



MIDAS co-organizes Semiconductor Manpower Dialogue with MOM

Singapore, July 7th 2008: Singapore's Semiconductor Association (MIDAS) and the Ministry of Manpower (MOM) jointly organized a manpower dialogue for the semiconductor industry on 7th July 2008. This was yet another step taken by MIDAS in following its charter of providing a platform for the semiconductor community to collectively address their challenges in a consolidated voice.

Being a high level dialogue, only a few select companies were invited and this included some of our MIDAS members. The dialogue was chaired by Mr. Jeffrey Wong, Divisional Director, Manpower Planning & Policy Division, MOM and attended by corporate leaders from different segments of the semiconductor industry. Participants included Chartered Semiconductor, Broadcom, Marvell, Infineon, Xilinx, FTDI Chip and Mediatek, along with members from Singapore's Economic Development Board (EDB), Singapore Workforce Development Agency (WDA) and MOM departments including Workforce Planning, Foreign Workforce Policy and Labour Market Analysis Unit.

The event was part of MOM's manpower dialogue series to obtain a strategic overview of the industry's business and manpower challenges. Key business trends and challenges, especially at a time of mounting cost pressures and increasing global competition, were discussed along with the companies' broad strategies to meet these challenges. Members also shared their experiences and perspectives into how the semiconductor industry can attract and retain talent as well as to shorten the skills and capabilities gaps existing today.

Speaking after the event, Mr. Jeffrey Wong commended the encouraging response of the business community in mapping out the manpower needs and identifying critical skills gap of the semiconductor industry. *"We value the constructive feedback from all participants. By understanding the manpower challenges of the industry better, it will help the Ministry refine its manpower policies so that they remain responsive and flexible to the industry's needs."* said Mr. Wong.

MIDAS

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Commenting as an industry partner and MIDAS member, Mr. Anthony Quek, VP HR at Infineon Technologies said, *“It was a good platform to bring across what has been done correctly from a policy perspective. We also highlighted what needs to be addressed as we face challenges - both locally and regionally.”*

Another MIDAS member and industry partner, Mr. Shieh Ping Lung, Engineering Director at Broadcom said, “It is very heartening to see government agencies such as EDB, WDA and MOM taking such an active interest in promoting Singapore’s semiconductor industry. What we find especially commendable are these agencies’ relentless drive and dedication in grooming industry talents for the future. With the concerted efforts from both the Singapore government and the relevant industrial partners, we are confident that Singapore will soon find its mark as a leading technology hub for the semiconductor industry”.

Mr. Ulf Schneider, President of MIDAS, spoke about the dialogue as, *"MIDAS will further strive to synchronize the different forces from private and public sector to make Singapore's Semiconductor landscape even more attractive and competitive."*

About MIDAS

MIDAS is a premier organization representing Singapore’s semiconductor community. Established in 2005, it includes members from leading semiconductor players, local service and training companies, public research institutes, local universities as well as members from all different entities of the Semiconductor eco-system. It is committed towards fostering an active collaboration between the various entities in the semiconductor eco system of Singapore.

For more information, please visit www.midas.org.sg

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