

**THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE RENOVATED
SINGAPORE CHINESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE &
INDUSTRY BUILDING**

**REMARKS BY SCCCI IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT AND
CHAIRMAN OF ORGANISING COMMITTEE OF SCCCI
BUILDING OPENING CEREMONY ROLAND NG**

10 SEPTEMBER 2022

SCCCI BUILDING @ 47 HILL STREET

Honourable Prime Minister Mr Lee Hsien Loong,
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance Mr Lawrence Wong,
Minister for Manpower and Second Minister for Trade and Industry Dr
Tan See Leng,
Senior Government Officials,
Your Excellencies,
SCCCI Honorary Presidents, Senior Honorary Council Members,
Honorary Council Members and Council Members,
Distinguished Guests and Media,

1. Good morning everyone! On behalf of the Organising Committee of the SCCCI Building Opening Ceremony, I extend a warm welcome to PM Lee Hsien Loong, DPM Lawrence Wong, Minister Tan See Leng, members of the diplomatic corps and distinguished guests for joining us today.
2. Today is the Mid-Autumn Festival. For the Chinese, this festival symbolises reunion and completeness. It is of great significance that SCCCI holds the opening ceremony today.

3. The SCCCI Building was completed on 20 September 1964 – which was the Mid-Autumn Festival that year, with Founding Prime Minister Mr Lee Kuan Yew officiating the opening of the Building. The video of the Building’s opening in 1964 which we just watched is SCCCI’s precious historical material preserved over half a century. President Kho Choon Keng will like us to look back at the grand opening in 1964 and at the same time, envision how SCCCI can contribute to the nation in future.
4. The renovation of the SCCCI Building commenced in 2017. Mr Thomas Chua, President of the 58th Council, entrusted the 59th Council and I with two important tasks at the same time.

First, to set up the Trade Association Hub. SCCCI led many trade associations to move into Jurong Town Hall together and put the Industry Transformation Maps into action. Today, SCCCI has helped many trade associations complete their transformation which has produced positive results.

Second, to undertake the renovation of the SCCCI Building. Even as progress was affected by the pandemic, the Government’s timely measures enabled Singapore to resume social order in the shortest time possible, the SCCCI Building’s renovation work was able to proceed smoothly.

5. The theme of today’s opening ceremony “Uniting Businesses and Passing Our Legacy” not only is in line with SCCCI’s mission of “Uniting Businesses”, it also expresses SCCCI’s determination to pass down the Singapore Spirit!
6. In 2019 and this year’s National Day Rally, PM Lee urged everyone to stay as one united people to defend ourselves. We strongly agree with this. In the 1930s, Chinese entrepreneurs have sunk their roots here in Singapore and pledged their allegiance to the nation.

7. In the 1960s, Singapore was on the road to independence. Chinese entrepreneurs worked closely with the Government to actively build the society, promote economic development, and strengthen national defence.
8. Since the 1990s, Singapore's economy and society have been going through different phases of transformation. Till today, local Chinese entrepreneurs have been actively contributing to national development.
9. Ladies and gentlemen, Singapore has been able to thrive and develop in a complex geopolitical landscape and emerge stronger from the pandemic. The key lies in our capabilities and strong cohesion among citizens!
10. This year marks Singapore's 57th year of independence. The road to nation-building presents both challenges and opportunities. We have demonstrated the Singapore Spirit relentlessly, forging ahead together towards prosperity.
11. This year also marks the 55th Anniversary of National Service (NS55). The implementation of NS is a very important decision in Singapore's development! To show our support for NS, SCCCI minted a limited-edition medallion with the four Chinese characters "*jin zhong bao guo*" (To Serve the Country with Utmost Loyalty) for the first two batches of enlisted youths. SCCCI also actively raised funds for the National Defence Foundation and led the Chinese community and Singaporeans to support the Government's efforts in strengthening national defence.
12. The SCCCI Chinese Business Culture Hub which opens today, showcases this significant medallion with many other artefacts related to the history of Singapore and SCCCI.

13. Although first built in tumultuous times, the SCCCI Building is a strong witness of Singapore's nation-building and road to prosperity. We have set up the SCCCI Chinese Business Culture Hub with the aim to work closely with the Government to help Singaporeans strengthen their national identity, develop cultural confidence, and uphold the SCCCI Chinese Entrepreneurial Spirit.
14. Till today, SCCCI has been forging ahead with the Government and our friends from other ethnic groups. As we look into the future, we remain more determined than ever to pass on the legacy.
15. To show our determination, and in line with the completion of the renovated SCCCI Building, two Buddhist pine trees from Southern China are planted at the left and right of the Building. They symbolise the early Chinese that came to Singapore to make a living, thereafter decided to settle down and make Singapore their home. Just as Singapore is a prosperous country, the two auspicious pine trees grow strong and healthy. Along with the SCCCI Building, they are powerful witnesses of the local Chinese entrepreneurs' loyalty to the nation!
16. Ladies and gentlemen, the renovation of the SCCCI Building was initially able to be completed in the first quarter of this year. We were also in the process of preparing for this opening ceremony. After taking the uncertainty of the pandemic into account, Mr Kho Choon Keng, President of the 61st Council and I decided to pass the baton to the 61st Council to hold this opening ceremony after the pandemic has become stable.
17. We would like to thank the team for their hard work over the past five years, especially Mr John Lim who supervised the renovation progress of the Building, Mr Wu Hsioh Kwang who supervised the organisation of SCCCI's century-old historical materials, as well as our Council members and Secretariat staff for their dedication. Your perseverance through the toughest times is admirable!

18. We would also like to congratulate President Kho Choon Keng and the 61st Council for their outstanding work, completing the task successfully within six months of taking over. The renovated SCCC Building which opens today is full of vitality!

19. In closing, I wish Singapore solidarity, peace, and prosperity! I wish all of you good health and success in your endeavours!

Thank you!
