# ASEAN Corporate Governance Scorecard Country Report for Singapore 2018

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## Scorecard Initiative

### Scorecard Background

- ASEAN Corporate Governance Scorecard (ACGS) started in 2011
- 6 participating countries include Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines,
   Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam
- Underlying rationale
  - Reflect global principles and internationally recognised good practices
  - Universal and capable of being applied to different markets in ASEAN
  - Robust quality assurance processes to ensure independence





#### Scorecard Implementation

- ASEAN Capital Market Forum Working Group
  - Comprises representatives from six countries
  - Currently coordinated by Securities and Exchange Commission Philippines
- SID and CGIO appointed by Monetary Authority of Singapore as domestic ranking body
- Scorecard enhancement
  - Scorecard revised in 2016
  - G20/OECD Principles of Corporate Governance used as main benchmark





## **Scorecard Structure**

#### Scorecard Framework

LEVEL 1

#### **Covers five areas:**

- Rights of Shareholders
- Equitable Treatment of Shareholders
- Role of Stakeholders
- Disclosure and Transparency
- Responsibilities of the Board

LEVEL 2



Bonus items reflecting other emerging good practices Penalty items reflecting issues indicative of poor governance



### New Scorecard Methodology

Level 1 Score (Max = 100 points)

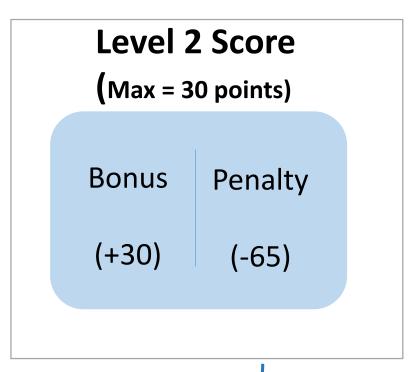
Rights of shareholders (10)

Equitable treatment of shareholders (10)

Role of stakeholders (15)

Disclosure and transparency (25)

Responsibilities of the board (40)



Total Score Attainable (Max = 130 points)





#### Scorecard Items

Part	Number of Items
A – Rights of Shareholders	20
B – Equitable Treatment of Shareholders	15
C – Role of Stakeholders	13
D – Disclosure and Transparency	32
E – Responsibilities of the Board	65
Level 1 Total	145
Bonus	13
Penalty	25
Total	183

**Note:** 31 items (or 21%) out of the total 145 Level 1 items are given more weight based on the key areas to sharpen the focus.



#### Assessment Process

#### **Shortlist:**

100 largest companies by market capitalisation

#### Analyse\*:

100 companies using Scorecard

#### Peer review:

Top 35 Singapore companies by governance performance

#### **Publish:**

Companies by rank based on corporate governance scores

#### Data Sources

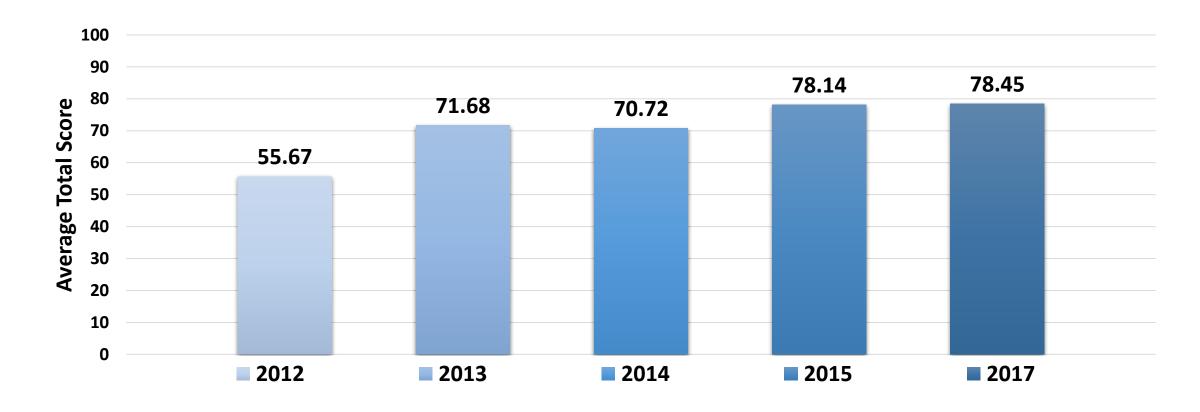
- a. Annual reports for year ending between 1 April 2016 and 31 March 2017
- b. SGX announcements and media articles between 1 August 2015 and 31 July 2017
- c. REITs and Business Trusts were excluded



