

SINGAPORE'S 60TH NATIONAL DAY DINNER
SPEECH BY SCCC PRESIDENT KHO CHOON KENG
8 AUGUST 2025
THE RITZ-CARLTON, MILLENIA SINGAPORE

Mr Ong Ye Kung, Minister for Health and Coordinating Minister for Social Policies,

Ms Grace Fu, Minister for Sustainability and the Environment and Minister-in-Charge of Trade Relations,

Your Excellencies,

Ministers of State,

Members of Parliament,

Senior Government Officials,

SCCCI Council Members and Members,

Leaders of Community Organisations,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good evening!

1. On behalf of the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCCI), I extend a warm welcome and my heartfelt gratitude to all of you for joining us in celebrating a significant milestone – Singapore's 60th year of independence. This SG60 milestone fills our hearts with pride and joy as we reflect on the nation's achievements!

(I) Celebrating, Commemorating, and Giving Thanks for 60 Remarkable Years

2. As the saying goes, “Great joy lifts the spirit, just as the full moon shines brightest at Mid-Autumn”. As we celebrate this diamond jubilee, Singapore continues to shine with resilience and vitality. Last year, our economy grew by 4.4%, surpassing expectations. In the first half of this year, Singapore’s economy shows a strong growth momentum and GDP growth averaged 4.2% year-on-year. Major infrastructure projects, such as the Marina Bay Sands and Resorts World Sentosa’s expansion projects, the groundbreaking of Changi Airport Terminal 5, the development of Tuas Port and the transformation of the Greater Southern Waterfront, mark the beginning of a bold new chapter in our national development!
3. As we celebrate Singapore’s 60th National Day, we are grateful for our Government’s foresight and dedication in leading our nation forward, building a united, harmonious, hardworking and resilient people. Without the commitment and selfless service of generations of leaders who always put the country first, there would not be the prosperous nation and endearing home we have today. On this note, let us put our hands together to express our deepest appreciation and highest respect to our government leaders and public officers!
4. At the same time, we recognise that our nation’s future is not the Government’s responsibility alone. It requires the collective effort of businesses and every member of our society. It is only when every Singaporean upholds the spirit of patriotism and unity, that we can build an even better home and a brighter future for generations to come.

(II) Preparing for the Future in Times of Prosperity

5. The global environment today is complex and volatile, marked by growing uncertainties. Ongoing wars, escalating geopolitical tensions and the fragmentation of the post-World War II global trade order are giving way to a more multipolar world.
6. Last month, Singapore experienced a surge in cyberattacks, part of a trend that has grown exponentially in recent years, posing serious risks to our critical infrastructure. This reflects the escalating global tensions, where real-world conflicts are increasingly spilling over to the digital realm, highlighting the urgent need for the government and all stakeholders in the private sector to work together to guard against such risks.
7. These developments serve as a stark reminder: In these changing times, we must go beyond vigilance and take proactive steps to navigate a rapidly changing world and its emerging risks.
8. Ladies and Gentlemen, Singapore may be a young nation, but we have weathered many storms. Time and again, we have emerged stronger, more resilient, and ready to scale new heights! How far Singapore will go in the next 60 years will ultimately depend on our unity as a people, our collective resolve as a society, and our unwavering commitment to the values and principles that we hold dear as a nation.

(III) Upholding the Chinese Entrepreneurial Spirit in a New Era

9. SCCC is committed to playing a leadership role in the business community and wider society. We will continue to unite the Singapore Chinese business community, strengthen cohesion

across the private sector, and pass down the SCCC Chinese Entrepreneurial Spirit, which is key to shaping our future!

10. In a world where trust between nations and among individuals is increasingly fragile, I believe the core beliefs of “patriotism, integrity, succession, innovation and uniting businesses” championed by SCCC are more important than ever. These beliefs serve as guiding principles for Singapore’s business community to thrive, innovate and grow.
11. It is the spirit of patriotism that has brought us to where we are today. Without it, the remarkable achievements and prosperity we enjoy would not have been possible!
12. In these turbulent and uncertain times, if we do not uphold integrity in how we conduct ourselves, grow our businesses, or even in diplomacy, we risk losing both trust and opportunities. Without steadfast values, we will not be able to safeguard the excellence of the Singapore brand! Regardless of the size of our enterprises or the sectors we are in, we must uphold our values and integrity in order to make a significant impact and continue to shine brightly on the global stage.
13. At the same time, the strategy of our founding leaders to foster goodwill and strong ties with our friends and neighbours remains, even after 60 years, a cornerstone of Singapore’s ability to seize opportunities and forge ahead in a rapidly changing world.
14. Prime Minister Lawrence Wong recently pointed out that expanding ASEAN’s economic scale is once again a priority interest for Singapore. He highlighted that deepening ASEAN integration, removing trade barriers, and raising productivity per capita will be a

complete game changer, propelling ASEAN into its next phase of development.

15. SCCC will build on the foundations laid by our forefathers as we chart our path forward. Guided by the spirit of “uniting businesses”, we will unite outstanding local enterprises and actively seek like-minded partners on the global stage to forge strong, mutually beneficial collaborations. With an innovative mindset, we will jointly unlock new opportunities in Malaysia, ASEAN, China and other international markets.
16. As the ancient Chinese philosopher Laozi once said, “Take action before problems emerge; maintain order before chaos unfolds”. His wisdom reminds us that in times of stability and abundance, we must treasure what we have, leverage on our strengths and chart our way forward together. Let us forge ahead with courage, unity and wisdom! As we celebrate Singapore’s 60th birthday tonight, we also wish our nation solidarity, peace and prosperity! Majulah Singapura!
