect with fellow industry professionals.

SFIC Leadership

PATRON



Ms Sim Ann
Senior Minister of State
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of National Development

ADVISOR



Ms Chew Mok Lee Enterprise Fellow Enterprise Singapore

PRESIDENT



Mr Phua Boon HuatDirector
AlphaLeap Consulting Pte Ltd



Mr Steven Chew Executive Director Sitra Global Pte Ltd



Mr Kenny Koh **Group Managing Director Executive Director** Star Furniture Pte Ltd



Mr Jake Tan Admira Pte Ltd



Mr Joshua Koh CEO Commune Lifestyle Pte Ltd



Mr Marcus Wong Director **Danovel Pte Ltd**



Ms Emily Sim Business Development Leader **NS Trading Pte Ltd**



Mr Gan Shee Wen **Group VP** Sales & Marketing **KODA Ltd**



Ms Jamie Lim Regional Marketing Director Hawaii Furnishing Pte Ltd

PAST PRESIDENTS



Mr Wong Liang Han 1981/1984



Mr Kesavan Choo 1985/1986



Mr Tony Lin 1987/1990



Mr James Koh 1991/1994, 2003/2006



Mr Choo Yong Fee 1995/1998



Mr Bert Choong 1999/2002



Mr Andrew Ng 2007/2010



Mr James Goh 2011/2012



Mr Ernie Koh 2013/2016



Mr Mark Yong 2017/2020

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Mr Mark Yong
Executive Director
Ewins Pte Ltd