# Key Trends and Findings

- Singapore's Performance

## Singapore Average Total Scores



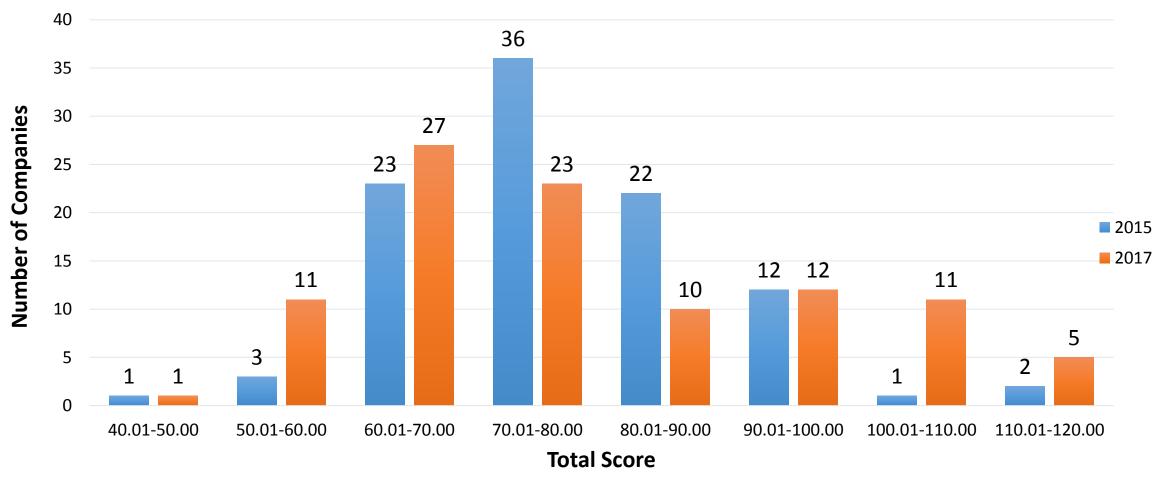
## Singapore Performance Over the Years

Year	Average Total Score	Average Level 1 Score*	Total Score Range	Maximum Attainable Score
2012	55.7	56.4	37.9 - 81.7	117
2013	71.7	65.1	46.8 - 105.0	142
2014	70.7	67.0	43.9 - 105.5	128
2015	78.1	74.6	49.0 - 116.0	126
2017	78.5	73.7	46.4 - 120.0	130

