

MEDIA RELEASE

The 56th War Memorial Service in Commemoration of the Civilian Victims of the Japanese Occupation and Total Defence Day Commemoration

In remembrance of the civilian victims of the Japanese Occupation, the 56th War Memorial Service was held at the War Memorial Park along Beach Road on 15 February 2023. Co-organised by the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCCI) and Nexus, MINDEF supported by our strategic partner the Singapore Armed Forces Veteran's League (SAFVL). The Civilian War Memorial is a monument dedicated to civilians who perished during the Japanese Occupation of Singapore.

SCCCI President Kho Choon Keng said: “The War Memorial Day allows Singaporeans to reflect on World War II and treasure what we have even more, raising the younger generation’s awareness on the importance of strengthening national defence and preparing for crisis, to prevent history from repeating itself. We sincerely thank our forefathers for their selfless dedication to build Singapore’s defence capabilities and a society of racial harmony and mutual trust. These have formed the firm foundation for Singapore’s sustainable stability and prosperity.”

Since 1967, SCCCI has been holding the Civilian War Memorial Service on 15 February every year, which also marks the Total Defence Day. This year, there were 450 participants, including the Guest-of-Honour, Mr Edwin Tong, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth & Second Minister for Law, SCCCI Council Members, members of the Diplomatic Corps, representatives from MINDEF, SAF Veterans’ League, uniformed groups, religious groups and family members of the civilian victims during the Japanese Occupation.

A Special Exhibition titled “Reflecting Upon the Past, Moving Forward as One” was launched at SCCCI Building at 47 Hill Street to commemorate this year’s event. For the first time, SCCCI exhibits its internal records and personal items belonging to the victims of the Japanese Occupation that were being recovered from the mass graves unearthed during the 1960s.

240 students from 9 primary and secondary schools also participated in the War Memorial Service via live streaming at the SCCCI Building’s auditorium. This was followed by a National Education Talk and a visit to the Special Exhibition at the SCCCI Building to learn about the story behind the Civilian War Memorial and SCCCI’s efforts in spearheading its construction.

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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.

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.

For more information, please visit www.sccci.org.sg.