

## WELCOME REMARKS BY JEAN TAN, CEO OF SBF FOUNDATION, AT THE CLOSING OF YOUTH CONNECTIONS

Date: 5 November 2024

Time: 6:00PM

Venue: Singapore Polytechnic

Good evening to our Business Leaders, Youth Participants, Partners and Friends,

A warm welcome to the closing of Youth Connections 2024. Today, we gather not only to mark the end of this programme but also to celebrate the new and meaningful friendships built over the past two months. Each of you—our youth participants and business leaders—have brought something unique to this journey, and it's been a privilege for SBF Foundation to witness the growth, insights, and stories that have emerged.

2. To our youth participants: You embarked on this programme with open minds and courageous hearts, eager to explore new possibilities and insights from others. Along the way, you've gained more than guidance, you've developed newfound confidence in your own potential. Your openness to new ideas and commitment to personal growth is truly encouraging, and we hope the friendships and networks you've built here will continue to support you on your journey forward.

3. To our volunteer business leaders as connectors, thank you for your generosity of time and wisdom. You've shared not only your knowledge and experiences, you've created space for these young minds to explore, and a supportive environment to discover their own paths. Your contribution has been invaluable, and we hope the friendships formed have been enriching for you as well.

4. As Mr. Ronnie Seah, General Manager of Sankyu Singapore shared with us: "For me, it was a meaningful engagement where we got to understand the thoughts of the younger generation and their concerns and worries. Networking is an important skill set that should be developed early. Your network is your net worth."

5. At SBF Foundation, we are committed to fostering a compassionate and proactive business community that builds an inclusive Singapore. Programmes like Youth Connections, designed to enhance the employability and social mobility of Singapore's youth, supports this vision. By partnering with businesses and educational institutions, we are able to provide our young who may have limited networks, with the connections and role models that will inspire their growth and success.

6. Looking ahead, Youth Connections will expand in 2025 as part of the SG60 celebrations, supporting Singapore's vision of an inclusive, resilient, and connected society. We invite our Connectors, some of whom are repeat volunteers, to join us again. We can't do this without you. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank our programme partners, Singapore Polytechnic and Halogen, for journeying alongside us.

7. Let us continue to build on what we've created here—a stronger, more connected community where everyone has the chance to grow and make a difference. Thank you and enjoy the evening.