

**Lunar New Year Celebration jointly organised by
Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry
and Business China**

**Speech by SCCCI President Roland Ng
Date & Time: February 5, 2019, 11.00am
Trade Association Hub Auditorium**

Honorable Minister for Foreign Affairs Vivian Balakrishnan,
Your Excellencies,
Senior Government officials and Community leaders,
SCCCI Honorary Presidents,
Senior Honorary Council Members,
Honorary Council Members,
Council Members and Members,
Ladies and gentlemen:

Good morning! Today is the first day of the Lunar New Year. We are very happy to have friends of different ethnicities and from different sectors coming to SCCCI for our Lunar New Year celebration. Besides our Guest-of-Honour Minister Vivian Balakrishnan, we also have with us seven special guests: Minister Chan Chun Sing, Minister Ong Ye

Kung, Senior Ministers of State Sim Ann, Chee Hong Tat, Koh Poh Koon, Minister of State Sam Tan and Senior Parliamentary Secretary Low Yen Ling. On behalf of SCCCI, I hereby warmly extend our heartfelt welcome for your presence this morning.

"Spring is the time to plan for the year ahead." The Lunar New Year is an important traditional festival for the Chinese. Shortly after SCCCI was first established, it held a Lunar New Year Gathering on the first day of the festival, and invited representatives of the business community to celebrate joyously as a big family. This tradition has lasted for more than a hundred years and has the significance of a heritage being passed down across generations.

We have since given this traditional festival an even deeper meaning, by inviting diplomatic representatives from many countries as well as our fellow countrymen from other ethnic groups to join in, so as to promote multi-racial and multi-cultural interaction.

We commemorate the Singapore Bicentennial this year. It was an important historical milestone that had shaped our present and will influence our future. The 200-year span was a key testimony to the historical process of “Singapore becoming Singaporean”.

A series of activities have been lined up with a view to trace and reflect upon Singapore’s historical journey in becoming a modern, open and multi-cultural society. In addition, we want to express our appreciation and commemorate our forefathers’ indefatigable and dedicated entrepreneurial spirit.

As early as the 1930s, many Chinese businessmen had begun to localise, developing a strong sense of identity and a sense of belonging to Singapore. After Singapore became a nation-state, Chinese businessmen became even more zealous in participating in the building of the country, allowing the Chinese Entrepreneur Spirit, which embodies integrity, loyalty, contributing back to society, and innovation, to shine forth fully. They gave their unwavering

support to the development policies of the government. From returning to their ancestral homes in China, to putting down their roots here, from Singapore to Singaporean, local Chinese businessmen had worked hard to actively develop Singapore's economy, society and culture over all these years. Entering the age of the digital economy, we will continue to do our share in contributing to the prosperity and stability of Singapore together with the people of all ethnicities!

Ladies and gentlemen:

This year is also a historic year for the SCCCI. Having witnessed 113 years of evolution, in order to adapt to present-day developments, we have extended the term of the Council from two years to three years. This will allow our Council Members to have more time to plan and carry out their work. I hereby thank you for your support and trust.

To ensure that the Spirit of the Chinese Entrepreneur is passed down in good time, many members of the 60th Council are of a younger age and come with a more diverse professional background. We will be sworn into office on 15 March. Building on the solid foundation laid by our forefathers, and in line with government policies, we will continue to draw upon the wisdom of the Chinese entrepreneurs and bring forth a new perspective!

In conclusion, on behalf of SCCCI, I express my sincere appreciation to Minister Vivian Balakrishnan and all our guests for joining us at this gathering. Together, let us wish Singapore peace, stability and prosperity! I wish all of you good health and the best of luck in your wishes!

Thank you!