<sup>\*</sup> Out of a maximum Level 1 score of 100 points

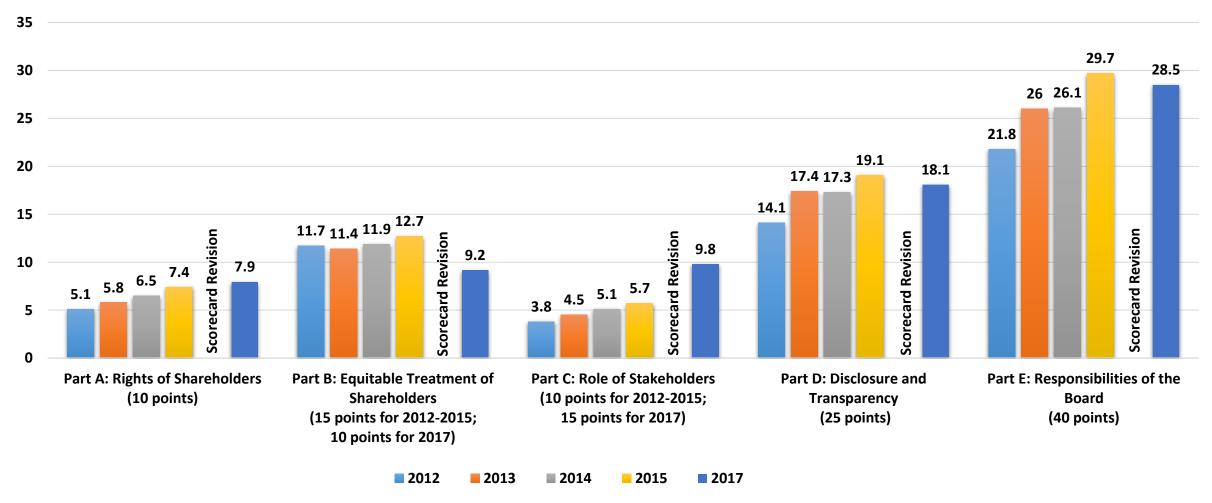


#### Total Score Distribution Curve



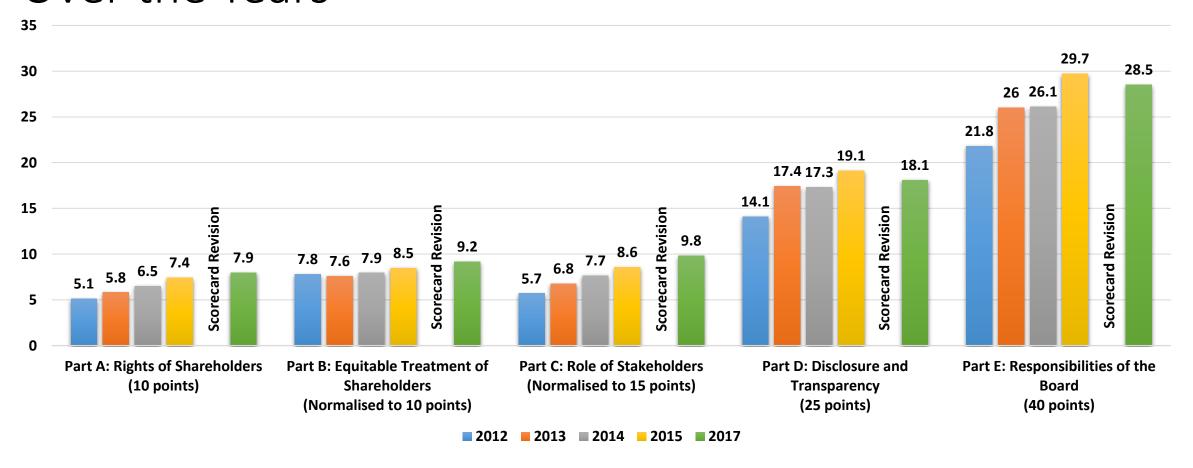


#### Singapore Scores Breakdown Over the Years





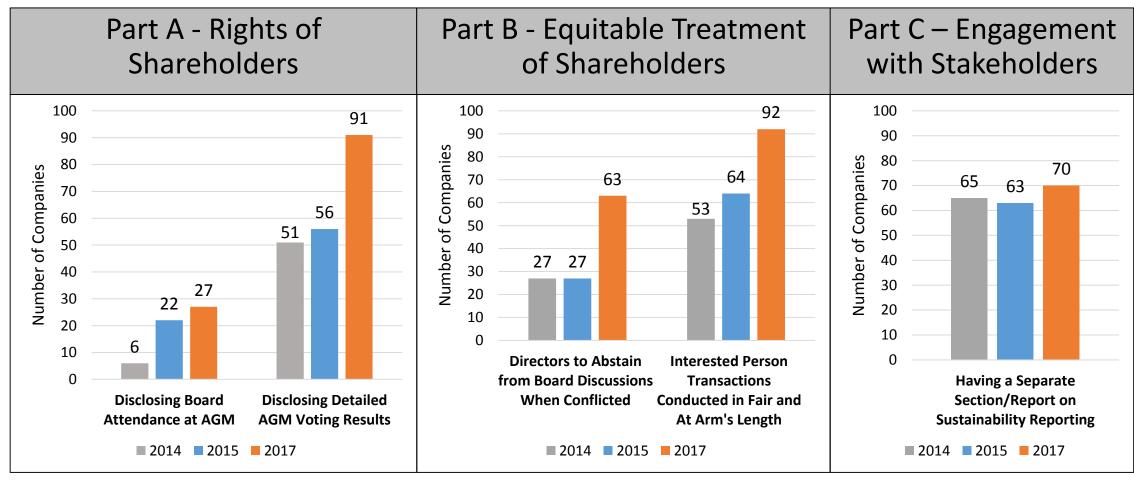
# Singapore Scores (Normalised) Breakdown Over the Years





