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## Media Release

### SCCCI's response to Ministerial Statement delivered by DPM and Minister for Finance, Mr Heng Swee Keat on 5 October 2020

In response to the above Ministerial Statement:

Mr Roland Ng, President of Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCCI) said, "We are heartened that the government has responded to the feedback from business community, including Trade Associations and Chambers like SCCCI, to provide higher level of certainty in the timeline of opening up our economy, and render strong and continuous support for local businesses and workers amid the global uncertainties. SCCCI will continue working in partnership with the Government in rolling out corresponding industry initiatives to help our members and businesses to strengthen capabilities and position themselves well for the upturns and opportunities in the new business landscape."

- **On RIE plan to encourage employment of elder workers**

"This is the best time to leverage on Government initiatives and enhanced training support to reskill and upgrade our elder workers so that they can emerge stronger when our economy recovers. We hope that related agencies could continue to work in partnership with the respective Trade Associations and Chambers to develop more targeted courses tailored to the needs of specific industry as well as curriculum curated for mature learners."

**Charles Ho Nai Chuen**  
SCCCI Vice-President

Managing Director, On Cheong Co Pte Ltd  
President, Singapore Jewellers Association

"We prefer to hire mature workers as they have accumulated wealth of experiences in life. Government investments in the new five-year Research, Innovation and Enterprise (RIE) programme to support national priorities such as lifelong learning and keeping our seniors healthy will further encourage our group of mature workers to embrace a more positive mindset when attending skill-upgrading courses which would help them to stay on the path and grow with the company."

**Chris Leong Sin Kuen**

*Vice-Chairman, SCCCI International Affairs Committee  
Executive Director, Leung Kai Fook Medical Co Pte Ltd*

- **On investing in economic resilience and sustainability**

“We applaud Government investment in economic resilience such as enhancing the production of local food supplies as a source of competitive advantage. We hope that Government could implement two-pronged approach by encouraging more Singaporeans to purchase local food products and support local workforce, in conjunction with internalisation of our local brands through Government initiatives in partnership with Trade Associations and Chambers.”

**Thomas Pek Ee Perh**

*Chairman, SCCC General Affairs Committee*

*Managing Director, Tai Hua Food Industries Pte Ltd*

*Life Honorary President, Singapore Food Manufacturers' Association*

- **On remaking the country as a Global-Asia node of technology, innovation and enterprise**

"Addressing the issues and challenges arising from COVID-19 has further brought out the importance of a Whole-of-Government approach to tackle and resolve issues. For the case of construction industry, we hope to have clearer policy indication to allow companies to bring in foreign workers to replace those who have returned to their home countries, so that the growth of construction sector will not be further dampened due to shortage of skilled workers. On the other hand, companies are required to meet the minimum salary requirement for S-pass and Employment Pass holders when their permits are due for renewal. This has left companies in a dilemma especially when local employees are required to take salary cut or freeze in order to weather the storm together with the company."

**Pek Lian Guan**

*SCCCI Vice-President*

*CEO, Tiong Seng Holdings Ltd*

“Digitalisation is a means to an end and not an end by itself. The end is business model transformation for the business to remain relevant and viable. It is not about the hardware but the software. Therefore, for it to be sustainable there should be a comprehensive change management programme to bring everybody in that journey.”

**Ng Siew Quan**

*Chairman, SCCC Finance Committee*

*Partner, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP*

“It is crucial for company to response to structural shifts by understanding its competitive advantage and market positioning, before we can reposition ourselves in the post-COVID environment with the right strategies. While the pandemic has accelerated the digitalisation process, companies will take some time before their digitalisation efforts are finally bear fruits. It would be very helpful if the Government could further assist Singapore technology companies in developing cost-effective products which could in turn benefit the business community.”

**Mark Lee Kean Phi**

*Chairman, SCCC Commerce & Industry Committee  
CEO, Sing Lun Holdings Pte Ltd  
Advisor, Textile and Fashion Federation (Singapore)*

- **On reopening our borders gradually**

“Global uncertainty during the pandemic has affected trans-national cooperation as various countries are implementing different policies in battling with the pandemic. These travel restrictions have impacted the business co-operations and flow of human resources. We are looking forward to the gradual reopening of our borders and rebuilding of Changi Airport’s role as a Global-Asia node.”

**Zhou Zhaocheng**

*Vice-Chairman, Research & Publications Committee  
Chief Strategy Officer, Haidilao International Holding Ltd*

- **On the extension of Jobs Support Scheme (JSS)**

“The extension of JSS is indeed a lifeline for business sustainability especially for the construction industry, which is one of the hardest hit sectors during the pandemic. It is important for employers to communicate clearly with the employees that extension of JSS is a short term measure to help companies to tide through the crisis and it is not an additional income stream for salary increment when the sector is facing double whammy of project disruptions and manpower shortage.”

**Annie Gan Giok Em**

*Vice-Chairperson, SCCC Technology Committee  
Chairman & Advisor, SCB Building Construction Pte Ltd*

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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 SCCCI 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 SCCCI 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 SCCCI 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 SCCCI's membership services, facilities and activities.