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**SPEECH BY SCCC PRESIDENT THOMAS CHUA
AT THE SCCC LUNAR NEW YEAR GATHERING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8 2015
SCCCI Auditorium**

Honourable Minister for Trade and Industry (Industry), Mr S Iswaran

Honourable Minister Chan Chun Sing and Ministers of State

Your Excellencies

Senior government officials and community leaders

Honorary Presidents, Senior Honorary Council Members,

Honorary Council Members

Council Members and members

Ladies and gentlemen

A warm welcome to everyone as we come together to celebrate the first day of the Lunar New Year. This is a tradition the Chamber has observed since 1910 - a gathering among friends and partners as we greet each other on this festive occasion.

2016 will be a special year for the SCCC, as it will mark our 110th anniversary. A whole host of celebratory events will be organised throughout the year, under the theme of “A New Era, A New Chapter”. I am delighted that Minister Iswaran has joined us for our Lunar New Year gathering, and will officiate the launch of the 110th Anniversary logo later.

A series of interesting activities will be organised to celebrate our 110th year. These include a forum by our Career Women’s Group, a charity golf tournament, a China Forum, a mega conference and expo to drive growth and technology adoption. The Singapore Chinese Chamber Institute of Business will also introduce an e-learning

portal. The highlight of our celebrations will be in September, when our Young Entrepreneurs Network will be organising a cruise involving counterparts from the region; a Trade Association Congress will also be held. As a finale, the Gala Dinner for the 110th Anniversary will be on the 23rd of September. We invite you to participate in all these activities.

I will now continue with my speech in Mandarin.

Good morning, and Greetings as we welcome everyone here on the very first day of the Year of the Monkey.

I have attended the Chamber's Lunar New Year gathering at this auditorium for more than 20 years. On the first day of every Lunar New Year, friends and associates from different races gather here to greet one another on this festive occasion. For the Chinese community, this has become an important event to celebrate the Lunar New Year. It is also a long-standing tradition of the Chamber.

2016 marks the 110th anniversary of the SCCCI, and we have adopted the theme of "A New Era, A New Chapter" to kick off a whole host of celebratory events. I would like to thank Minister S Iswaran for attending our Lunar New Year gathering today, and for personally officiating the launch of the 110th anniversary logo. It would set the stage for many interesting activities, among which are a forum by our Career Women's Group, a charity golf tournament, a forum on Singapore-China collaborations, as well as a mega conference and expo to spur the growth of enterprises and technology adoption. The Singapore Chinese Chamber Institute of Business will also introduce an e-learning portal.

The 110th anniversary will culminate with three key events to be held on September 21-23. A trio of separate events will be organised consecutively over these three days, including the Trade Association Congress focused on the theme of industry upgrading,

a Networking Cruise organised for young entrepreneurs, and the 110th Anniversary Gala Dinner. Such an arrangement clearly shows that the Chamber will journey alongside and strive forward with its trade association members during the process of economic development; as we move ahead with the times, the Chamber is committed to grooming the younger generation, passing on the Chinese entrepreneurial spirit, and enabling them to continue serving the community.

For a civic organisation to remain dynamic and vibrant for more than 110 years, being cohesive is a crucial attribute. Moreover, it should continue to make significant contributions to the nation and society throughout the various stages of history. The celebration of the Chamber's 110th anniversary is also an important milestone in the Chamber's history. The accomplishments of the past will become the foundation for the future, supporting us as we advance towards the future economy and continuing to stay united. This allows us to look after business interests, and lead local enterprises towards new paths of excellence.

We are in the midst of planning for the move to our new premises at the Trade Association Hub together with more than ten trade association members in 2017. In the 1960s, when Singapore first embarked on industrialisation, the Chamber supported our members in developing their business and building connections with the global Chinese business community. Today, at this juncture as the Singapore economy enters another phase of restructuring, the Chamber is working in close collaboration with our trade association members from every trade and industry sector, inculcating the team spirit and providing mutual support to move ahead together. The Chamber's mission is to acquire an in-depth understanding of business needs against the backdrop of the unique factors of Singapore's economic development, and make concerted efforts to achieve economic prosperity and growth for our nation.

Today, what the Chamber has achieved in the past has become part of history; we shall move ahead, endowed by the resources bequeathed by our predecessors, towards new milestones, to record more illustrious chapters for our nation and for society. I would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest appreciation to each council member for their team spirit and dedication to the Chamber's work, and to our members for their implicit confidence and trust in our council. To thank members for this support and trust in the Council, 2016, both new and existing members would enjoy special discounts in membership fees for the whole of 2016! At the same time, we have to say a word of special thanks to our partners for their consistent support. Your trust and confidence has made our current accomplishments a reality; going forward, with everyone's support, we shall venture even further.

On this note, let us wish Singapore peace and prosperity! May everyone be blessed with good health and good fortune!

Thank you!