



新加坡中華總商會管理學院
Singapore Chinese Chamber Institute of Business

Media Release

(For immediate release, 24 February 2011)

**SCCIOB's New & Existing Students Stand To Attain
A Training Award For Learning Business Mandarin**

To promote and heighten public interest in learning Mandarin, a training award incentive for Business Mandarin programme students enrolled with Singapore Chinese Chamber Institute of Business (SCCIOB) has been introduced.

Singapore, 24 February 2011 – With immediate effect, new and existing Business Mandarin programmes students enrolled with Singapore Chinese Chamber Institute of Business (SCCIOB) will stand to attain a training award amounting to ¹20% of their full course fees. The monies for this award will be disbursed by Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce Foundation (SCCCF). This training award is to be granted over and above the current 70% course fee grant offered by Singapore Workforce Development Agency (WDA) to all eligible Singaporeans and Permanent Residents course participants.

As such, students who qualify for both the 70% WDA course fee grant as well as SCCCf's 20% training award would only have to bear slightly over 10% of the full course fee, which ranges from about S\$73 to S\$315. The eligibility criteria for the training award and the course fee payable, with and without WDA's grant and SCCCf's training award are detailed in Annexes 1 and 2 respectively. **This initiative is expected to cost SCCCf about S\$400,000 and benefit up to 1,400 students over a period of about 1¾ years beginning from September 2010** (based on the existing course fee structure and training places allocated).

The Business Mandarin programmes offered by SCCIOB is also known as the Chinese Workplace Literacy (CWPL) Series, which is 1 of the 3 broad training series of WDA's Chinese Employability Skills (ES) Workforce Skills Qualifications (WSQ) Framework. The CWPL Series is targeted to help individuals acquire the necessary Chinese proficiency skills so that they can handle workplace situations in which Chinese language is required. It is especially suited for those who wish to enhance their proficiency in Mandarin for use in their workplace and those who have no or very little knowledge of

¹ The quantum of the training award is computed based on 20% of the full course fee before GST

Mandarin and would like to learn the language from scratch.

The CWPL programmes is a collaborative project between WDA and The Office of Chinese Language Council International (Hanban) - a division of Ministry of Education, Beijing, China. SCCIOB is currently the leading WDA approved training provider for the CWPL programmes, which are accredited by WDA. The programmes offered are as follows:

- Business Mandarin Comprehensive (Beginner/Intermediate/Advanced levels) – this programme focuses on developing one’s reading, listening, speaking and writing skills
- Business Mandarin Conversational (Beginner/Intermediate/Advanced levels) - this programme focuses on developing one’s reading, listening and speaking skills
- Business Mandarin Writing (Beginner/Intermediate/Advanced levels) - this programme focuses on developing one’s reading and writing skills

SCCIOB’s General Manager and Principal, Ms Josephine Lee, said: **“The training award initiative affirms our commitment as a not-for-profit institute offering Mandarin courses to seek ways to promote and heighten public interest in learning the language. I believe this initiative will complement the efforts by WDA in enhancing basic employability skills and personal effectiveness in the Chinese Language, which can be applied in different industries and workplaces.”**

More than 1,500 students have undergone SCCIOB’s Business Mandarin programmes since its inception in March 2009 to date. Student participants come from different industries and occupations. Students are required to sit for a post-training test conducted at the end of the course. A Certificate, issued by The Office of Chinese Language Council International (Hanban), will be awarded to those who have attained a given level of proficiency.

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About Singapore Chinese Chamber Institute of Business (SCCIOB)

SCCIOB is a subsidiary of Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCCI) and a not-for-profit training and education body registered under the Registry of Societies (ROS 0212/1990). The Institute's history as a training and education provider can be traced back to 1984 when it first started as a Training Centre with governmental aid. It upgraded to its current status, the Institute of Business, in 1996. SCCIOB caters to the learning and development needs of a wide variety of trainees and students, including industry/company leaders and senior managers, working professionals and academic students, both local and international. The programmes offered can be broadly classified under business studies, language & cultural programmes, skill training, customised corporate programmes and China immersion programmes. For more information on the courses that SCCIOB offers, please refer to www.sccio.edu.sg.

About Singapore Chinese Chamber Of Commerce Foundation (SCCCF)

SCCCF is a subsidiary of Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCCI) and was incorporated on 27 January 1966 as a company Limited by guarantee and not having a share capital. It is an approved Institution of a Public Character (IPC) and its IPC status was extended for a further five years commencing from January 2007. SCCCf's mission is to contribute to the community development of Singapore by promoting educational, cultural, community and charitable activities and its vision is to foster a cohesive, compassionate and culturally vibrant society through the provision of funding for meaningful educational, cultural, community and charitable causes and projects. For more information on SCCCf, please refer to: <http://english.sccci.org.sg/index.cfm?GPID=272>

Eligibility Criteria for Training Award (Disbursed By Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce Foundation)

To qualify for the training award, SCCIOB students would have to fulfill the following criteria:

- a) Be a Singapore Citizen or Permanent Resident of Singapore;
- b) Be eligible for WDA's grant;
- c) Gainfully employed or actively seeking employment;
- d) Sat for the Pre-test (Business Chinese Test), if required, before class commencement at the Centre for Employability Skills (CES);
- e) Completed the Business Mandarin course and achieved the required 75% minimum attendance;
- f) Sat for the Post-training tests (Business Chinese Test) at CES as per the schedule given by SCCIOB after completing the course;
- g) Recommended by WDA to the next higher level of training under the same course on first attempt of taking the Post-training test;
- h) Completed the WDA Training Outcomes Questionnaire and any other documents as required by WDA and SCCIOB within the stipulated deadline.

This training award is eligible for all students who have enrolled in any of the 3 levels - namely Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced - of the Business Mandarin (Comprehensive / Conversational / Writing) programmes from September 2010 onwards.

Course Fees - SCCIOB's Business Mandarin Programmes

1. Business Mandarin Comprehensive

Level / Duration of Course	Full Course Fee	Subsidised Course Fee (After 70% WDA Grant)	Nett Payable Amount (After 70% WDA Grant & 20% SCCCF Training Award)
Beginner (150 hours, 6 months)	S\$2,782	S\$834.60	S\$314.60
Intermediate (90 hours, 4 months)	S\$1,797.60	S\$539.28	S\$203.28
Advanced (60 hours, 5 months)	S\$1,284	S\$385.20	S\$145.20

2. Business Mandarin Conversational / Writing

Level / Duration of Course	Full Course Fee	Subsidised Course Fee (After 70% WDA Grant)	Nett Payable Amount (After 70% WDA Grant & 20% SCCCF Training Award)
Beginner (75 hours, 6 months)	S\$1,498	S\$449.40	S\$169.40
Intermediate (45 hours, 3½ months)	S\$920.20	S\$276.06	S\$104.06
Advanced (30 hours, 2½ months)	\$642	S\$192.60	S\$72.60

Note:

- All course fees indicated above are inclusive of the prevailing 7% GST rate
- Upon acceptance into the programme, the course participant is required to make payment for the full course fee or for eligible participants, the subsidised course fee (after taking into consideration of the WDA grant)
- Students who qualify for the training award would receive the monies in the form of a cheque disbursement during their graduation ceremony or at any such time determined by SCCIOB. The quantum of the training award is computed based on 20% of the full course fee before GST