

Positively Good For Workers

“This is actually a phase of growth that is a big positive for the average worker and for Singaporeans. It is going to involve a significant investment in skills, it is going to involve empowerment on the job, it is going to involve people being able to take responsibilities and exercise initiatives. We all know from any workplace we have experience in that people value responsibility, they value being able to exercise initiative and they value having skills...”

Finance Minister and Economic Strategies Committee Chairman Tharman Shanmugaratnam

Focus On Services Sector With Potential Growth Areas Must Be Priority

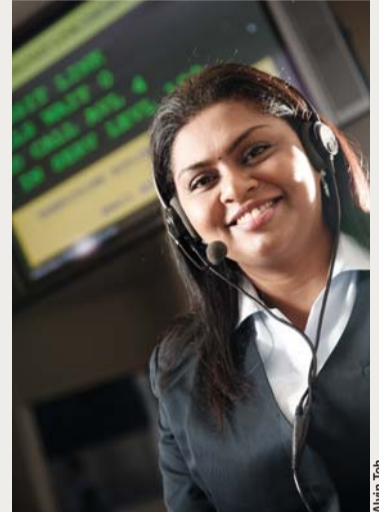
“The Services Sector has an amplified effect on overall productivity growth due to its large share of the Gross Domestic Product; productivity growth of the services sector is estimated to contribute about 70 per cent of the overall productivity growth.

“The potential for productivity improvements is simply tremendous.

Services productivity in Singapore today is just 70 per cent that in Hongkong and 60 per cent that in Japan and the United States of America. We will have to find ways to leapfrog economies like Germany and the United Kingdom, to reach the productivity levels of service leaders like Hongkong, Japan and USA.

“The Services Sector also holds opportunities for Singapore, especially in potential growth areas like tourism and consumer-centric products and services. It should therefore be a priority area for the high-level national council to focus on.”

Josephine Teo, NTUC Assistant Secretary-General and Singapore Industrial & Services Employees' Union's Executive Secretary



Alvin Toh

Globalised Challenge Needs Total Effort Of Workforce

“The recommendations of the Economic Strategies Committee are ambitious. In the 1980s when the productivity campaign was introduced, it was a new and exciting concept. It had the support of all sectors and all workers and we achieved better income. The competition this time is not within Singapore among the young or the old, the local or foreign workers. It is a globalised challenge and therefore needs the total effort of the entire workforce. With tripartite effort, I am confident that we can achieve productivity growth of 3 to 5 per cent.”

Seng Han Thong, NTUC Assistant Secretary-General and Centric Director (Union)

NTUC's Back2Work Programme Helps To Meet Needs For Greater Flexibility By Businesses And Women

“A more inclusive, productivity-driven economic growth will provide greater opportunities for women under our Back2Work programme as the value add of this programme is that it helps to meet the needs for greater flexibility by both businesses and women. This new national emphasis will also force companies to rethink their own growth models and be more innovative in attracting and retaining women and older workers to meet their manpower requirements.”

Halimah Jacob, NTUC Deputy Secretary-General and NTUC Alignment Director (Women's Development Secretariat)



Alvin Toh

Madam Ezattul (left) and Miss Nur Idayu (right) were among the first female welders to be hired by Keppel Shipyard after the job fair by NTUC's e2i (Employment and Employability Institute).