

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Singapore Chemical Industry Council marks establishment as independent entity**

*Singapore, 15 November 2007* ~ The Singapore Chemical Industry Council (SCIC), Singapore's only industry organisation representing companies in the chemical sector, today announced its establishment as an autonomous entity.

Dr A Chockalingam, Chairman of the board of the SCIC, said, "I am delighted to witness and lead the maturing of SCIC into an independent organisation. The chemical industry is an important pillar of Singapore's economy and SCIC will now focus on advancing the progress of the sector."

Since its formation in 1979 as an industry group under the Singapore Manufacturers' Federation (SMa), the chemical industry has grown significantly to its 2006 contribution of 33% of Singapore's manufacturing output. To align itself with the development of the industry, SCIC underwent a restructuring in October 2004 to become an autonomous entity within the SMa. Having operated under this environment over the past three years and having reviewed the practices of chemical industry associations globally, SCIC decided to take a bold step forward by becoming an independent legal entity and officially registered itself on 28 June 2007.

The SCIC currently has 128 member companies representing the entire value chain of the industry. SCIC is today recognised and supported by government agencies such as the Ministry of Manpower, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB), IE Singapore, JTC Corporation, National Environment Agency, Singapore Civil Defence Force, Singapore Customs and SPRING Singapore.

**Ms Aw Kah Peng, Assistant Managing Director of the EDB, said,** "Congratulations to SCIC on this significant milestone! Singapore's chemical industry is going through an unprecedented phase of growth. We welcome the leadership role of SCIC in harnessing the collective energies of companies in the chemical industry to support the overall progress of this sector. The EDB looks forward to deepening our partnership with SCIC in support of our collective vision to make Singapore a world class, global chemicals hub."

**Mr Lee Yuen Hee, Chief Executive Officer of the NEA, said,** "SCIC is a very important partner of NEA. The Council has played a pivotal role in providing invaluable feedback to help NEA shape its policies and regulations so that we can achieve a fine balance between environmental protection and business growth. The Responsible Care Programme promulgated by SCIC has helped companies in the chemical industry to enhance their environmental management capacity and attain a high standard of environmental performance. I wish SCIC all the best in its re-establishment as an independent entity and look forward to continuing our strong partnership to safeguard Singapore's living environment."

**Mr Ho Siong Hin, Commissioner for Workplace Safety and Health, Ministry of Manpower (MOM), said,** “MOM would like to congratulate the Singapore Chemical Industry Council on its latest development. The chemical industry has consistently demonstrated strong commitment to take ownership of key areas such as workplace safety and health. As the sector expands, the Council will play a bigger role to help the industry to take on greater responsibility of safety and health outcomes that will benefit its current group of over 36,000 employees. We look forward to partnering the members to build a safe, healthy and great workplace and workforce.”

**Commissioner James Tan, SCDF, said,** "SCIC has been a key strategic partner of SCDF in improving fire safety and enhancing the incidents consequence management measures taken by chemical industries in Singapore. Through constant dialogues conducted between SCIC and SCDF, valuable feedback gathered have aided in the formulation of relevant policies relating to the chemical industries. SCIC continues to play a pivotal role in helping the industries meet the statutory requirements such as promoting the implementation of the Company Emergency Response Teams (CERT) which is crucial in ensuring the overall safety and security of the industry."

**Mr Loh Khum Yean, Chief Executive of SPRING Singapore, said,** “SPRING Singapore has been working closely with the Singapore Chemical Industry Council on standards and conformance initiatives to enhance enterprise capabilities and competitiveness of the chemical and chemical-related industries. The most recent example is our collaboration with SCIC to help our exporters meet the European Union's new Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals, or REACH regulation. We will continue to work closely with SCIC to accelerate the growth of companies in this sector.”

**Mr Heah Soon Poh, Director for Specialised Parks Development Group, JTC, said,** "SCIC has been a supporter and a partner in the growth of Jurong Island since 2004. We look forward to working with SCIC for the continued success of Jurong Island as a petrochemical hub."

The SCIC has been strongly promoting and advocating the adoption of global industry practices, such as the Responsible Care® charter, to improve environmental, health and safety performance in Singapore. In addition, it also plays a key role in capacity building programmes that seek to help companies meet the United Nations Globally Harmonised System as well as the recently implemented European Union REACH chemicals regulations.

For 2008, SCIC has also lobbied successfully to host the Asia Petrochemical Industry Conference, APIC, in Singapore. APIC is a very important regional conference for the petrochemical industry and is expected to attract more than 1,000 participants from around the world.

## **About the Singapore Chemical Industry Council**

The Singapore Chemical Industry Council, SCIC, is the official body representing the chemical industry in Singapore. SCIC is committed to achieving its objectives of being:

- The body to promote the Chemical Industry into a major pillar of Singapore's economy for the benefit of its members
- The partner in progress with the Government of Singapore in its effort to enhance growth for the Chemical Industry for investors, safety in the workplace for the workers and an environmentally friendly Singapore for all the residents, and
- The body to represent the Chemical Industry domestically, regionally and internationally with the aim of enhancing trade and attracting foreign investments into Singapore for continued growth and prosperity for its people.

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Media Contact

Name: Ooi Tiat Jin

Tel/HP: 62789463

Email: [tiatjin@scic.sg](mailto:tiatjin@scic.sg)