

**SCCCI & Business China Lunar New Year Gathering**  
**Speech by SCCCI President Roland Ng**  
**Date and Time: February 16, 2018, 11.00am**  
**Venue: Trade Association Hub Auditorium**

Honourable Minister Ong Ye Kung  
Senior Ministers of State, Ministers of State, Senior  
Parliamentary Secretary  
Your Excellencies,  
Members of Parliament, Senior Government Officials and  
Community Leaders,  
Honorary Presidents, Senior Honorary Council Members,  
Honorary Council Members,  
Council Members and Chamber Members,  
Ladies and Gentlemen

1. Good morning! Welcome to the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry's Lunar New Year Gathering on the first day of the Spring Festival. On behalf of SCCCI, I wish everyone an abundance of prosperity in the Year of the Dog, the zodiac symbol this year.

2. After the installation of the SCCCI 59<sup>th</sup> Council in March last year, we have established three strategic goals:

First, to harness the strengths of trade associations to help industry sectors upgrade and transform;

Second, to spur local enterprises to digitalise and internationalise;

Third, to ensure succession is carried out well in the Chamber and in enterprises, as well as promote the Chinese entrepreneurial spirit.

3. In the past year, with strong support from the government and all parties, we worked hard to attain these three goals.

4. Today, I am pleased to announce that we have since achieved the first goal, which was to set up the Trade Association Hub. After careful planning, SCCCI moved into the TA Hub at Jurong Town Hall in March last year, alongside with nearly 30 trade associations. Gathered under the same roof, we could share resources, provide mutual support and guide member

companies to upgrade and transform. When Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong officiated the opening of the TA Hub in November last year, he indicated that he is happy to see the Chamber leads trade associations to help businesses upgrade so that they can be globally competitive via identifying business opportunities abroad and by way of technological innovation. We are now working actively towards achieving the second goal, which is to spur local enterprises to digitalise and internationalise through the TA Hub.

5. This is the very first time that the Chamber holds its Lunar New Year Gathering in the TA Hub. The SCCC Building that everyone is familiar with is undergoing renovation. After the renovation, the building will possess both traditional and innovative elements. The guiding theme is to exhibit the inheritance of the four essences embodied in the spirit of Chinese entrepreneurs, namely, "integrity, loyalty, giving back to society and innovation". This will reflect the core value of the Chamber, which is "not to forget its founding objectives while moving on with time".

6. The setting up of the "SCCCI Scholars Network" also demonstrates the spirit of succession. When Singapore was in the stage of nation building, we needed talents in different fields to help drive the country's development. Therefore, 51 years ago, the Chamber began handing out scholarships to students outstanding both in study and conduct, irrespective of their background, ethnicity and the discipline they chose to pursue. Over the years, close to 2,000 students from tertiary institutions have benefited from the scholarship. It has also helped the country nurture leading expertise across all sectors.

7. The key significance in setting up the Scholars Network is to cultivate a new generation of talents endowed both with capabilities and virtues, help them discover their potentials, develop their capabilities so that they could make practical contribution towards the country's development, and guide them to inherit good values of Chinese entrepreneurs and the spirit of giving back.

8. The network will work hard towards the three goals under the leadership of Dr Wilson Goh, a former recipient of the SCCC Scholarship:

1. Helping the industry sectors upgrade;
2. Helping the younger generation develop; and
3. Strengthening national education.

9. A dentist and an entrepreneur, Dr Goh is very passionate about charity works. He was awarded the scholarship in 1988, which allowed him to study dentistry in the National University of Singapore. I hope more young people would model themselves after good examples like him and contribute more to the society.

10. I would also like to share another piece of good news. The Chamber's Institute of Business (IOB) has been appointed in January this year by China's Office of Chinese Language Council International (Hanban) and the Confucius Institute Headquarters as the only Business Chinese test centre in Singapore. We have also received support from the government. SkillsFuture

Singapore will sponsor up to 90 per cent of the fees for participants attending the Business Chinese course. This serves to encourage locals to enhance their proficiency in written and spoken Chinese by building on their existing foundations, so that they could better leverage on the boundless business opportunities available in the China market.

11. With a view to better realise Minister Ong's expectations for the Chamber, this year we are planning to expand and deepen the scale and content of IOB's Business Chinese training course. This will provide more opportunities for trainees to go to China to experience first-hand and acquaint themselves with the actual business environment.

12. This is also the first year that the Chamber partners Business China to co-organise this New Year Gathering. At the suggestion of Founding Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, the Chamber spearheaded and set up Business China in 2007. I am very happy to see that we have gathered here as one family to jointly celebrate the Lunar New Year.

13. In conclusion, let us wish Singapore great fortunes, peace and prosperity for the nation and our people. I would also like to wish everyone good health and our businesses prosper!

14. Thank you.