

ERC/PR/2018

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**WELCOME BANQUET BY THE SINGAPORE BUSINESS COMMUNITY  
TO HONOUR THE VISIT BY CHINESE PREMIER LI KEQIANG  
SPEECH BY SCCCI PRESIDENT ROLAND NG  
13 NOVEMBER 2018, 5.30PM  
MARINA BAY SANDS CONVENTION CENTRE**

His Excellency Li Keqiang, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China

Mr Heng Swee Keat, Minister for Finance

Mr Teo Siong Seng, Chairman of Singapore Business Federation

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good evening! First of all, on behalf of the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry, I extend my warm welcome to Premier Li Keqiang on your visit to Singapore.

In extraordinary times, history bestows upon us with different missions and inspirations for progress. This year marks the 28<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic relationship between Singapore and China, and the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of China's landmark economic reforms and opening-up. It is also the 112<sup>th</sup> year since the establishment of the SCCCI.

Standing at this important juncture, we must imbibe the wisdom of the past to make calibrations to our mutually beneficial relationship. Only then can we move forward in the right direction.

Singapore, China and many ASEAN countries observe free, open, mutually rewarding and win-win trade and industry policies. We enjoy the fruits from a sharing economy.

As ASEAN's Chair this year, Singapore is even more proactive in promoting free trade and connectivity, so that we can seize the business opportunities offered by the various countries, in particular, from China.

Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong once said: "A prosperous China is good for the world." China's stable economic development has a positive impact on Singapore and the world. Therefore, SCCCI has always been energetically leading Singapore companies to seize the opportunities arising from the Chinese market.

The relationship between SCCCI and China goes way back to 1906 when the Chamber was established.

Over this long time horizon, although the Chamber has experienced many era of changes, we hold on to the same beliefs: keeping an open mindset and expanding our international vistas. We also dare to pursue innovation, zealously contribute back to the society, and bring benefits to the people.

Ladies and gentlemen!

The immense market opportunities in China has the vigour of a garden with myriad of flowers in full bloom. SCCCI has set-up offices in Shanghai and Chongqing and helped more than 1,000 Singapore companies to move into the Chinese market.

We also plan to set up an office in Chengdu. This will enable us to forge close collaboration between Singapore and Chinese enterprises to seize the business prospects arising from the Belt and Road Initiative and the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor.

SCCCI founded the World Chinese Entrepreneurs Convention in 1991. Building on the foundation that we collaborate harmoniously while recognising our different strengths, we gathered Chinese businessmen from all over the world to advance together and achieve win-win benefits.

We have also kept up with the changing trends. We created a “Sino-Singapore Enterprises + Multilateral Cooperation” model to lead companies from diverse countries to partner with their Chinese counterparts to actively participate in the growth of China, as well as in countries along the route of the Belt and Road Initiative.

“The sea is vast and deep as it never turns away streams”. Our world is transforming to a new epoch, a development that has rarely happened in history. We need to work collectively to create a glorious future.

SCCCI will continue to maintain and promote, through concrete actions, a collaborative relationship between Singapore and China enterprises that is fruitful, win-win, and based on mutual trust. In closing, I wish Singapore and China an enduring and timeless friendship!

Thank you!