

ERC/PR/2018

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**2018 NATIONAL DAY DINNER  
SPEECH BY SCCCI PRESIDENT ROLAND NG  
8 AUG 2018, 7.00 PM  
BANQUET HALL, 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR, ORCHARD HOTEL**

Honourable Minister for National Development and Second Minister  
for Finance, Mr Lawrence Wong

Ambassadors, Members of the Diplomatic Corps

Senior Ministers of State, Ministers of State

Members of Parliament, Senior Government Officials,

Friends from Singapore and abroad,

SCCCI Council Members and Members,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Evening to all!

A warm welcome to Minister and all our friends for joining the National Day Dinner organised by the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCCI) to celebrate Singapore's 53 years of nation building together.

Singapore has achieved tremendous success in economic and social development with our people are gainfully employed and living happily. We attribute this to the hard work and commitment of our forefathers, fulfilling their responsibilities in the nation building. We want to express our deepest appreciation and salute to their dedication.

The successful hosting of the Trump-Kim Summit has not only demonstrated our strengths in diplomacy, but also reflects our long-standing commitment to be open, inclusive, and innovative, accruing Singapore's influence on the international stage. This achievement also stems from our unwavering effort in building our defense capabilities and guarding against internal threats. Our Pioneer Generation from all races have given their strong and undivided support to achieve glowing accomplishment on the road of nation-building. We should learn and emulate their spirit of devotion to country and pass on this on to the next generation.

Singapore's Founding Father Lee Kuan Yew once remarked: "The history of the SCCCI reflects the history of Singapore." SCCCI has grown and developed alongside with Singapore. We actively respond to the government's call to lead our businesses to work together for greater prosperity in our commerce and industries. We also emphasise cultural heritage and promote the four essences of the Chinese Entrepreneurs Spirit, namely, "Integrity, Loyalty, Giving back to Society and Innovation".

Integrity is the invariable ethos behind the success of Chinese Entrepreneurs. It is also the crucial element for sustainable enterprise development.

Loyalty is one of the most important ingredients underlying SCCCI's annual activities. These include the rededication ceremony on SAF Day and the War Memorial Service to commemorate civilian victims during the Japanese Occupation. Through these events, we remind our people not to forget lessons from history and foster devotion towards our country among the younger generation.

“Giving back to Society” is a social commitment that the SCCCI has always abided by in Chamber's 112-year journey. The Chamber not only actively contribute to the welfare of trade associations and members, but also support government's social and cultural efforts. The SCCCI gives out scholarships to different races and groom bilingual and bicultural talents. We also encourage scholars to give back to the society in various ways upon their graduation.

Innovation is the vital dynamism for national and business development. We know that only through constant innovation could we keep abreast of the times and avoid obliteration. Therefore, leveraging digital technology to enhance efficiency and creating greater impact is an important task for the SCCCI. The Chamber has formulated a digitalisation plan in collaboration with trade associations to help the small and medium enterprises to leverage on digital technology to internationalise. Next week, we will be organising our flagship event, the SME Conference, to help our businesses network and gather more insights for business development, transformation and prosperity.

We are also resolute in building international connections. In the last two months, we visited Sri Lanka and Guangxi, key nodes in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) to help push Singapore brands onto the world stage.

Ladies and Gentlemen, this is the best of times and this is also an era of smart transformation. No matter how the world evolves, as long as we stand on the solid foundation of our forefathers, stay united, and overcome challenges together, I believe Singapore and our future will always be bright.

In closing, on behalf of the SCCCI, I thank our Minister and our distinguished guests for gracing our National Day Dinner tonight. Let us together wish Singapore peace, prosperity and progress. I wish everyone best of health and may all your wishes come true!

Thank you!

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