

SCCCI Mid-Autumn Festival Celebrations
Speech by SCCCI President Roland Ng
Date and Time: September 29 2017, 7 pm
Venue: Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall

(Delivery)

Honourable Mr K. Shanmugam, Minister for Home Affairs and Law

Excellencies

Government officials

Friends from the business, cultural and educational communities

Honorary council members, council members and members

Ladies and gentlemen,

1. Good evening to everyone! The Mid-Autumn Festival is a time for reunion. This evening, as we celebrate this traditional Chinese festival with other ethnic groups, it becomes an even more memorable reunion. I am also very pleased that members of the diplomatic corps and friends from the business community have also joined us tonight. On behalf of the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry, a warm welcome to all our distinguished guests.

2. Giving back to society has always been the essence of the Chinese entrepreneurial spirit. The SCCCI has given strong support to education since its establishment. The Chamber launched its scholarship programme in 1967, to provide equal opportunities for education, and to support outstanding students from humble background, regardless of race.
3. I am happy to note that some of the students we have helped through our scholarships are here this evening. Many of them have done well in their respective careers, and have promising positions in business, academia and government service. We are pleased and proud that many of them are also contributing back to the society. Congratulations to all of you!
4. As Singapore looks towards the Future Economy, the Chamber hopes to groom, through our scholarships, the right talent for Singapore, and to instill the best values, especially the Chinese entrepreneurial spirit of giving back to society. I will go into this further in my Mandarin speech.

(Screen Projection)

1. Good evening to everyone! The Mid-Autumn Festival is a time for reunion. This evening, as we gather in the grounds of the Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall to celebrate this traditional Chinese festival with other ethnic groups, it becomes an even more memorable reunion. I am

also very pleased that members of the diplomatic corps and friends from every trade and industry have also joined us tonight. On behalf of the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry, a warm welcome to all our distinguished guests.

2. Within Chamber's history of more than a century, giving back to society has always been the essence of the Chinese entrepreneurial spirit. When our forefathers worked hard at building their businesses, they also actively contributed back to society, to promote its sustainable development.
3. The SCCCI has always given strong support to education since its establishment. Before Singapore gained independence, there were very few schools. To provide more opportunities for children to receive education, the Chamber conducted classes, and council members donated generously to start schools to groom talent for enterprises, the society and national development. After independence, the government built even more schools, and the Chamber established scholarships, regardless of race, to support outstanding students from more humble backgrounds, and provide equal opportunities for education. These are all fine examples of the Chamber's contribution back to society.
4. The Chamber launched its scholarship programme in 1967. Now in its 50th year, some 2,000 people have benefited from the scholarships in their studies. I am very happy that many past scholars have turned up for

tonight's event. Among them there are successful entrepreneurs, leaders of government agencies and enterprises, professors with excellent academic achievements, doctors, engineers, and professionals from a whole spectrum of industries. Chamber's council members John Lim and Tan Tong Hai have also been our scholarship recipients. They have received the Chamber's scholarships and completed their studies; now they have applied your knowledge to good use in their respective careers and contributed back to society. Their success is the pride of the SCCCI.

5. Looking forward, as our economy continues to develop and educational opportunities become more easily available, the Chamber's mission in supporting educational development also needs to keep up with the trends. I believe that, apart from providing financial support to undergraduates, we need to delve deeper in helping to groom quality, to nurture a new generation with the right values and capabilities. This would include helping them to harness their potential, develop their skills, and create pragmatic value for national development; guiding and inspiring them to perpetuate the values and mindsets of the Chinese entrepreneurial spirit in contributing back to society, and enabling them to have a profound impact on the society at large.
6. We are aware that some scholarship recipients have already been giving back to society after succeeding in their careers, such as establishing

scholarships in support of education. Not only have they achieved success through our scholarships, they have not forgotten their origins, and have inherited and promoted the Chinese entrepreneurial spirit of giving back to society.

7. I hope to garner the support of the community in working towards this mission of nurturing even more outstanding talents. Thus, I would like to use the Mid-Autumn celebrations to announce that early next year, the Chamber would be launching an “SCCCI Scholars Network”. Scholarship recipients who have succeeded in their careers could join this network to be mentors and friends, guiding and inspiring the younger scholars in pursuing their dreams, adopting fine values and mindsets, and helping them to build successful careers and meaningful lives.
8. Throughout the many years of supporting education, the greatest satisfaction for the Chamber is to see that each new generation outshines past generations, and that our country and society keeps advancing year after year. We are also encouraged that many of our outstanding scholars share the Chamber’s value and responsibility, and have agreed to join the network, working together for the development of education. Scholars who are keen to join this newly established network are encouraged to contact SCCCI’s Secretariat.

9. I hope everyone will have an enjoyable Mid-Autumn evening. And in closing, I wish you all good health, happy and contented families and success in all your business endeavours.

10. Thank you!