

**MEDIA RELEASE**

*For immediate release*

**Mr Kwek Kok Kwong, CEO of NTUC LearningHub, takes over as Chairman of Singapore National Co-operative Federation**

**Singapore, 16 September 2016** - Mr Kwek Kok Kwong, Chief Executive Officer of NTUC LearningHub, assumed the role of Chairman of co-operative apex body, the Singapore National Co-operative Federation (SNCF) from 15 September 2016.

He takes over the leadership role from Mr Chan Tee Seng, who is also CEO of NTUC First Campus Co-operative. Mr Chan has been serving as Chairman of SNCF since 2008. During this period, he has led SNCF and its co-operative affiliates through major milestones such as managing the legislation changes impacting the credit co-operatives during the financial crisis of 2008, International Year of Co-operatives in 2012 and the co-operative movement's 90th anniversary last year, culminating in the production of the commemorative book, *The Singapore Co-operative Story (1925-2015)*. He is also a strong advocator of various youth initiatives, including the SNCF scholarship scheme to get young talents to embark on a career within the co-operative movement.

Ms Dolly Goh, Chief Executive of SNCF, said, "On behalf of SNCF and the co-operative movement, I would like to thank Mr Chan for his leadership and support that saw the co-operative sector remain a pillar of societal support, as well as his years of unwavering dedication and contribution to the Singapore co-operative movement."

Mr Kwek, who has been with NTUC LearningHub (LHUB) since February 2013, will continue to lead Singapore's largest training co-operative which has helped train close to two million individuals and 15,000 corporates since 2004. Prior to joining the co-operative sector, Mr Kwek served in the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) for 27 years until 2012.

Moving into his new role, Mr Kwek will promote and oversee the strategic direction of SNCF and the co-operative movement in Singapore, which currently comprises 66 co-operative affiliates, and work with the board and senior management to promote and develop the co-operative sector.

"It is important that we stay forward-looking and ensuring that the young talent of tomorrow embrace this unique model of business. I look forward to connecting today's youth with the co-operative movement through multiple platforms, from scholarships to establishing co-operatives and co-op clubs at the school level," said Mr Kwek.

He added, "We also live in a very globalised world, where businesses thrive because of cross-border collaboration. Likewise, social businesses like co-operatives should co-operate across borders to grow bigger and stronger. To this purpose and as a strong advocate of learning, SNCF will continue its good work in organising networking trips as well as hosting visits by co-operatives and apex bodies in the region, and turning them into win-win partnerships."

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**About Singapore National Co-operative Federation (SNCF)**

The Singapore National Co-operative Federation (SNCF) was established on 18 September 1980 to be the national voice of co-operatives in Singapore. SNCF's mission is "to promote and develop co-operatives as sustainable enterprises that address social and economic needs through the principle of self and mutual help so as to foster a more resilient society".

Today, SNCF has 66 co-operative affiliates, which have grown to be integral social pillars that are touching lives across the Singapore society. These social enterprises span consumer retail, childcare, print and broadcast media, property development and maintenance, thrift and loan, security, travel, training and educational services, healthcare, aged care, food, maritime and manpower services. Some affiliates have even become household names, such as NTUC FairPrice Co-operative and NTUC Income Insurance Co-operative.