

**LAUNCH CEREMONY CUM COMMEMORATIVE DINNER
FOR “BEYOND 120: A SPECIAL EXHIBITION
CELEBRATING SCCCI 120TH ANNIVERSARY”**

SPEECH BY SCCCI PRESIDENT KHO CHOON KENG

12 JUNE 2026

SCCCI BUILDING

Mr David Neo, Acting Minister for Culture, Community and Youth &
Senior Minister of State for Education,

Senior Government Officials,

SCCCI Honorary Presidents,

Senior Honorary Council Members,

Honorary Council Members and Council Members,

Trade Association and Corporate Members,

Distinguished Guests,

Good evening!

1. It is my great pleasure to join you this evening for the launch of “Beyond 120: A Special Exhibition Celebrating SCCCI 120th Anniversary” and to commemorate this significant milestone in SCCCI’s history. On behalf of SCCCI, I would like to extend my warmest welcome and sincere appreciation to Acting Minister David Neo, as well as all our partners and friends from various sectors, for taking the time to be with us tonight!
2. SCCCI was established in response to the needs of the times. Over the past 120 years, it has weathered profound changes, from British colonial rule and the Japanese Occupation to self-governance and Singapore’s independence. Throughout this journey, SCCCI has

been more than a witness to history — it has also been an active contributor to nation-building. This exhibition therefore provides an opportunity to reflect on our 120-year journey, draw lessons from the past, and strengthen our foundations as we prepare for the evolving needs of society and an increasingly complex global landscape. As Prime Minister Lawrence Wong recently highlighted, as the global outlook remains uncertain, it is even more important for Singaporeans to “stay united and move forward together as one people”! Against this backdrop, SCCCI’s 120th anniversary carries special significance. It is a milestone that reminds us of the resilience and contributions of generations before us, and of the enduring role that SCCCI’s history and values have played in Singapore’s development!

3. We are deeply honoured that Prime Minister Lawrence Wong has, in his message for SCCCI’s 120th anniversary commemorative publication, given us this affirmation: “For over a century, the SCCCI has been an integral part of the Singapore story. The SCCCI’s contributions have gone far beyond commerce. You have been steadfast partners in our nation-building journey.”
4. Established in 1906 by visionary pioneers, SCCCI is the result of 120 years of dedication and selfless contributions from generations of Council Members and members. It embodies the enduring wisdom, spirit of giving back, integrity, loyalty and hard work of the Chinese business community! The journey of SCCCI is closely intertwined with Singapore’s nation-building journey — grounded in unity, inclusiveness and patriotism to chart a common vision and roadmap! On behalf of the Chamber, I would like to pay tribute to our pioneering forefathers and to all who have supported SCCCI over the years!
5. This exhibition thoughtfully incorporates innovative technology to connect SCCCI’s past, present and future. It highlights the Chamber’s achievements over the past 25 years in advancing economic development, strengthening public-private partnerships,

and supporting educational and cultural initiatives. At the same time, it outlines five key directions for the future: unlock global business opportunities; seize growth opportunities in the region; drive industry transformation; venture into new frontiers; and nurture the next generation of Chinese entrepreneurs and community leaders.

6. Through this special exhibition, we hope not only to deepen public interest in Singapore's Chinese entrepreneurial culture, but also to reflect on the core beliefs that have guided SCCCI over the past 120 years — “patriotism, integrity, succession, innovation and uniting businesses” — and to gain a deeper appreciation of their significance and enduring value.
7. The spirit of “patriotism” and contribution to Singapore's stability and prosperity form the foundation upon which businesses grow and thrive. With “integrity”, generations of Chinese entrepreneurs have established many reputable brands. The spirit of “succession” inspires us to nurture future generations of business and community leaders, giving back to the society. “Innovation” drives enterprises to explore new growth areas and strengthen Singapore's international standing. The spirit of “uniting businesses” has enabled SCCCI to serve as a key platform connecting Chinese entrepreneurs across Singapore and around the world, bringing together resources and strengths for the greater good.
8. Our 120th anniversary marks not only a significant milestone, but also the beginning of a new chapter. Guided by the convictions and values of our forefathers, SCCCI will continue to forge ahead with confidence and purpose. This is especially important at a time when the world faces uncertainties, from supply chain disruptions and rising costs to the rapid advancement of artificial intelligence, which is transforming the labour market and reshaping jobs. These uncertainties have understandably raised concerns across society.

9. Yet, the essence of the Singapore Spirit lies in our ability to stand together in times of crisis and support one another, placing national interests above all! SCCCI will continue to play a leadership role in the business community by helping enterprises to harness technology effectively, supporting workforce upskilling and reskilling, and contributing constructive feedback to improve Singapore’s business environment. Together, we can safeguard our social stability, economic resilience and social cohesion.

10. SCCCI’s 120-year history and Singapore’s Chinese Entrepreneurial Spirit are not only the foundation of “Uniting Businesses to Benefit Society”. They are also part of Singapore’s cultural heritage, soft power and collective memory. These values have shaped our nation’s development and continue to inspire future generations. We therefore hope that the “Beyond 120” special exhibition will help to preserve, promote and pass on this important legacy!

11. In conjunction with our 120th anniversary celebrations, we have also transformed the contents of our commemorative publication into a five-part video series to reach a wider and younger audience. Later this evening, we will be screening two of the episodes. As you enjoy tonight’s dinner, you will also be treated to nostalgic local songs. We hope that tonight's launch of the “Beyond 120” special exhibition will leave you with fond and lasting memories through a rich experience that engages the senses through sight, sound and taste!

12. Ladies and Gentlemen, SCCCI is a “Home” for Chinese entrepreneurs and the wider business community — a big “family” built on trust, friendship and compassion, and strengthened by a spirit of mutual support and selfless dedication. As we embark on this new chapter, let us stay true to our mission, continue to pursue our aspirations, and work hand in hand to chart the next chapter of prosperity for both the Chinese business community and Singapore! Thank you.