

ANNEX A: BACKGROUND

As a member of the Policy, Research and Benchmarking Working Group of the National Productivity and Continuing Education Council (NPCEC), the Economics Division of the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI), in collaboration with the Institute of Adult Learning (IAL), benchmarked the management practices of Singapore's manufacturing firms using the World Management Survey (WMS) methodology developed by the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). The WMS has been conducted in more than 20 countries over the past decade. Through telephone interviews with plant managers, researchers from MTI and IAL scored 408 manufacturing firms in Singapore on four dimensions of management.

Specifically, the objectives of this study are to:

- Benchmark the quality of management practices among manufacturing firms in Singapore against that of manufacturing firms in other countries covered by the WMS;
- Examine the association between management quality and firm performance in Singapore; and
- Examine the factors that account for the differences in management quality across manufacturing firms in Singapore.