

**SPEECH BY SCCC PRESIDENT THOMAS CHUA  
AT THE SCCC LUNAR NEW YEAR GATHERING  
SATURDAY, 28 JANUARY 2017  
SCCCI Auditorium**

Honourable Minister for Trade and Industry (Industry), Mr S Iswaran  
Minister Chan Chun Sing  
Minister Ong Ye Kung  
Senior Minister of State, Minister of State  
Members of Parliament  
Your Excellencies  
Senior government officials and community leaders  
Honorary Presidents, Senior Honorary Council Members,  
Honorary Council Members  
Council Members and members  
Ladies and gentlemen

A warm welcome to everyone as we gather together to usher in the Year of the Rooster. Today, I am very pleased to see many members and friends of all races and nationalities gathered here, and honoured to have Minister Iswaran joining us as the Guest-of-Honour again on this special occasion.

Earlier this month, we successfully concluded our elections for the 59<sup>th</sup> Council. The new Council will lead the Chamber in looking after the evolving needs and interests of businesses, helping them to transform and grow, and contributing towards our nation's growth and prosperity.

2016 has been a challenging year for the Singapore economy. While some industries have braved the headwinds, others have been less fortunate. As we usher in the Lunar New Year, businesses are all looking forward to the coming release of the report by the Committee for the Future Economy and the Budget. We hope that while the government is working on long-term strategies to transform Singapore's economy, it would continue to provide local businesses with useful calibrated measures to ensure their survival and sustainable growth.

I shall now continue with my speech in Mandarin.

大家新年好！今天，很高兴看到这么多会员和朋友，也非常荣幸又再次邀请到易华仁部长为主宾，与我们一起共庆佳节！

新的一年，新的气象！我们刚刚顺利举行了第 59 届董事会复选，引进了 9 位年轻有为的新成员，为董事会注入新血、增添活力。我相信新一届董事会一定能领导总商会开启新里程，谱写新篇章，继续带领总商会协助会员商家转型、成长，为国家和社会继续做出贡献。借此机会，我也感谢第 58 届董事会不辞劳苦、尽心尽力地为总商会和商家服务。

去年，我们欢庆 110 周年，举办了一系列的活动。在隆重的大庆晚宴上，李显龙总理向总商会赠送了“聚商惠民”的牌匾，世界各地的朋友也前来祝贺。站在新的起点，我们将竭尽全力完成使命。

2016 年，全球经济变幻莫测，新加坡的经济也正在转型。有些行业面对挑战，有些行业表现不错，但商家们整体仍然有成本上涨和人力资源的压力，急需补充元气。现在，新的一年已经开始，我们非常希望政府能推出一些刺激经济的政策，缓解商家们的难题。

《未来经济委员会报告》和 2017 年财政预算案即将出炉，拟定我国未来经济策略的同时，也明确了近期的方向。政府推出新的政策，商家们也要更加积极主动，转变经营模式，提升员工技能，通过不断创新适应新的经济环境。毕竟，企业要想发展，最终还是要靠自身的努力。与此同时，商家们也要和行业协会团结在一起，集思广益，群策群力，共同迎接挑战！

在这方面，总商会也做出了许多努力。过去 3 年，我们的中小企业中心就进行了 1 万 2 千个企业案例，帮助本地中小企业善用政府援助计划，推动企业转型，提高生产力。今年，我们将再接再厉，协助更多的商家转型和创新。正所谓：“人心齐，泰山移”，我们大家携手前进，必定能够乘风破浪，闯出一片新天地。

金鸡报喜、吉星高照！在此祝愿大家在新的一年里，身体健康！家庭幸福！事业顺利！