



It's a double celebration for 新加坡中华总商会 SCCCI this Lunar New Year, with the opening of a live-streaming studio for the business community! I was happy to join the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCCI) this morning for the opening of the studio and to witness the signing of an MOU between SCCCI and its partners to promote the use of the studio's facilities and services.

SCCCI's initiative to set up the live-streaming studio is a positive example of how trade associations and chambers (TACs) can play a critical role in helping our companies tap opportunities presented by digitalisation and to reach new markets. I urge our TACs to continue helping our companies to level up their capabilities, even amidst these challenging times.

In my speech, I shared that we are starting 2021 with cautious optimism as we progressively reopen our economy in a safe and calibrated manner. If things go well, we may see some recovery in the global economy in the second half of the year.

However, the global economic situation remains uncertain and in order to seize growth opportunities, Singapore needs to act now.

Our position as a key business node must be continuously strengthened by allowing businesses to mobilise capital with a trusted legal system; aggregate talent to serve diverse markets; protect intellectual property and provide coherent policy environment for the long term.

We must also entrench ourselves as a critical node in the global production and supply chains, by building key capabilities that makes us hard to displace.

We will also do more to enable our businesses to capture opportunities in the digital economy and access new markets beyond Singapore. This includes forging new trade rules through Digital Economy Agreements, strengthening our digital infrastructure and doubling down on efforts to support our local businesses to build up their digital capabilities.

While COVID-19 has been called the crisis of our generation, I am proud of the way we have adapted and responded positively as a country. However, we are not out of the woods yet, and much work remains to be done. If we continue to do things right and seize the opportunities in front of us, I am confident that we will emerge even stronger as one Singapore and turn this into the opportunity of a generation. CCS





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