Media Release
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Singapore Contractors Association commemorates 80 years with new initiatives to drive safety and productivity for the sector

- Launches new mobile application for induction training to enhance safety at worksites
- Releases report of a Study on Construction Productivity that calls for a mindset shift across the built environment value chain

Singapore, 17 January 2017 – To celebrate its 80th anniversary, the Singapore Contractors Association Limited (SCAL) is stepping up efforts to lead the industry on safety and productivity.

Formed in 1937 as the then Singapore Chinese Contractors Association, SCAL today represents some 3,000 members comprising local and foreign construction firms ranging from large (A1 category) contractors to small and medium enterprises (SME) subcontractors, as well as those in allied trades, services and materials suppliers. It is estimated that more than three quarters of all construction works in Singapore are carried out by a SCAL member.

Over the years, SCAL has strengthened its foundation as the voice of the construction industry, working with other stakeholders and government in areas such as standardising industry practices, raising productivity and quality, upgrading of construction methods and skills, catering to housing and recreation needs of foreign workers and advocating more business-friendly regulatory requirements.

In its 80th year, SCAL will step up efforts in two key areas: construction safety and productivity.

**Workplace safety and health (WSH)** – SCAL has been a strong advocate for WSH in the construction sector through regular dialogues, site visits to share best practices and call for safety time-outs at construction worksites to be conducted. In June last year, SCAL launched an annual Construction Safety Promotion Month with the key message to the top leadership in construction firms that safety should be their highest priority.

To reinforce greater WSH among construction workers, SCAL has developed a mobile application that can be easily accessible by site supervisors to train and highlight safe practices at worksites. The app provides visual images of actual
situations on site that workers can relate to directly. Topics covered in the app include work at height, electrocution and traffic management. The app can be downloaded on Android and Apple devices by searching for “SCAL” in the respective playstores.

**Study on Construction Productivity** – In mid-2015 SCAL commissioned a study on construction productivity in collaboration with the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCCI). Led by Professor George Ofori from the National University of Singapore (NUS), the study revealed the need for greater ownership and more effective measurement of productivity across the whole construction value chain. The 136-page report sets out eight key recommendations covering measurement, use, monitoring and management of productivity at project, corporate and client levels, lean construction and management of waste, and for SCAL to take leadership for a new approach. It also recommended enhancements to existing government programmes.

President of SCAL Mr Kenneth Loo said, “At 80, SCAL has come a long way since the days of Samsui women. The development of the construction sector is written on the face of Singapore – our buildings, roads, bridges MRT tunnels, air and sea ports. We are grateful to our forefathers for gifting us this strong foundation at SCAL as we plan our journey forward. Many challenges will lie ahead. The launch of our Safety Induction Training App and the wide ranging findings from the Study on Construction Productivity underlines our commitment to raise the bar for the construction industry as we prepare to build for the future Singapore.”
About The Singapore Contractors Association Ltd

The Singapore Contractors Association Ltd (SCAL), formed in 1937, has grown in strength and representation, making the Association the official representative body of the construction industry in Singapore with about 3,000 members.

SCAL is well represented in numerous policy-making committees of professional bodies as well as of those set up by the government. SCAL is affiliated to various regional and international bodies such as the International Federation of Asian & Western Pacific Contractors’ Associations (IFAWPCA) and the ASEAN Constructors Federation (ACF), whose objectives are shared by SCAL, that is, to foster fellowship and co-operation among contractors, to facilitate the exchange of technology and information and to develop and strengthen the relationship between governments and member countries.

SCAL is also fully committed to provide our members with a wide range of support from upgrading and updating fellow members on the latest construction practices and regulation to administrative assistance.

To better serve our members, SCAL has four subsidiaries, namely SC2, SCAL Resources, SCAL Academy and SCAL Dormitory to provide audit services, training courses and accommodation for foreign workers.