

MID-AUTUMN CELEBRATION @ HILL STREET
WELCOME ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT KHO CHOON KENG
10 SEPTEMBER 2022
SCCCI BUILDING @ 47 HILL STREET

Honourable Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for
Economic Policies Mr Heng Swee Keat,
Minister for Education Mr Chan Chun Sing,
Senior Government Officials,
Representatives from Trade Associations and Civic Organisations,
SCCCI Council Members,
Distinguished Guests,

1. Good evening everyone! Today, I am very happy to be here to celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival with everyone. I wish everyone a happy Mid-Autumn Festival and a happy reunion with your families!
2. On behalf of SCCCI, I sincerely thank DPM Heng Swee Keat for taking time out of your busy schedule to officiate the SCCCI Building Light-Up Ceremony and make this celebration extraordinary!
3. After two years of pandemic, we are back to celebrating Mid-Autumn Festival in person, enjoying mooncakes, tea, and lantern riddles with one another under the full moon today. I am very happy that the renovated SCCCI Building is able to promote cohesion once again – forging relationships, promoting culture and harnessing ideas to bring broad benefits in a happy and harmonious atmosphere!

4. In the blink of an eye, it has been five years. I believe everyone feels refreshed to be back here. Some aspects of the building have changed, while some remain unchanged. Some of the design elements carry deep significance. The two stone lions outside the main entrance symbolise courage and responsibility, just like how Singaporeans defend our beautiful homeland that did not come easy, and prepare for crisis at the same time; the pine trees that exude vitality symbolise resilience and perseverance, firmly rooted in upright principles, unafraid of challenges, which remind us of our forefathers' relentless pioneering spirit; the Wealth Bowl at the lobby showers an abundance of blessings and symbolises "the gathering of fortune", Chinese entrepreneurs place a great emphasis on integrity which brings longevity and blessings.

5. The SCCCI Chinese Business Culture Hub which officially opens today, showcases many artefacts related to the history of Singapore and SCCCI. Our forefathers in the Government, business community and society – especially the Pioneer and Merdeka generations who went through an arduous journey of blood, sweat and tears, exemplify the noble spirit of benefitting from the society and contributing back, which we deeply admire and are thankful for. As we are back here today, we must be grateful and continue to promote the selfless spirit of our forefathers, inspiring the next generation to forge ahead! The SCCCI Chinese Business Culture Hub's mission is to help Singaporeans strengthen their national identity, develop cultural confidence, and uphold the SCCCI Chinese Entrepreneurial Spirit.

6. The front and back facade of the renovated SCCCI Building have taken on a refreshing look with a traditional and modern design respectively. The respect for tradition symbolises the patriotism and integrity of Chinese entrepreneurs; the innovation that keeps up with the times symbolises the core values of succession and innovation, both of which complement each other, forming the basis of SCCCI's important mission – creating value for our nation and "Uniting Businesses"!

7. Over the past few years, Singapore's economic transformation efforts have yielded significant results. In the past three years, Singapore's productivity grew almost 4 per cent per annum. I would like to thank DPM Heng, Minister Chan and our friends from the trade associations for their hard work. SCCCI will continue to be the hub to unite businesses and attract talents and work hand in hand with everyone to emerge stronger as we face greater challenges ahead. There is a proverb "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together". SCCCI is a platform of inclusiveness and harmony; besides pursuing success, we also enjoy and experience the ups and downs, get to know great mentors and friends as we support and encourage one another. This "kampung spirit" is the key for businesses to achieve greater longevity and significance!

8. 58 years ago, on the 15th day of the eighth lunar month, Founding Prime Minister Mr Lee Kuan Yew officiated the opening of the SCCCI Building. In his speech, Mr Lee encouraged the Chinese community to settle down and make Singapore their home and actively integrate themselves into the multiracial Southeast Asian society, reflecting the concerns and challenges in that era. The Building is 58 years old this year and has been through many ups and downs. We will continue to strive for excellence and live out our mission of "Uniting Businesses to Benefit Society". I earnestly look forward to work hand in hand with our trade associations to support Singapore and Singaporeans as they integrate into the new economy.

9. In closing, on this Mid-Autumn Festival, I take the opportunity to quote Li Bai (Tang Dynasty) and Feng Menglong's (Ming Dynasty) poems in the context of Singapore's development roadmap today, rewriting them as modern poems from SCCCI's perspective, for everyone to encourage one another!

First, "As I look up, I see the moon; as I look down, I think of SCCCI". With SCCCI's support, I hope all our members' internationalisation journey will be smooth sailing as they expand overseas. No matter where they are, this strong relationship that we share will be in their

minds even more, as they experience SCCCI's support every step of the way!

Second, "A joyful occasion boosts one's spirits, the moon is exceptionally bright at mid-autumn; the nation can only prosper with unity, the glory of the Lion City will pass down to a thousand generations". What this means is, just as the moon shines the brightest with happiness during mid-autumn, the nation will only be able to scale new heights with everyone standing united as one. This reminds us not to take the success that we have for granted. I hope the spirit of unity among the leaders and forefathers who built our nation will be passed down to future generations here at the SCCCI Building, and that Singapore will always remain vibrant and have longevity!

10. I hope everyone will have a great time celebrating Mid-Autumn Festival in this new Building today. Thank you!
