

26 February 2020

Dear Valued Partner

1. Greetings from the Singapore Tourism Board (STB). Singapore has taken enhanced measures to contain the spread of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), in line with how the situation has escalated both globally and in Singapore. You can read more about these measures here (<https://www.moh.gov.sg/covid-19>).
2. I am happy to share that we have made good progress. As of today, there have been 91 confirmed cases of COVID-19 infection in Singapore, of whom 58 have recovered and have been discharged from hospital. Singapore's Ministry of Health has undertaken major efforts to contain the spread of the disease by following up closely on every case and tracking down possible contacts of infected persons. These efforts have contained the spread of the disease in Singapore so that Singaporeans can continue to live normally. In fact, the World Health Organization (WHO) director-general Tedros Ghebreyesus said on 18 February that "Singapore is leaving no stone unturned, testing every case of influenza-like illness and pneumonia, and so far they have not found evidence of community transmission."
3. As a result, there are no WHO advisories against travel to Singapore. The US State Department's advisory for travel to Singapore remains at Level 1 – the lowest level which advises travellers to exercise normal precautions when in Singapore.
4. In the meantime, our MICE industry – from venues and hotels, to attractions and event organisers - remains open for business. This is a challenging time for all of us. But I am heartened that our industry is working hard to make sure that many of our events are going ahead safely and smoothly.
5. Some recent examples include Experian VISION2020 Asia Pacific, The Al Amal (Egypt) Incentive 2020 and the Singapore Airshow 2020. Many of these partners had expressed confidence in Singapore's continued ability to host successful events, and they were not disappointed. Other significant events, such the International Team of Implantology (ITI) World Symposium 2020, HR Tech Festival Asia 2020 and Ageing Asia 2020 are scheduled to take place as planned in the coming months.
6. This is in line with what international MICE associations have been saying. UFI, the global association of the exhibition industry, and SISO (Society of Independent Show Organisers) have said that cancelling exhibitions in many parts of the world, is currently premature¹. ICCA, the International Congress and Convention Association, has also called on the industry to demonstrate resilience by maintaining ongoing events².

¹ Joint UFI/SISO statement on the Coronavirus and the global exhibitions and events industry. (2020) [Online: https://www.ufi.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Joint_UFI_SISO_Coronavirus-19_02_20.pdf ; Accessed 24 February 2020]

² ICCA Press Release: ICCA analyses COVID-19 global meetings industry impact: Industry shows resilience and confidence. (2020) [Online: <https://www.iccaworld.org/npps/story.cfm?npage=2368984> ; Accessed 24 February 2020]

7. Singapore's Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) has advised businesses to maintain normalcy, and we urge our partners to implement the necessary precautions for their events, in line with advisories from Singapore's Ministry of Health (MOH) (<https://www.moh.gov.sg/covid-19/advisories-for-various-sectors>). The health of all our delegates, participants and staff remain our top priority.
8. You can be assured that STB will work hand-in-hand with all of you to address your concerns and questions. To our partners in Singapore, we will continue to engage you in dialogue sessions to discuss the appropriate measures and solutions. To our partners around the world, we stand ready to support your investment in Singapore as a choice destination for business events.
9. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to email your usual STB regional office or Singapore partner.
10. Life goes on in Singapore, and I thank you for your understanding and continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Keith Tan
Chief Executive