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2017 National Day Dinner
Speech by SCCCI President Mr Roland Ng
8 August 2017, 7pm
3rd Floor Ballroom, Orchard Hotel

Honourable Mr Chan Chun Sing, Minister in the Prime Minister's Office
Honourable Mr Ong Ye Kung, Minister for Education & Second Minister for Defence
Excellencies
Senior Ministers of State, Ministers of State
Members of Parliament, government officials, friends from Singapore and abroad
Council members and members
Ladies and gentlemen
Good evening!

A very warm welcome to Minister Chan and all friends for joining us at today's National Day Dinner to celebrate Singapore's 52nd year of independence!

After 52 years, Singapore has developed into a racially harmonious, and economically prosperous garden city-state. While we are justifiably proud of the selfless contributions of our pioneer generation, we will continue to strive for a wonderful future. At times of peace, it is especially important to treasure inter-ethnic trust, ensure the stability of the tripartite relationship among workers, employers and the government, and stay vigilant at all times to address tumultuous changes in the external environment.

Throughout the years of nation-building, Chinese entrepreneurs have persevered with the spirit of integrity, loyalty and giving back to society, and made significant contributions to our nation's development. Integrity is the most cherished virtue in

traditional Chinese culture; it is irrevocably tied to the reputation of a country, an enterprise and an individual, and decides the well-being of a country, and the long-term sustainability of an enterprise. Being loyal to one's country is a duty of every citizen; it is also the foundation of Chamber's role of being a bridge between the government and the people. Giving back to society is the corporate social responsibility that the Chamber has shouldered over 110 years – fostering industry development, promoting economic prosperity, being actively involved in community work and education, as well as reaching out to the needy. As we confront a multitude of changes in the domestic and external environment, it is particularly important to uphold the Chinese entrepreneurial spirit. A fundamentally strong cultural heritage would steer us through all kinds of conflicts.

Of late, the Chamber has launched two important initiatives both in Singapore and abroad. On establishing relations abroad, the Chamber officially opened its Chongqing Representative Office on July 18. Moving ahead, we now have two representative offices in China, namely Shanghai and Chongqing, to complement each other. The objective of setting up the Chongqing Representative Office is to promote collaboration between the business communities of Singapore and China; even as we help Singapore enterprises expand into China, we could also help China enterprises from the central and western regions to use Singapore as a springboard to expand into Southeast Asia.

Back home, the Chamber's flagship project – the SME Conference and Infocomm Commerce Conference – will be staged at Suntec Singapore on August 16-17. The conference theme of "Embracing Realities, Creating Opportunities" will explore how enterprises could transform and seize new opportunities in the new digital economy, to address the host of changes brought about by disruptive technologies. These conference topics are of the greatest concern to local enterprises. We have received a record-breaking registration of more than 6,000 to-date. If you have not registered for the event, please do so to avoid disappointment.

In an era where constant advancement and social change is the norm, opportunities and challenges will naturally always co-exist. As long as we maintain a positive attitude, and stay



united in working hard, the future will be bright and full of hope!

On a final note, on behalf of the SCCCI, I would like to thank Minister Chan Chun Sing, Minister Ong Ye Kung and all distinguished guests for attending tonight's National Day Dinner. Let us wish Singapore peace and prosperity, and an excellent future! May you all enjoy the best of health, happiness and good fortune!

Thank you!