

MEDIA ADVISORY:

SCCCI Commemorates the Singapore's Bicentennial

The Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCCI) organised the Bicentennial Commemoration Dinner at Shangri-La Hotel Singapore on 3 December 2019. The commemoration dinner was graced by Guest-of-Honour Mr Chan Chun Sing, Minister for Trade and Industry. Eight members of parliament attended the dinner. The turnout of some 720 people included senior government officials, members of the diplomatic corps, leaders from the business, cultural and community organisations and trade associations.

In conjunction with Singapore's bicentennial, the Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Singapore Malay Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Eurasian Association were invited by SCCCI as supporting organisations for the dinner. The Indians, Malays and Eurasians, together with the Chinese, form the four main ethnic groups of Singapore which have shaped our nation's inclusive multiracial and multicultural legacy. A stable and harmonious society promoted economic prosperity of the nation and gained Singapore its international status today.

In 1819, Raffles landed in Singapore, and established Singapore as a trading post. Since then, Singapore rapidly developed from an open and multi-purpose port into a key centre for entrepot trade, and made strides towards prosperity and modernity. This is a crucial turning point in Singapore's history.

Our forefathers went through hardships together during the Japanese Occupation, committed themselves to post-war reconstruction and participated in Singapore's nation-building process, regardless of race, language and religion. These shared memories and experiences changed their concepts of home and country. They started to build their families and establish their careers here. They shifted from the desire to eventually return to their original hometowns to sinking their roots here. With perseverance and determination, they laid a solid foundation for Singapore's prosperity and development.

Minister for Trade and Industry Mr Chan Chun Sing said at the Bicentennial Commemoration Dinner, “The shared experiences and mixing of different cultures have played a major part in shaping our journey towards a collective Singaporean identity. While we may not have a sufficiently long shared history or common ancestry as a national identity; we instead believe that a forward-looking identity with a set of shared values is in fact a stronger proposition.”

The Bicentennial is not just about tracing Singapore’s history, but also about reflecting on the impact of the past 700 years of developments. It also examines the unforgettable footprint of SCCCI in the journey of nation building. Founding Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew once said, “The history of the Chinese Chamber reflects the history of Singapore.” Since the Chamber was set up in 1906, it headed the move to fight for citizenship rights for Chinese residents; it worked together with compatriots from the other ethnic groups to build the homeland and assisted to restore social stability and business order.

After Singapore gained independence, SCCCI supported the national service system which strengthened its defence capabilities. Every year, SCCCI highlights the importance of patriotism through our Memorial Service for victims of the Japanese Occupation and our SAF Day initiative. The Chamber is an important bridge between the government and the people. It has played an important role in four major areas, namely society, businesses, trade as well as culture and education.

SCCCI President Roland Ng said at the Bicentennial Commemoration Dinner, “Being multiracial, multi-religious and multicultural is a unique strength of Singapore. To Singapore, ‘harmony’ shapes our culture. This value leads to harmonious co-existence, prosperity and progress, which are conducive to our development. As Singapore went through its formative stages, our leaders have constantly reminded our people of the importance of harmony and solidarity. The past Presidents of SCCCI had also emphasised time and again that ‘unity is strength’ and ‘promoting the building of a harmonious society and creating a pro-business environment are essential prerequisites for driving economic development’.”

Today marks another most significant date. On the 3rd of December 1959, our first Head of State Mr Yusok Bin Ishak was sworn in on the steps of City Hall. On that same day, our National Flag, National Anthem and State Crest were formally introduced. 60 years on, at 11.20 am today, a new recording of Singapore’s National Anthem, “Majulah Singapura” has been released. This is another major milestone which we are proud to celebrate in our journey as a nation.

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About Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Established in 1906, the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCCI) is an internationally renowned business organisation and the apex body of the Chinese business community in Singapore. It is the founder of the biennial World Chinese Entrepreneurs Convention, a global business convention. It plays a key and pro-active role in representing the interests of the local business community. In its continued drive for service excellence, the SCCCI has become the first business chamber in the region to be awarded ISO 9001 certification since 1995. In 2018, the Chamber successfully upgraded its ISO certification to ISO 9001:2015.

The SCCCI has a membership network comprising 5,000 corporate members and has more than 160 trade association members, representing over 40,000 companies including large financial and business organisations, multinational corporations, government-linked companies, and small and medium enterprises from a wide spectrum of trades and industries. These members together provide vast resources and opportunities which enable the SCCCI to develop an influential global Chinese business network for business, education, culture and community development. In return, they share a strong sense of pride and identity together and benefit immensely from the SCCCI's membership services, facilities and activities.