

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY MR KUAH BOON WEE
VICE-PRESIDENT, SCCC
5TH TRADE ASSOCIATION CONGRESS
22 NOVEMBER 2017, 9.45AM
AUDITORIUM, TRADE ASSOCIATION HUB**

Ms Sim Ann, Senior Minister of State for Trade & Industry

Mr Roland Ng, SCCC President

Senior Government officials

Council members and

Fellow trade association leaders

A very good morning!

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to SCCC's 5th Trade Association Congress. Today is a very special day as we are all gathered here to celebrate the official opening of the Trade Association Hub by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong later this morning.

This is the fifth time that we are organizing this Congress. This time, the Congress takes on extra special significance because it is held in the Trade Association Hub.



The Trade Association Hub was initiated by SCCCI during the 3rd TA Congress in 2014, after gathering feedback from our TA members, to provide a place where TAs can co-locate, share resources and expertise, and capitalise on synergies to seek new growth opportunities for their member companies. Three years on, with the strong support of JTC and SPRING Singapore, the TA Hub is now a reality.

With more than 160 trade association as our members, SCCCI created the TA Congress as a platform for TA leaders to come together and discuss on common challenges, share experiences and solutions, seek new partnerships and collaboration, and propose new initiatives for Government's consideration.

This morning, we are happy that SMS has agreed to join us at this Congress. Those of us who attended the 4th TA Congress in September last year would remember that SMS also took time off her busy schedule then to join us. During that Congress, we invited a keynote speaker from the German Chamber of Commerce & Industry who shared how they have played an active role to help develop the local industries in Germany. At that same Congress, we also recognised the first 18 TAs who have pledged to move into TA Hub with SCCCI. At today's official opening, we now have 25 TAs who have co-located together in TA Hub.

Earlier this year, SCCCI formed the Trade Association Committee as a platform to drive the growth and development of TAs, with SMS Sim Ann as its Advisor. Led by SCCCI President Mr Roland Ng, TACOM has formed 5 working groups to study issues faced by TAs and implement

solutions and projects. I understand that SMS will cover the key outcomes from TACOM in her speech later.

But let me touch briefly on one very important initiative. With the official opening of TA Hub today, SCCCI will increasing its efforts to strengthen the overall capabilities of our TAs. To this end, SCCCI will be launching the Transformation Map for Trade Associations and Chambers, or TAC TM in short, today. Similar to the 23 ITMs for priority sectors identified by Government, the TAC TM will serve as a blueprint for SCCCI to work with TAs and government agencies to implement strategies and projects to build effective and professional trade associations.

SCCCI's secretariat staff will share more about the TM in detail later on. In addition, to build greater understanding and mindshare about the TM, we have invited SMS Sim Ann and the Presidents of 4 Trade Associations for a panel discussion later in the programme.

In closing, I wish to thank SMS Sim Ann for taking the time to join us at the Congress this morning. I wish everyone a fruitful and productive congress ahead! Thank you.