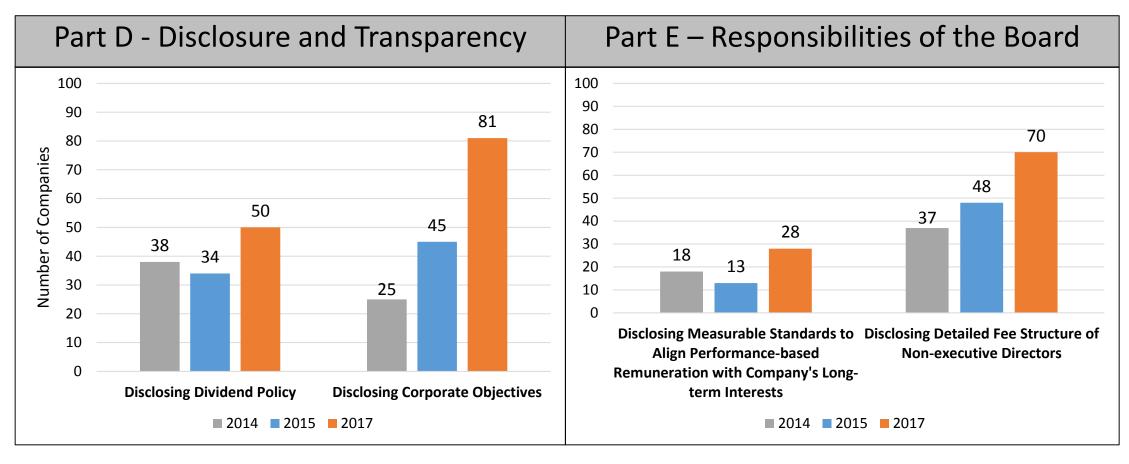


## Selected Results by Sections



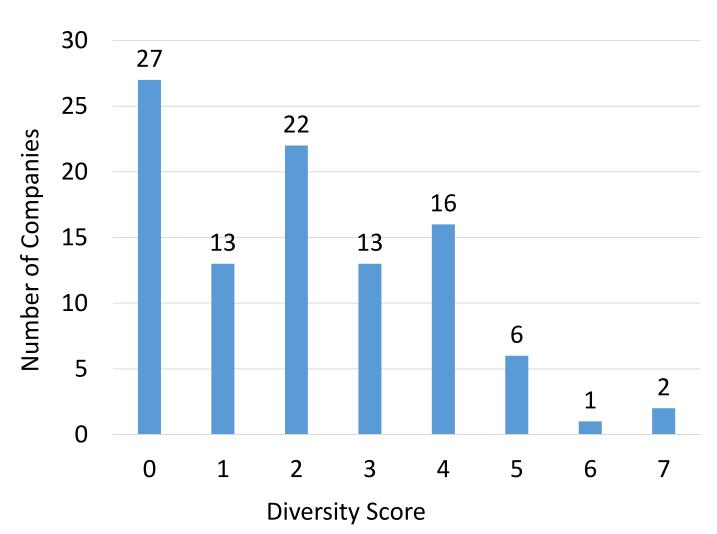


### Selected Results by Sections





## In Focus: Board Diversity Performance



## Diversity Score from ACGS (Max 7 points)

Gender Diversity (Max 3 points)

1 Female Independent Director2 pointsMore than 1 Female Independent Director3 points

### Diversity Policy and Disclosure (Max 4 points)

- Policy
- Disclosing measurable objectives
- Reporting on progress in achieving its objectives





# Further Trends and Findings

 Selected Highlights in Relation to Board Diversity and Corporate Governance Review Drawing from ACGS Data

#### Corporate Governance Council Recommendations

			Reference <sup>2</sup>				
Area		Type¹ (N/R)	Listing Rule <sup>3</sup> (Annex G)	Code (Annex C)	Practice Guidance (Annex F)	Consult Question (Annex A)	
	<ul> <li>Independent directors to form at least 1/3 of board – to become a Listing Rule</li> </ul>	R	MR 210 (5)(c) CR 406 (3)(c)			9	
	<ul> <li>Independent directors to make up majority of board (from at least half currently) if chair is not independent</li> </ul>	R		2.2		10	
Board Composition	Directors who are independent of management and business relationship to form majority of board	N		2.4	2	11	
	Board to disclose board diversity policy and progress made in achieving policy (including objectives set by company)	N		2.5	2	12	
Board	Tests of director independence to be rationalised:  - Maintain overarching Principles-based definition in the Code  - Objective and baseline tests to become Listing Rules	R		2.1		4	
Director	Remaining tests shifted to non-binding     Practice Guidance     Threshold for signficant payments to or from director or immediate family set at \$50K		MR 210 (5)(d) CR 406		1		
		R (3)(d)				5	
	<ul> <li>Move the 9-year rule for director independence to Listing Rule, OR impose 2-tier vote (all shareholders and non-controlling shareholders) for independent directors serving more than 9 years (after 3-year transition)</li> </ul>	R				6	
	<ul> <li>Separately disclose non-controlling shareholders' votes on (re)appointments of independent directors with less than 9 years</li> </ul>	N		2.3	2	7 & 8	