Mr Kaden Choa

Marketing Director

Excel Hardware Pte Ltd



Ms Celine Ng
Director
Fraction Design Pte Ltd



Ms Fion NgGeneral Manager
Grandwork Interior Pte Ltd



Mr Melvin Chong
Business Development
Director
Koncept Kreation Pte Ltd



Mr Don Lim
Director
RH Design & Build Pte Ltd



Ms Saurabh Mangla Managing Director Sam & Sara Holdings Pte Ltd



Mr Kelvin Kwek
Director
Sungei Emas Pte Ltd

CO-OPT MEMBERS



Mr Zak Lo
CEO
First Sight International
Pte Ltd



Mr Johanes Kurniawan
Director
Ivena International Pte Ltd



Mr Jerry Tan

Managing Director

Jaco Singapore Pte Ltd



Mr Ernie KohExecutive Director
KODA Ltd



Ms Xu Xue Ting
Group Corporate & Retail
Director
Star Furniture Pte Ltd

FUNCTIONAL COMMITTEES

Macro Directions

Overall

Chair Mr Phua Boon Huat

Director, AlphaLeap Consulting Pte Ltd

Enterprise & Human Capital Development

Chair Mr Steven Chew

Executive Director, Sitra Global Pte Ltd

Internationalisation

Chair Mr Kenny Koh

Group Managing Director, Star Furniture Pte Ltd

Design Development

Chair Mr Joshua Koh

CEO, Commune Lifestyle Pte Ltd

Sustainability

Chair Mr Phua Boon Huat

Director, AlphaLeap Consulting Pte Ltd

Co-Chair Mr Joshua Koh

CEO, Commune Lifestyle Pte Ltd

Business Innovation

Chair Mr Jake Tan

Executive Director, Admira Pte Ltd

Contract Manufacturing Cluster

Chair Ms Fion Ng

General Manager, Grandwork Interior Pte Ltd

Design Cluster

Chair Ms Celine Ng

Director, Fraction Design Pte Ltd

Manufacturing Cluster

Advisor Mr Kenny Koh

Group Managing Director, Star Furniture Pte Ltd

Chair Mr Marcus Wong

Director, Danovel Pte Ltd

Materials, Components & Services Cluster

Chair Mr Emily Sim

Development Leader, NS Trading Pte Ltd

Retail Cluster

Advisor Mr Ernie Koh

Executive Director, KODA Ltd

Chair Ms Jamie Lim

Regional Marketing Director, Hawaii Furnishing Pte Ltd

Finance Advisory Committee

Chair Mr Phua Boon Huat

Director, AlphaLeap Consulting Pte Ltd

Members Mr Mark Yong

Executive Director, Ewins Pte Ltd

Mr Gan Shee Wen

Group VP, Sales & Marketing, KODA Ltd

Mr Ernie Koh

Executive Director, KODA Ltd

Finance Committee

Chair Mr Gan Shee Wen

Group VP, Sales & Marketing, KODA Ltd

Members Ms Jamie Lim

Regional Marketing Director, Hawaii Furnishing Pte Ltd

Ms Emily Sim

Business Development Leader, NS Trading Pte Ltd

Mr Marcus Wong

Director, Danovel Pte Ltd

x-officio Members Mr Phua Boon Huat

Director, AlphaLeap Consulting Pte Ltd

Mr Mark Yong

Executive Director, Ewins Pte Ltd

Mr Steven Chew

Executive Director, Sitra Global Pte Ltd

Mr Kenny Koh

Group Managing Director, Star Furniture Pte Ltd

Mr Jake Tan

Executive Director, Admira Pte Ltd

Mr Joshua Koh

CEO, Commune Lifestyle Pte Ltd

Membership Review Task Force

Chair Mr Marcus Wong

Director, Danovel Pte Ltd

Membership Engagement

Chair Mr Don Lim

Director, RH Design & Build Pte Ltd

Corporate Events

Chair Mr Melvin Chong

Director, Koncept Kreation Pte Ltd

SFIC Young Leaders Chapters

Advisor Mr Jake Tan

Executive Director, Admira Pte Ltd

Chair Mr Kaden Choa

Marketing Director, Excel Hardware Pte Ltd

Mentorship Committee

Advisor Mr Ernie Koh

Executive Director, KODA Ltd

Chair Ms Fion Ng

General Manager, Grandwork Interior Pte Ltd

Research & Innovation

Chair Mr Kelvin Kwek

Director, Sungei Emas Pte Ltd

Co-Chair Mr Saurabh Mangla

Managing Director, Sam & Sara Holdings Pte Ltd

Sol Awards

Chair Mr Mark Yong

Executive Director, Ewins Pte Ltd

Sustainability Taskforce

Chair Mr Phua Boon Huat

Director, AlphaLeap Consulting Pte Ltd

Co-Chair Mr Joshua Koh

CEO, Commune Lifestyle Pte Ltd

Members Ms Alison Kwok

Executive Director, Cathay Interiors 1974 Pte Ltd

Mr Marcus Wong

Director, Danovel Pte Ltd

Mr Mark Yong

Executive Director, Ewins Pte Ltd

Mr Kaden Choa

Marketing Director, Excel Hardware Pte Ltd

Ms Fion Ng

General Manager, Grandwork Interior Pte Ltd

Mr Ernie Koh

Executive Director, Koda Ltd

Mr Gan Shee Wen

Group VP, Sales & Marketing, Koda Ltd

Ms Emily Sim

Business Development Leader, NS Trading Pte Ltd

Mr Kenny Koh

Group Managing Director, Star Furniture Pte Ltd

REPRESENTATION IN SFIC SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES

SFIC Institute Board of Directors

Chairman Mr Steven Chew

Executive Director, Sitra Global Pte Ltd

Members Mr Mark Yong

Executive Director, Ewins Pte Ltd

Mr Phua Boon Huat

Director, AlphaLeap Consulting Pte Ltd

Mr Gan Shee Wen

Group VP, Sales & Marketing, KODA Ltd

Ms Shermaine Ong

Group Executive Director, SFIC

SFIC Institute Advisory Panel

Chairman Mr Steven Chew

Executive Director, Sitra Global Pte Ltd

lembers Mr Mark Yong

Executive Director, Ewins Pte Ltd

Mr Phua Boon Huat

Director, AlphaLeap Consulting Pte Ltd

Mr Gan Shee Wen

Group VP, Sales & Marketing, KODA Ltd

Ms Chew Mok Lee

Advisor, SFIC

Ms Shermaine Ong

Group Executive Director, SFIC

Mr Neo Sia Meng

IFFS Pte Ltd Board of Directors

Chairman Mr Ernie Koh

Executive Director, KODA Ltd

Members Mr Bert Choong

REPRESENTATION TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS

ASEAN Furniture Industries Council

Chairman Mr Mark Yong

Executive Director, Ewins Pte Ltd (From 1 October

2022)

Secretary General Mr Jake Tan

Executive Director, Admira Pte Ltd

Members Mr Phua Boon Huat

Director, AlphaLeap Consulting Pte Ltd

Mr Jerry Tan

Managing Director, Jaco Singapore Pte Ltd (Also

Advisor, AFIC)

Mr Ernie Koh

Executive Director, KODA Ltd (From 1 October 2022)

Specialist Trade Alliance Singapore (STAS)

Member Mr Don Lim

Director, RH Design & Build Pte Ltd

Workplace Safety & Health Council (WSHC)

Member Mr Don Lim

Director, RH Design & Build Pte Ltd

SBF Council

Member Mr Ernie Koh

Executive Director, KODA Ltd

SCCCI Council

Member Mr Ernie Koh

Executive Director, KODA Ltd

SCCCI Trade Association Committee

Member Mr Ernie Koh

Executive Director, KODA Ltd

REPRESENTATION TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS

ITE Design & Media Academic Advisory Committee

Members Ms Alison Kwok

Executive Director, Cathay Interiors 1974 Pte Ltd

(Till 30 June 2022)
Mr Mark Yong

Executive Director, Ewins Pte Ltd (from 1 July 2022)

Singapore Interior Design Accreditation Advisory Council

Member Mr Mark Yong

Executive Director, Ewins Pte Ltd

TAC Fellowship Evaluation Panel

Members Mr Phua Boon Huat

Director, AlphaLeap Consulting Pte Ltd

Mr Ernie Koh

Executive Director, KODA Ltd

JSIT-R Advisory Panel

Member Mr Phua Boon Huat

Director, AlphaLeap Consulting Pte Ltd

Enterprise Singapore Technical Committee on Retail Services

Member Mr Gan Shee Wen

Group VP, Sales & Marketing, Koda Ltd

Committee Against Profiteering

Member Mr Ernie Koh

Executive Director, KODA Ltd

SFIC Trustees

Trustees Mr Andrew Ng

Mr James Koh

Executive Chairman & CEO, Koda Ltd

Mr Bert Choong
Mr Choo Yong Fee

President, Cheng Meng Furniture Group (Pte) Ltd



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sfic

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