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**Speech by SCCC President Thomas Chua
at the SCCC-SICCI-SMCCI Inter-Chamber Networking Night
Thursday, July 14 2016**

Your Excellency Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam, President of the Republic of Singapore

Our networking night partners, Dr R. Theyvendran, Chairman of the Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry and

Mr Zahidi Abdul Rahman, President of the Singapore Malay Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Friends

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good evening. I am very pleased to see so many people attending the Inter-Chamber Networking Night. This event grew out of a discussion among leaders of the 3 ethnic Chambers. We all agreed that there was a need to foster greater rapport and understanding by bringing our members together via an inter-chamber networking function held every year. The very first session was hosted by the Indian Chamber in October 2011. Since then, each Chamber takes turn to host on an annual basis and to showcase its culture and heritage. The SCCC hosted the Networking Night in 2013 and we are happy to host it again this year, on an even larger scale. We are especially honoured to have the presence of His Excellency Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam, President of the Republic of Singapore.

This year, the SCCC is celebrating its 110th anniversary with a series of special events. The Inter-Chamber Networking Night, hosted by our Chamber this year, is a significant part of the 110th Anniversary celebrations. We are very pleased to have the opportunity to celebrate this special occasion with our friends from the Indian and Malay Chambers of Commerce and all other important guests.

I am very pleased to know that many of you took the tour of the Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall. The Memorial Hall is a heritage institution owned by our Chamber but managed by the Singapore National Heritage Board. I hope that the tour offered some insights into Chinese history, and the history of Singapore in the early years. It will also help us to appreciate the culture and beliefs in our multi-racial society.

Exactly a week from now, Singapore will be celebrating its Racial Harmony day on July 21. With this in mind, we decided to bring forward the Inter-Chamber Networking Night to mid-year, in conjunction with the theme of Racial Harmony. This theme fits in very well with our Inter-Chamber Networking Night, and we have integrated it into our programme tonight.

We have members of the 3 ethnic groups here, networking and mingling in this conducive environment, strengthening the bonds of different races. In May, in conjunction with our Chamber's 110th Anniversary celebrations, we also organised a Charity Golf Tournament in support of the President's Challenge and raised a total of \$150,000. Donations will be given to beneficiaries of the President's Challenge for multi-racial projects including the Yellow Ribbon Fund.

The Yellow Ribbon Fund supports programmes for ex-offenders, regardless of race or ethnicity, and it encourages social re-integration and a fresh start for ex-offenders. Tonight, we are pleased to welcome members of the group called Mojomatics, who previously underwent musical training in Performing Art Centre (PAC), Singapore Prison Service as part of the rehabilitation programme. They will be performing songs in Mandarin, Bahasa and Tamil in line with our multi-racial harmony theme for our Inter-Chamber Networking Night.

And on this note, I wish you all an enjoyable evening ahead.

Thank you.