

**Press Statement: Singapore Overseas Network Hong Kong draws to a close successfully**

The Singapore Overseas Network (SON) - formed to tap the collective experience and expertise of Singaporean professionals in Hong Kong on issues regarding the economic development of Singapore as well as strengthen the emotional ties between overseas Singaporeans and Singapore - submitted its final recommendations to the Economic Review Committee (ERC) in October 2002.

2 The SON Hong Kong report, covering 17 recommendations by five working groups, details a desire to engender Singaporeans with a thoroughbred global citizen mindset and greater entrepreneurial gusto. It also marks the end of a positive and fruitful experience for many of the network's champions. "As members of SON Hong Kong would attest to, the fervour and passion for Singapore which rose to the fore from the SON Hong Kong deliberation process was quite unexpected. It was heart-warming." (SON Hong Kong report, pg. 8, para 24). Besides bolstering the Singaporean spirit and goodwill, SON Hong Kong was also an excellent platform for committed overseas Singaporean professionals to engage with, and contribute to their birth country as part of its global pool of talent resources.

3 Moving ahead, members of SON Hong Kong will continue to be attuned to developments in Singapore as a partner of Majulah Connection (MC), a private-sector led business network that brings together Overseas Singaporeans and Friends of Singapore globally. The establishment of MC, a recommendation prescribed by both SON Hong Kong and SON US, was warmly welcomed by DPM Lee. For a start, the Majulah Connection plans to establish links in seven cities: Beijing, Hong Kong, London, New York, San Francisco, Shanghai and Sydney.

4 According to Francis Heng, Chairman of SON Hong Kong: "It is clear from the SON Hong Kong experience that Singaporeans overseas are eager to be updated and to play a role in the developments back home. That SON US also proposed that a permanent platform be established for such purposes demonstrates the fruitfulness of the SON initiative. Although SON Hong Kong has officially wrapped up, its

members support and look forward to working with Majulah Connection to further enhance the networking among overseas Singaporeans and with Singapore.”

5 David Tan, Director & Head of Contact Singapore, who worked closely with the group, said “SON was an excellent platform to rally together overseas Singaporeans, for a common cause – to collectively brainstorm on securing Singapore’s long term prosperity. Clearly, it proved to be an enriching and positive experience for all. It also showed that while these Singaporeans may be working overseas, they are no quitters. Their hearts are very much staying with Singaporeans here in Singapore.”

6 To express its appreciation towards the members of SON Hong Kong for their contributions and enthusiasm, CONTACT SINGAPORE, the Secretariat of the network, will hold an appreciation cocktail reception on 10 December 2002 in Hong Kong.

7 The SON Hong Kong report is available online at the ERC website:  
[www.erc.gov.sg](http://www.erc.gov.sg)

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For more information, please contact:

**Francis Heng**

Chairman of SON Hong Kong  
Chairman, Human Capital Group  
Finance Director, Hongkong Land  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor, One Exchange Square,  
Central, Hong Kong  
Email: [heng38@yahoo.com](mailto:heng38@yahoo.com)  
Tel : 852- 2842 8400  
Fax: 852- 2845 4042

**Anthony Teo**

Deputy Chairman of SON Hong Kong  
Chairman, Entrepreneurship & Innovation Group  
President, Croda Resources & Associates Ltd  
Suite 4404, 44<sup>th</sup> Floor, China Resources Building  
26 Harbour Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong  
Email : [ascteo@netvigator.com](mailto:ascteo@netvigator.com)  
Tel : 852-2583 9188  
Dax : 852-2511 0812

**Lye Khay Fong, Ronald**

Chairman, Globalising Singapore-based Company Group  
Managing Director, Titron Media (Hong Kong) Ltd  
Room 1109-11, West Tower, Shun Tak Centre  
200 Connaught Road Central  
Email : [Ron\\_Lye@titron.com.hk](mailto:Ron_Lye@titron.com.hk)  
Tel : 852-2547 3022  
Fax : 852-2540 6376

**Wong See Meng**

Chairman, New Services Group  
Business Development Manager (Hong Kong /China)  
Sino Land Company Limited  
8/F, Ever Gain Centre,  
28 On Muk Street, Shatin, N.T  
Email : [smwong388@hotmail.com](mailto:smwong388@hotmail.com)  
Tel : 852 -2686 0228  
Fax : 852-2637 3232

**Benny Lee (Ms)**

Chairman, Lifestyle – the Singapore Buzz Group  
General Counsel, GE Capital (Hong Kong) Ltd  
8/F, Devon House, 979 King's Road  
Quarry Bay, Hong Kong  
Email : [benny.lee@geahk.ge.com](mailto:benny.lee@geahk.ge.com)  
Tel : 852-2961 1300  
Fax:: 852-2961 1134

**Anthony Chia**

Deputy Chairman, Lifestyle – the Singapore Buzz Group  
A.Vice President, PCCW  
8th Floor, Cyberport 2  
100 Cyberport Road  
Hong Kong  
Email : [Anthony.Chia@pccw.com](mailto:Anthony.Chia@pccw.com)  
Tel : 852-2514 3998  
Fax : 852-2514 2907

**Wilson Ang**

Member, Human Capital Group  
Solicitor, Herbert Smith  
23<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Gloucester Tower,  
11 Pedder Street Hong Kong  
Email : [Wilson.ang@herbertsmith.com](mailto:Wilson.ang@herbertsmith.com)  
Tel : 852-2845 6639  
Fax: 852-2845 9099

**Chua Bee Leng**

Member, Entrepreneurship & Innovation Group  
Associate Professor, The Chinese University of Hong Kong  
Department of Management  
Faculty of Business Administration  
Email : [blchua@cuhk.edu.hk](mailto:blchua@cuhk.edu.hk)  
Tel : 852-2609 7787  
Fax: 852-2603 5104

**Miss Celestia Kee**

Centre Director  
Contact Singapore (Hong Kong)  
Unit 904B, 9/F Tower 1  
Admiralty Centre  
18 Harcourt Road, Hong Kong  
Email: [hongkong@cs.org.sg](mailto:hongkong@cs.org.sg)  
Tel: (852) 25278100