

MEDIA ADVISORY:**53rd War Memorial Service in Commemoration of the Civilian Victims of the Japanese Occupation and Total Defence Day Commemoration 2020**

The 53rd War Memorial Service in commemoration of the civilian victims of the Japanese Occupation and Total Defence Day Commemoration 2020 was held on 15 February 2020. The event was co-organised by Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCCI) and Central National Education Office of MINDEF (Nexus) and supported by Singapore Armed Forces Veterans' League (SAFVL).

Since our late founding Prime Minister Mr Lee Kuan Yew unveiled this memorial in 1967, the SCCCI has dedicated itself to holding the War Memorial Service every year without fail on 15 February, the day Singapore fell to the Japanese in 1942. As Year 2020 marks Singapore's 55th year of independence, it reminds us of the journey we have gone through before Singapore developed into a prosperous nation. Despite the outbreak of COVID-19, SCCCI decided to continue with its annual War Memorial Service on 15 February this year on a smaller-scale to reaffirm the importance of Total Defence in any circumstances.

Standing before the four tapering columns of the Civilian War Memorial, symbolising the shared experiences and unity among the people of different races in Singapore during the war. More than 90 representatives from the SCCCI, MINDEF, diplomatic corps, inter-religious representatives, SAFVL, together with the families of the victims reaffirmed the principles of multiracialism and total defence that continue to underpin the strength and cohesion of our society and keep us resilient even in the face of a crisis.

On our 55th anniversary of nationhood, it is hoped that the memorial service will bear greater significance in reiterating the principles that will continue to be the bedrock of a strong, secure and sovereign Singapore.

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About Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Established in 1906, the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCCI) is an internationally renowned business organisation and the apex body of the Chinese business community in Singapore. It is the founder of the biennial World Chinese Entrepreneurs Convention, a global business convention. It plays a key and pro-active role in representing the interests of the local business community. In its continued drive for service excellence, the SCCC has become the first business chamber in the region to be awarded ISO 9001 certification since 1995. In 2018, the Chamber successfully upgraded its ISO certification to ISO 9001:2015.

The SCCC has a membership network comprising 5,000 corporate members and has more than 160 trade association members, representing over 40,000 companies including large financial and business organisations, multinational corporations, government-linked companies, and small and medium enterprises from a wide spectrum of trades and industries. These members together provide vast resources and opportunities which enable the SCCC to develop an influential global Chinese business network for business, education, culture and community development. In return, they share a strong sense of pride and identity together and benefit immensely from the SCCC's membership services, facilities and activities.