



SINGAPORE 1000
SINGAPORE SME 500

SPEECH

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Mr Ken Sansom
Chairman
DP Information Group

23rd Annual
Singapore 1000 & SME 500
***incorporating* Singapore International 100**
Awards Ceremony
22 January 2010

- 1 Mrs Lim Hwee Hua, Minister, Prime Minister's Office and
Second Minister for Finance & Transport,
- 2 Ladies and Gentlemen,
- 3 On behalf of DP Information Group, I am pleased to
welcome you to this evening's award ceremony.
- 4 Tonight we come together to celebrate Singapore's
corporate leaders and achievers.
- 5 The companies we are recognizing this evening have
shown an ability to perform to the highest standard in
the most difficult of conditions.

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6 Over the last 16 months Singapore has responded to the challenge of a global economic downturn.

7 No country was left untouched, and no company was left unaffected.

8 While few would say the fallout of the global slowdown is over, I believe we can all agree that the worst is behind us.

9 The fact that Singapore has emerged strongly from the crisis is a tribute to the partnership between the government and corporate sector.

10 While the Government took swift action to implement pro-business strategies to support the nation's industries, our business leaders took equally swift and effective measures to re-position their businesses.

11 By working together, the public and private sectors have helped return Singapore to positive growth.

12 And tonight we will recognize many of the business leaders that have played their part in helping Singapore come through the economic storm.

13 This evening's event marks a new era for the Singapore 1000 family of corporate awards.



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14 It is the first time the Singapore International 100 Awards have been incorporated into this event.

15 The Singapore International 100 is an initiative of IE Singapore and recognizes the achievements of companies doing business in the international marketplace.

16 By combining these awards we have created the most comprehensive quantitative corporate awards in Singapore's suite of business accolades.

17 And, we are also pleased to welcome a new partner to our team – the Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority of Singapore, who will join as a supporting organisation from 2011.

18 As Singapore's leading provider of business and credit information, DP Information Group shares ACRA's commitment to promoting openness and transparency among our local companies.

19 We look forward to working with ACRA, and to bring a greater emphasis on corporate governance standards to the Awards, and to highlight the need for transparency among Singapore businesses.



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20 This year's ranking is the most comprehensive survey and analysis ever undertaken of Singapore's corporate sector.

21 More than 17,000 audited financial results have been compiled and analyzed to arrive at the final rankings.

22 And in compiling the data, DP Information Group has revealed just how resilient Singaporean companies are, even in the face of a global economic crisis.

23 While it is clear from the numbers that profits are down this year, we can be proud that many industries have maintained their level of sales – some have even improved their revenue.

24 This is a remarkable feat, and is a tribute to the skill of the management of our companies.

25 Singapore's corporate sector has held its own in the most difficult of circumstances and is well prepared to benefit from the global economic rebound, which will unfold over the next few years.

26 Nevertheless, challenges still remain, and the key to success will be the ability to make good decisions based on quality information.

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27 It is more important than ever that Singapore companies take precautions when committing to overseas ventures or to working with unfamiliar companies.

28 To avoid losses, it is essential that Singapore companies understand the quality and credit worthiness of the companies they are doing business with.

29 That is why credit ratings are such a powerful tool. By showing you a company's probability of defaulting, credit ratings serve as a form of protection against bad decisions.

30 In Singapore, the Government is already adopting the use of credit ratings to help protect businesses and consumers.

31 For example, Ministry of Education's Council for Private Education has recently adopted the DP Credit Rating as part of the evaluation process for private education institutions.

32 This will provide greater assurance to students, parents and business partners that the private educational institution they are dealing with is financially sound.

33 Another way companies can protect themselves is by joining and participating in a credit bureau.

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34 A credit bureau, such as the one offered by DP
Information Group, allows for the sharing of payment
data between members. So if a fellow member
company has difficulty or delays in receiving payment
from a company – all the other members are made
aware of this.

35 It is an effective early warning sign that stops
companies from making decisions that lead to bad debts
and non-payment by partners.

36 Put simply, doing business in today's volatile market
without the protection of a credit bureau is an
unnecessary risk. Fortunately, this is a risk, which is
easily avoidable.

37 Ladies and Gentleman,

38 The Singapore 1000 family of corporate awards is the
combined effort of many organizations.

39 I would like to thank our co-producer, Ernst and Young
Solutions for their exceptional skill and expertise in
helping us compile this award and ranking.

40 To our supporting organizations I would like to also
extend my gratitude - SPRING Singapore, IE Singapore,
IDA Singapore and The Business Times.



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41 In addition, I would like to thank HSBC, the Key Sponsor for the rankings and awards for the past few years. HSBC's record of supporting Singapore businesses is unmatched and they continue to serve the needs of companies through their portfolio of innovative products and services.

42 Finally, I am pleased to announce that Experian – the world's largest credit reference agency is also now onboard as a key sponsor.

43 As we prepare for tonight's festivities, let me personally congratulate each of the award winning companies. I wish you all a pleasant and enjoyable evening.

44 Thank you.