**Source: Singapore Institute of Directors** 

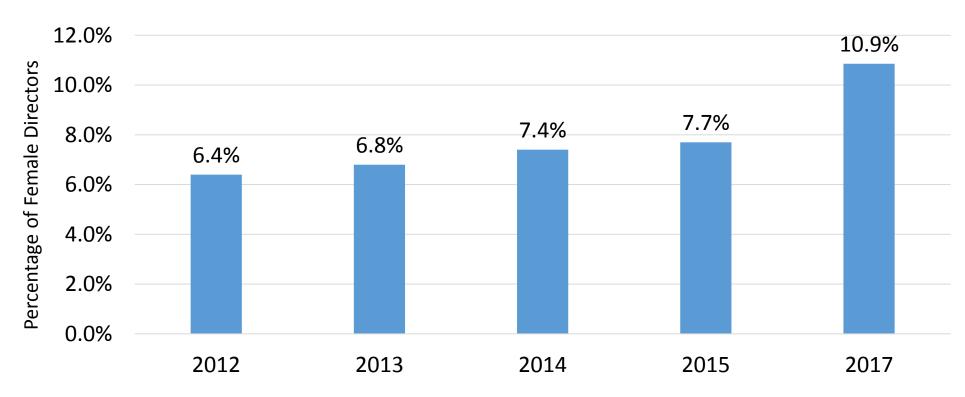
#### Footnotes:

- 1 Type of change: N=New or R=Review to an existing requirement
- 2 Reference to the Listing Rule (LR) number in Annex G of Consultation Paper; Code Provision in Annex C; Practice Guidance in Annex F; Consultation Question in Annex A
- 3 MR=SGX Listing Rules (Mainboard); CR=SGX Listing Rules (Catalist)





# Board Gender Representation in 100 Largest Singapore Companies



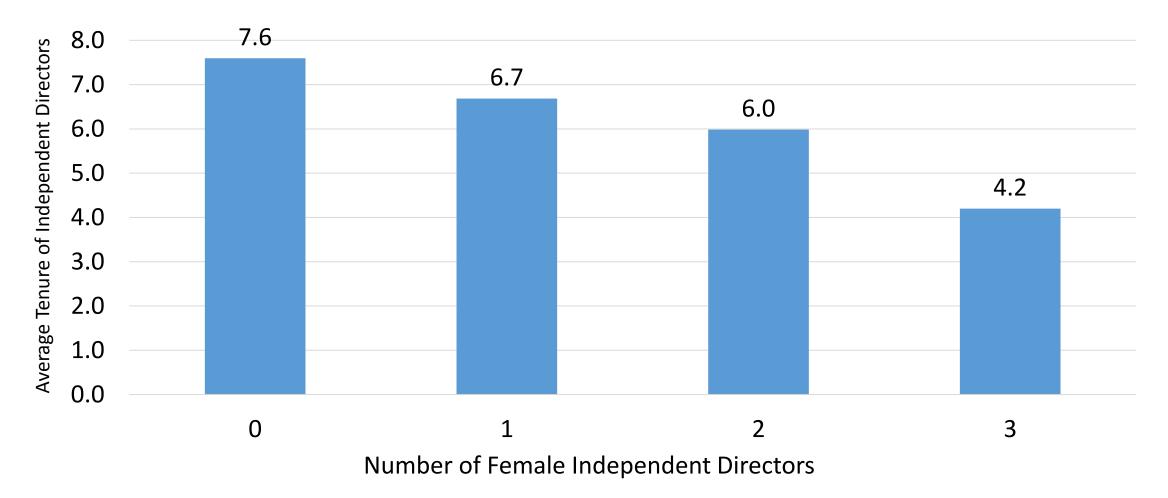
Sources: 2012-2015 - CGIO and KornFerry; 2017 - ACGS

