

SINGAPORE'S 61ST NATIONAL DAY DINNER
SPEECH BY SCCC PRESIDENT KHO CHOON KENG
8 AUGUST 2026
THE RITZ-CARLTON, MILLENIA SINGAPORE

Dr Tan See Leng, Minister for Trade and Industry (Energy and Industry),
Mr Seah Kian Peng, Speaker of Parliament,
Ms Sim Ann, Second Minister for Foreign Affairs and Second Minister for Home Affairs,
Mr Zaqy Mohamad, Acting Minister-in-charge of Muslim Affairs and Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Defence,
Your Excellencies,
Senior Ministers of State,
Ministers of State,
Members of Parliament,
Senior Government Officials,
SCCCI Council Members and Members,
Leaders of Trade Associations and Chambers,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good evening!

1. On behalf of the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCCI), I extend a warm welcome and my heartfelt gratitude to all for joining us at our annual National Day Dinner. It is my honour and privilege to celebrate Singapore's 61st National Day together with distinguished guests and friends from across the community!

2. This year's National Day theme, “Majulah Singapura, Go Beyond!”, is both inspiring and aspirational. It is a rallying call for all Singaporeans to build on the achievements of the past 61 years while staying true to our purpose, resolute in our commitment, and confident about the future. Let us continue to challenge conventional thinking, strive for greater heights, and work together to advance Singapore's economy, society and cultural development!
3. As Singapore marks its 61st year of independence, our nation has made remarkable progress. Landmark developments such as Changi Airport, Tuas Port, the Long Island project and the Greater Sentosa Master Plan, together with our consistently world-class business environment and innovation capabilities, demonstrate that Singapore is not only building on its strong economic fundamentals, but is also positioning itself for its next phase of growth and success!
4. At the same time, the world continues to face an increasingly complex geopolitical landscape. Wars, supply chain disruptions and other uncertainties remain ever-present, while longer-term challenges such as climate change, declining birth rates and an ageing population require sustained attention. As long as we remain united, inclusive and vigilant, confront challenges with determination, and prepare ourselves for the future, I am confident that we will continue to unlock new opportunities amid uncertainty.
5. In mid-May this year, the Economic Strategy Review led by Deputy Prime Minister Gan Kim Yong released its recommendations, outlining three strategic imperatives for Singapore's future development: sharpen Singapore's value proposition; become more agile and adaptable; and build resilience while driving competitiveness. DPM Gan also emphasised that, as a small and open economy that has long benefited from global connectivity and a rules-based trading system, Singapore must not rest on our laurels. We must plan with foresight, take proactive steps to build the competitive strengths and unique advantages of tomorrow, and venture boldly into emerging sectors.

6. Ladies and Gentlemen, as both the world and Singapore enter a new phase of transformation, there is a Chinese saying that reminds us that lasting strength comes from unity. A flourishing forest is far more resilient than a single tree, just as a harmonious melody cannot be created with only one string. For Singapore to realise the vision of “Go Beyond!”, businesses cannot succeed in isolation. We must work together to seize new international opportunities, harness talent, technology and resources from Singapore and around the world to build a stronger and more innovative business ecosystem!
7. This year also marks SCCCI's 120th anniversary. Looking back on the enduring success of generations of Chinese entrepreneurs, we see how they earned trust through “integrity”, created opportunities through “innovation”, gave back to society with “patriotism”, achieved sustainable growth through “succession”, and “uniting businesses” across industries and borders. These timeless values have guided generations of Chinese entrepreneurs and are closely aligned with the principles that underpin Singapore's nation-building journey and success!
8. As a bridge between our Government and the business community, SCCCI will continue to work closely with our tripartite partners to foster a pro-business environment, understand the business community's concerns and strengthen tripartite collaboration. We remain committed to supporting our local SMEs, especially traditional enterprises, by helping them build capabilities, expand internationally and advance their green transformation. We will also continue to create opportunities for young entrepreneurs while deepening our cooperation with partners across Southeast Asia and around the world to unlock new opportunities for shared growth.
9. As we forge ahead together, whether you are an entrepreneur pursuing new opportunities or a successful business leader seeking to give back to society, I warmly invite you to join SCCCI to promote the Chinese Entrepreneurial Spirit and contribute to Singapore's

progress. Last but not least, let us wish Singapore a very happy 61st National Day! We also wish our nation solidarity, peace and prosperity! To all our guests, I wish everyone success, good health and happiness! Majulah Singapura! Thank you.
