

**52nd War Memorial Service in Commemoration of the Civilian Victims of the Japanese Occupation  
and Total Defence Day Commemoration 2019**

The 52nd War Memorial Service in commemoration of the civilian victims of the Japanese occupation and Total Defence Day Commemoration 2019, co-organised by Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCCI) and Central National Education Office of MINDEF (Nexus), was held on 15 February 2019. The Guest of Honour was Mr Ng Chee Meng, Minister, Prime Minister's Office.

Since our late founding Prime Minister Mr Lee Kuan Yew unveiled this memorial in 1967, the SCCCI has dedicated itself to holding the Civilian War Memorial Service every year without fail on 15 February, the day Singapore fell to the Japanese in 1942. The memorial service seeks to remind Singaporeans of the historical lessons of being vigilant in times of peace, and treasure peace as a prerequisite for our stable society and thriving economy.

This year, as part of ongoing efforts to deepen youth engagement during the Singapore bicentennial, a post-service WWII Heritage Trail was co-organised by the SCCCI, National Heritage Board and Singapore Armed Forces Veterans' League. Youths traced the sacrifices of Singapore's forebears as they embarked on a guided trail to the War Memorial Park, The Cenotaph and Lim Bo Seng Memorial.

Standing before the four tapering columns of the Civilian War Memorial, symbolising the shared experiences and unity among the people of different races in Singapore during the war, 1000 representatives from the SCCCI, MINDEF, diplomatic corps, religious organisations, National Youth Council, business and clan associations, uniformed groups, schools, veteran leagues, together with the families of the victims and members of the public reaffirmed the principles of multiracialism and total defence that continue to underpin the strength and cohesion of our society.

As the nation reflects on its journey of discovery from Singapore to Singaporean, it is hoped that the memorial service will bear greater significance in reiterating the principles that will continue to be the bedrock of a strong, secure and sovereign Singapore.

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#### **About Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry**

Established in 1906, the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCCI) is an internationally renowned business organisation and the apex body of the Chinese business community in Singapore. It is the founder of the biennial World Chinese Entrepreneurs Convention, a global business convention. It plays a key and pro-active role in representing the interests of the local business community. In its continued drive for service excellence, the SCCCI has become the first business chamber in the region to be awarded ISO 9001 certification since 1995. In 2018, the Chamber successfully upgraded its ISO certification to ISO 9001:2015.

The SCCCI has a membership network comprising 5,000 corporate members and has more than 160 trade association members, representing over 40,000 companies including large financial and business organisations, multinational corporations, government-linked companies, and small and medium enterprises from a wide spectrum of trades and industries. These members together provide vast resources and opportunities which enable the SCCCI to develop an influential global Chinese business network for business, education, culture and community development. In return, they share a strong sense of pride and identity together and benefit immensely from the SCCCI's membership services, facilities and activities.