

新加坡中華總商會新春團拜

蔡其生會長致辭

時間：2017年1月28日（星期六）上午11點30分

地點：總商會二樓禮堂

尊敬的貿工部（工業）部長易華仁先生，
總理公署部長陳振聲先生，
教育部部長兼國防部第二部長王乙康先生，
高級政務部長，政務部長，
國會議員，
各國外交使節閣下，
政府部門長官和社團領袖，
總商會名譽會長、榮譽董事、名譽董事，
各位董事及會員，
女士們、先生們：

熱烈歡迎大家齊聚總商會迎接金雞年的到來。今天，非常高兴看到那么多會員和不同種族的各界朋友一起在總商會歡聚一堂，也非常榮幸能再次邀請到易華仁部長擔任今天團拜的主賓。

這個月初，總商會第59屆董事會選舉圓滿完成。新一屆的董事會將帶領總商會協助會員商家轉型、成長，並為國家的繁榮與進步做出貢獻。

新加坡的經濟在2016年里充滿挑戰。有些行業表現不錯，但有些行業卻没那么幸運。新的一年已經來臨，本地企業都非常期待即將公布的《未來經濟委員會報告》和2017年《政府財政預算案》。我們希望政府能在制定長期經濟策略，為新加坡經濟轉型的同时，也能繼續為本地企業提供有效的政策，確保它們能生存和持續成長。

現在，我將以華語繼續發言。

A Happy New Year to everyone! I am very happy to see so many members and friends joining us today, and am very honoured to have invited Minister Iswaran to celebrate this festive occasion with us again.

A new year, a new lease of life! We concluded our elections for the 59th Council earlier this month, and have inducted nine young and outstanding new Council Members, injecting new blood and vibrancy into the Council. I am confident that the new Council will be able to steer the Chamber into a new chapter and new era, and continue to lead the Chamber in helping members transform and grow their businesses, and contribute to the nation's development and prosperity. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the 58th Council who have devoted their tireless efforts in serving the Chamber and the business community.

Last year, the Chamber celebrated its 110th Anniversary with a whole series of events. During the dinner, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong presented us a plaque inscribed with the Chinese characters meaning "Unifying Businesses to Benefit Society". Friends from all over the world gathered at our Gala Dinner to celebrate this happy occasion. As we embark on this new milestone, the Chamber will strive to accomplish its mission (of unifying businesses to benefit society).

The global economy has been unpredictable in 2016; Singapore's economy is also undergoing restructuring. While some industries faced challenges, some still managed to perform well. However, with businesses facing the pressure of rising operating costs and manpower constraints, they are in need of a boost. Now, with the start of a new year, we hope that the government can introduce some measures to boost the economy and to alleviate their difficulties.

The report of the Committee on the Future Economy and the 2017 Budget Statement will soon be released. These will undoubtedly set economic strategies for the future economy, and determine near-term directions. When the government rolls out new policies, businessmen also need to be more pro-active – adopt new business models, improve employees' skills, and continually embark on new innovations to adapt to the new economic environment. Ultimately, enterprises which wish to achieve growth have to rely on their own hard work. At the same time, businessmen have to work in close unison with industry associations to pool their resources and welcome new challenges together!

In this regard, the Chamber has summoned great efforts. For the past three years, the SME Centre@SCCCI has recorded 12,000 business advisory cases, assisting local SMEs in tapping on government grants to embark on transformation and increase productivity. This year, the Chamber will continue our efforts in helping more businesses transform and innovate. As the saying goes: "If people are of one mind, we can move mountains." If we all move forward together, we can definitely ride the waves and create a better tomorrow.

With that, I wish everyone an auspicious Lunar New Year! May the golden rooster bring good health, happiness and success!