#### Notes:

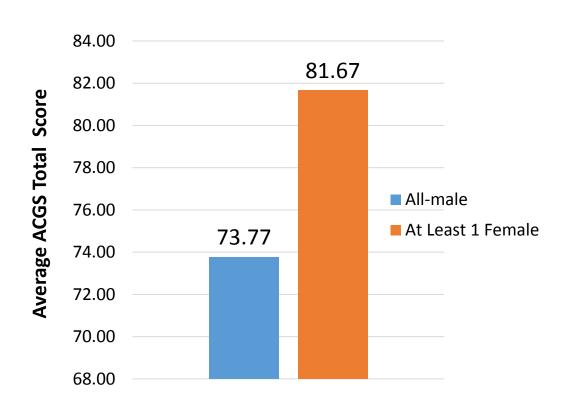
- 1. ACGS 2017 is based on annual reports with financial year end between April 2016 and March 2017.
- 2. Diversity Action Committee's announcement on 13 February 2018 revealed 13.1% of the board directorships of top 100 primary-listed companies are held by women as at 31 December 2017.

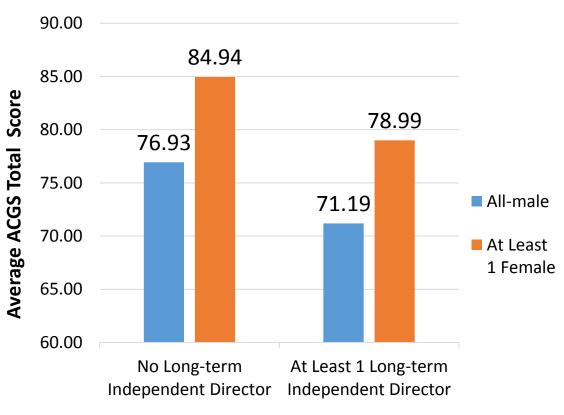


# Independent Director Tenure and Gender Representation



#### Governance Performance and Gender Representation



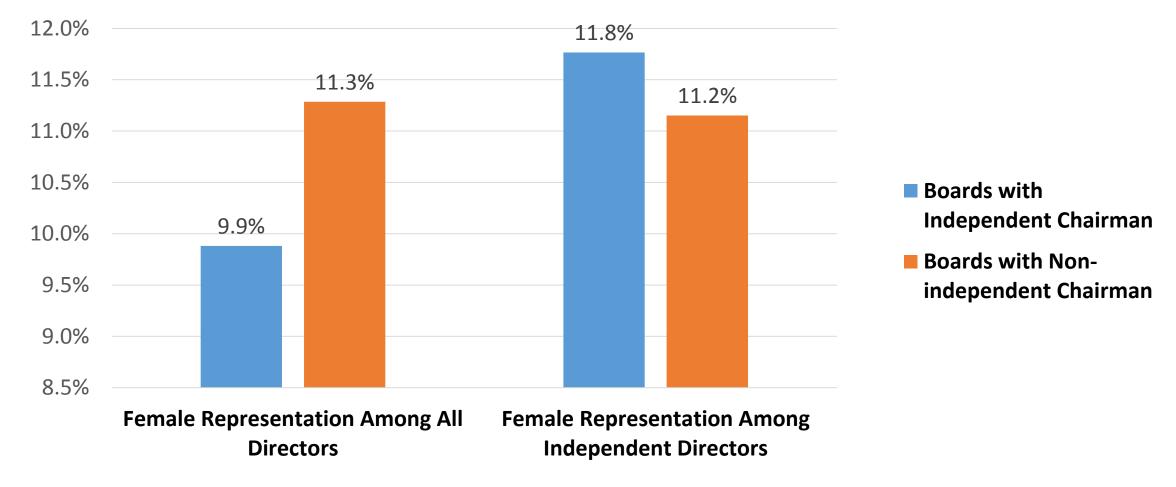


**Long-term Independent Directors (9 years)** 





#### Board Chairman and Gender Representation







## Top Singapore Companies

#### Top Singapore Companies

Ranking 2017	Company Name	Total Score 2017
1	Singapore Telecommunications Ltd	119.96
2	CapitaLand Ltd	116.44
3	DBS Group Holdings Ltd	115.73
4	Singapore Exchange Ltd	113.06
5	United Overseas Bank Ltd	112.24



