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**55TH WAR MEMORIAL SERVICE IN COMMEMORATION OF THE
CIVILIAN VICTIMS OF THE JAPANESE OCCUPATION AND
TOTAL DEFENCE DAY COMMEMORATION 2022**

WELCOME ADDRESS BY SCCCI PRESIDENT ROLAND NG

TIME: 15 FEBRUARY 2022 (TUESDAY) 9.30AM

WAR MEMORIAL PARK ALONG BEACH ROAD

Honourable Minister for Education Chan Chun Sing,
SCCCI Council Members,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning everyone!

1. Since 1967, the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCCI) has dedicated itself to holding the War Memorial Service every year without fail on the 15th of February, at the War Memorial Park along Beach Road. This year marks the 55th War Memorial Service. This year also marks the 80th Anniversary of the Fall of Singapore.
2. SCCCI places great importance on this War Memorial Service, not only in remembrance of the civilian victims, but also to ensure that every generation of Singaporeans bears in mind the lessons from history and increase its awareness of Total Defence. Therefore, this War Memorial Service is held in conjunction with Total Defence Day.
3. A strong defence is the important foundation for Singapore's survival and international credibility. The late Founding Prime

Minister Lee Kuan Yew shared¹ that Singapore, being a small state, will have no economic future or security without a strong SAF.

4. In this digital age, the issues of security and stability are even more challenging. For example, cyberattacks, financial scams and the spread of racial and religious radicalisation through social media will jeopardise Singapore's peace and prosperity which did not come easy.
5. Today marks the launch of "Reflecting the History, Looking Forward to the Future" Online Exhibition. The public will be able to learn about the history and view the photos of the Civilian War Memorial on the website.
6. Since its establishment, the Chamber has always been upholding the SCCCI Chinese Entrepreneurial Spirit – integrity, loyalty, giving back to society and innovation, focusing on the welfare of our community, gaining the trust of the people and government. The Chamber formed a Disposal of Remains Committee in 1962 and raised funds for the burial of the civilian victims. With the land set aside by the Government and the funds donated by the people, the Civilian War Memorial was built. We hope that the younger generation will be inspired by the journey of our forefathers by giving back to society and be motivated to bear the responsibility of defending our country.
7. Today, the SCCCI reaffirms our commitment to support the nation's total defence, especially working hand in hand with businesses to overcome the challenges caused by the pandemic, promoting economic transformation and recovering from the pandemic, enabling Singaporeans to live, work and play in a stable growing economy.

¹ Lee Kuan Yew spoke at the Temasek Society 30th Anniversary Dinner in 2012:
<https://www.mindef.gov.sg/web/portal/mindef/news-and-events/latest-releases/article-detail/2012/may/2012May18-News-Releases-01199>

8. In closing, I sincerely thank Minister for Education Chan Chun Sing for officiating the launch of “Reflecting the History, Looking Forward to the Future” Online Exhibition.

Thank you!