

ANNUAL CO-OPERATIVE LEADERS' CONFERENCE ACLC 2021 SINGAPORE

On 30th July 2021, in partnership with the Registry of Co-operative Societies and Singapore Institute of Directors, the SNCF organised its 1st phygital (in-person + virtual) event at Orchard Hotel.

Mr Peter Tan and Mdm Patsy Ng Moi Sng attended the conference in-person. Mr Teo Chor Kai and Mdm Arifah Begum attended it virtually.

ACLC 2021 is a continuation from the 'Emerging Stronger Conversation with Co-operatives' dialogue in November 2020. Deriving from the feedback by the Co-operatives, ACLC 2021 focused on personal data protection, corporate governance and safe event management to help co-operatives strengthen the processes and capabilities to learn, stay relevant and continue to serve members in the new post-pandemic Singapore.



1 Data Protection is vital for governance

As Data Protection is linked to cyber security, the more we generate data, the more risk there will be. Data Protection is too important to be left to the lawyers and compliance people. Any failure to comply with the PDPA will result in a breach of trust to the members. The good image of the organisation may be tarnished and irreversible.

Recommendations

- Tap on the PDPA Grant, which is under the SNCF CCF Grant Framework
- Form a Data Protection Committee, chaired by a senior executive
- Appoint a Data Protection Officer to oversee the society's data protection responsibilities and ensure compliance
- Educate committee members and staff on the PDPA and the importance of protecting personal data by procuring professional services to conduct in-house training or attending a relevant training workshop

2 Governance – Conformance and Performance

Processes and people contribute to governance. Governance should not be viewed as restriction, but protection. Good governance will strengthen the professionalism and capabilities of the leaders.

Internal controls must be in place by the Management Team while committee members should be the drivers of governance. The 2 key factors of a well-run co-operative are transparency and accountability. Observing good business practices on governance will increase business efficiency and effectiveness, enhance the organisation's public image and boost members' confidence and trust.

Recommendations

- Relevant co-operative training for Committee of Management and staff
- 'Member Engagement'
- Target 20% for every leadership renewal. Look for people who have a passion to improve the organisation
- Involve women in leadership roles
- In order to stay relevant to serve members in the new post-pandemic Singapore, every organisation must have a step-by-step emergency protocol.