

SCCCI MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL CELEBRATION
SPEECH BY SCCCI PRESIDENT KHO CHOON KENG
26 SEPTEMBER 2025
SCCCI BUILDING

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

SCCCI Council Members and Members,

Distinguished Guests,

Teachers and Students,

Good evening!

1. I am truly delighted to join all of you this evening to celebrate the annual Mid-Autumn Festival! On behalf of the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCCI), I extend a warm welcome to all! I wish you and your families a happy Mid-Autumn Festival!

SG60 and the Significance of the Mid-Autumn Festival

2. The Mid-Autumn Festival is an important traditional occasion in Chinese culture, embodying the values of “togetherness, succession and gratitude”. At SCCCI, our annual Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration is also a meaningful platform to strengthen friendships and foster closer ties among our members.
3. As this year marks Singapore’s 60th year of independence, we hope to bring the Mid-Autumn festivities closer to the wider community. To this end, we are delighted to partner with Wan Qing Yuan to extend the celebrations into the weekend and open them to the

public, so that more Singaporeans and their families can experience the beauty and significance of this traditional festival, fostering harmony in our multicultural society. Some of you may already have read about this in *Lianhe Zaobao*, 8world News and other media reports last week!

4. This year, we have also introduced a uniquely Singaporean element in the courtyard of the SCCC Building – the vibrant guppy lantern installation. For many Singaporeans, the guppy is a childhood memory. It also symbolises our national spirit: small yet resilient, full of vitality and strength. And when a school of guppies come together, they create a colourful and vibrant scene that reflects the beauty of “Harmony in Diversity”.
5. This also mirrors Singapore’s nation-building journey: While we stand together as one united people and prioritise our national interests, every Singaporean is given the opportunity to realise their potential and pursue their dreams. This collective spirit has shaped Singapore into the prosperous and peaceful nation that we have today. As President Tharman Shanmugaratnam shared in his Address to Parliament, “Let us be proud of our diversity, yet united as one people. This is how we will build a better Singapore – not just for ourselves, but for our children and generations to come.”

SCCCI Internship Award: Nurturing Future Leaders

6. Every year during the Mid-Autumn Festival, we take this opportunity to present the **SCCCI Scholarships** to encourage and remind the younger generation to remember our roots and uphold the timeless Chinese values of education, unity and mutual support. This year, for the first time, we are pleased to welcome the students from the Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS). With this, the SCCCI Scholarships now cover all six public universities, making this initiative even more meaningful.

7. Besides awarding scholarships, SCCCI has also formed a special taskforce to explore ways to engage more young people, pass on the SCCCI Chinese Entrepreneurial Spirit and nurture future leaders for the Chinese community. As SCCCI celebrates its 120th anniversary next year, the taskforce has spearheaded a new initiative – the **SCCCI Internship Award**, which will be officially launched early next year!
8. This initiative aims to encourage outstanding university and polytechnic students to take up internships at SCCCI and our member companies. Through hands-on experience, they will gain a deeper appreciation of the SCCCI Chinese Entrepreneurial Spirit and be inspired to reflect on their career aspirations and sense of social responsibility. At the same time, this programme will bring vitality to our enterprises. On this note, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to the taskforce for their dedicated efforts!
9. In this year's National Day Rally, Prime Minister Lawrence Wong emphasised that the future of our nation and our Chinese community depends on successive generations of young leaders with a strong sense of responsibility and commitment to give back to society! I am pleased to share that, in addition to our scholarships and Internship Award, SCCCI has long established platforms such as the **Youth Business Affairs Committee** and **Mentorship Programme** to support young entrepreneurs. We are heartened to see that from schools to workplaces, and from the marketplace to the global stage, the SCCCI Chinese Entrepreneurial Spirit continues to shine brightly, passed on from one generation to the next, nurturing talents and enterprises for our nation!

SCCCI 120th Anniversary Logo Design Competition

10. Since its establishment in 1906, SCCCI has journeyed through the tides of history – from the colonial era and World War II to Singapore's independence and nation-building, playing its part in contributing to Singapore's progress and prosperity. Through this

historical journey, SCCCI has stood as a respected and vibrant family with a strong sense of identity and purpose. As we look forward to our 120th anniversary next year, I am delighted to officially launch the **SCCCI 120th Anniversary Logo Design Competition** this evening! The competition details will be shared soon.

11. The 120th Anniversary Logo will be featured across a series of celebratory activities, embodying SCCCI's core beliefs as well as symbolising the unity and resilience of the Chinese business community in Singapore. We warmly invite all to take part, and to express your sentiments and aspirations for SCCCI through your creativity and design. Together, let us celebrate SCCCI's illustrious journey, pay tribute to the legacy of our pioneering forefathers, and inspire new possibilities for the future!
12. Ladies and Gentlemen, as a well-known Chinese poem reminds us: "People may experience joys and sorrows, just as the moon waxes and wanes". In today's world of uncertainty and rapid technological change, the core spirit of Singapore remains unchanged; our Chinese culture remains unchanged; SCCCI's mission and beliefs of "patriotism, integrity, succession, innovation and uniting businesses" remain unchanged. Let us stand hand in hand and heart to heart to shoulder our responsibilities together and build a brighter future for all.
13. In closing, I wish everyone a warm and joyous Mid-Autumn Festival. When the moon is full, people unite, and all things are fulfilled! Thank you.
