

**SCCCI's 60<sup>th</sup> Council Installation Ceremony**  
**Speech by SCCCI President Mr Roland Ng San Tiong**

**Date: March 15 2019 (Friday)**

**Time: 11 am**

**Venue: TA Hub Auditorium**

Honourable President Halimah Yacob  
Ministers, Members of Parliament, Senior Government Officials  
Excellencies  
SCCCI Honorary Presidents, Senior Honorary Council Members,  
Honorary Council Members and Council Members  
Members, Ladies and gentlemen

Good morning to everyone! Firstly, on behalf of the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry, I wish to welcome President Halimah Yacob and all guests who have come to witness today's Installation Ceremony.

This year, Singapore celebrates its Bicentennial. Singapore has managed to accomplish all that it has thus far because of our favourable policies and a dedicated citizenry. We would also like to take advantage of the Bicentennial to thank our predecessors for their contributions to our nation.



Founding Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew once said: “The history of the Chinese Chamber reflects the history of Singapore.” The Chamber is an important bridge between the government and the people. For 113 years, it has played an important role in the four key areas of society, business, culture and education.

Before Singapore gained independence, the Chamber headed the move to fight for citizenship rights for Chinese residents. After a decade, we managed to secure citizenship rights for 220,000 ethnic Chinese in Singapore, who thereafter began to make this country our home together with other local ethnic groups.

After independence, the Chamber supported National Service to strengthen our defence. Every year, the Chamber continues to emphasize the importance of patriotism through the War Memorial Service to commemorate civilian victims of the Japanese Occupation and the SAF Day.

In 1967, the Chamber started to disburse scholarships to outstanding students regardless of race or background to groom talent for our nation. Out of the 2,000 students we have groomed, all have done exceedingly well in government agencies, trade and industry, and in the areas of culture and education. We are very happy to see that, under the patronage of the Chamber, they are also actively giving back to Singapore.

Over the past two years, the Chamber received the government’s support to lead more than 30 trade associations to move into the Trade Association Hub, helping trade associations and enterprises to transform and upgrade their capabilities via digitalisation and internationalisation.

Ladies and gentlemen,

What strength has motivated the Chamber to make these contributions for more than 100 years?

I believe this strength is the Spirit of Chinese Entrepreneurs!

Integrity, loyalty, giving back to society, and innovation – these four pillars of the Spirit of Chinese Entrepreneurs are the values of the Chamber. They intimately linked the Chamber to the development of our country and inspire us to make contributions to our nation.

The 60<sup>th</sup> Council has set down three key work strategies to uphold and enhance the Spirit of Chinese Entrepreneurs.

### **First. Deepen the work of succession for the Spirit of Chinese Entrepreneurs**

The Chamber will amass the strength of the community to form a \$10 million cultural fund in order to deepen the work of succession for the Spirit of Chinese Entrepreneurs. We will complement the government to strengthen Singaporeans' identity, sense of belonging and cultural confidence.

## **Second. Strengthen the work of succession for family businesses**

The Chamber will become the moving force behind the development of family businesses and succession. Through Chamber's network, we will assist those who encounter difficulties with family business succession by matching them with funds and offering training. We will help to resolve difficulties encountered by family businesses that wish to transform. We will also help those who are capable and wish to embark on entrepreneurship to realise their dreams.

## **Third. Make the work of digitalisation and internationalisation mainstream.**

The Chamber would link our 3 Singapore Enterprise Centres (SECs) in Shanghai, Chongqing and Chengdu with the international network of the World Chinese Entrepreneurs

Convention (WCEC), using innovative technology to break through the limitation of time and space, leading trade associations and enterprises to enter overseas markets.

Ladies and gentlemen,

This is a digital age as well as a smart era. "Improve oneself, manage the family, govern the country, and achieve world peace." - this is an ancient saying from the Great Learning (part of Book of Rites). In the digital disruption, this wisdom finds a new lease of life.

I believe that to improve yourself and to manage your family well, one needs to start from the Spirit of Chinese Entrepreneurs. Do what we can to manage our families and enterprises soundly, before we can internationalise and venture out.

Today, we are most honoured to have the presence of President Halimah Yacob and all guests here for our installation ceremony. On behalf of the SCCCI, I thank President Halimah Yacob, all guests and friends of the media for your support.

For the 60<sup>th</sup> Council, ten of our senior Council Members have passed on the baton to younger Council Members. This is an example of succession. Now, let us give them a big round of applause as a mark of respect to them all.

The Chamber is a huge tree, more than a century old, and has continued to grow sturdily in Singapore. The Chamber's firm cultural foundations can provide strong support to trade and industry, family businesses, young entrepreneurs, and national education. I am fully confident that the Chamber's 60<sup>th</sup> Council would be able to harness our strengths and contribute towards Singapore's future success!

Thank you.