

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **SCWO ANNOUNCES SAGE 2026: REDEFINING WORK, CREATING NEW PATHWAYS FOR WOMEN**

Minister for Manpower Dr Tan See Leng to Open Singapore's Flagship Gender Equality Summit; Professor Lily Kong and Ms Chew Gek Khim Headline Programme

**Singapore, 29 June 2026** – The Singapore Council of Women's Organisations (SCWO)'s flagship forum, the Summit for Action on Gender Equality (SAGE), will take place on 18 September 2026 at the Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel.

SCWO's annual platform for dialogue, collaboration and action on gender equality and women's advancement, is expected to bring together over 300 leaders from government, business, academia, civil society and the community.

Now in its third edition, SAGE this year will explore the theme "Redefining Work: Creating New Pathways for Women."

**Dr Tan See Leng**, Minister for Manpower and Minister-in-charge of Energy and Science & Technology in the Ministry of Trade and Industry, will deliver the Opening Address as Guest of Honour.

#### **A Distinguished Line-Up of Speakers**

The Keynote Address for SAGE 2026 will be delivered by **Professor Lily Kong**, President of Singapore Management University and a 2022 Singapore Women's Hall of Fame inductee. A globally recognised academic leader and the first Singaporean woman to serve as president of any university in Singapore, Professor Kong has been a strong advocate for interdisciplinary and human-centred learning, and societally relevant and impactful research. Her unique perspectives as an educator, researcher and institution leader make her an especially compelling voice on how societies can prepare for and shape the future.

The summit will conclude with a Fireside Chat with **Ms Chew Gek Khim**, Executive Chairman of The Straits Trading Company Limited. A lawyer-turned-business leader who has transformed a 137-year-old conglomerate across industries, Ms Chew's remarkable journey embodies the resilience, adaptability and bold reinvention that define women who forge their own paths. Widely respected for her leadership and long-term vision, she has played a pivotal role in building enduring businesses and creating lasting impact across the corporate and philanthropic sectors.

## **Addressing the Future of Women's Work**

SAGE 2026 will also feature panel discussions with industry leaders, academics, civil society advocates and policymakers who will examine the systems, policies and cultural shifts required to support women across every stage of life and work.

Panel highlights include:

- Building Systems That Work for Women – exploring workplace policies, workplace fairness, and the role of employers and government in creating supportive environments for women.
- Beyond the Linear Career Path – examining career breaks, transitions, entrepreneurship and the growing acceptance of non-traditional career journeys.
- Unfolding the Journey of Career Longevity – addressing retirement adequacy, reskilling, AI disruption, and supporting women to remain economically active across longer lifespans.

There will also be breakout sessions which will dive deeper into how women can rewrite traditional definitions of success through new models of work, changing career pathways, and other innovative approaches that challenge conventional barriers.

## **A Platform for Action**

Since its launch in 2024, SAGE has established itself as one of Singapore's leading platforms for advancing conversations on gender equality, bringing together diverse perspectives to move dialogue into meaningful action.

**Dr Seow Yian San, President of SCWO**, said: "The future of work is being reshaped by technological change, demographic shifts and evolving societal expectations. As these shifts unfold, it is important that women are given equal space, voice and opportunities to contribute and lead. Through SAGE 2026, we hope to convene meaningful conversations that bring together organisations, policymakers and communities to explore how we can collectively build pathways that empower women to thrive and lead across every stage of life and work."



Registration for SAGE 2026 is now open. Early bird rates of \$300 apply until 15 August 2026, after which standard tickets will be priced at \$400.

For programme information, speaker updates, sponsorship opportunities and registration, visit the [SAGE 2026 Official Website](#). To find out more about previous SAGE programmes, visit the [SAGE 2025](#) and [SAGE 2024](#) websites.

### **About SAGE**

The Summit for Action on Gender Equality (SAGE) is SCWO's flagship platform for dialogue, collaboration and action on gender equality and women's advancement in Singapore. Through thought leadership, cross-sector engagement and practical solutions, SAGE convenes policymakers, business leaders, community organisations and changemakers to address issues affecting women and society.

### **About the Singapore Council of Women's Organisations (SCWO)**

The Singapore Council of Women's Organisations (SCWO) is the national coordinating body representing women's organisations in Singapore. Through advocacy, collaboration and provision of critical services for women in need, SCWO works to amplify diverse voices and advance opportunities for women and the community. Key initiatives include the Singapore Women's Hall of Fame, Star Shelter and Maintenance Support Central.

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