

Media Advisory:
Roland Ng sworn in as President of SCCC's 59th Council
and announced formation of Youth Business Affairs Committee
to nurture future business leaders

The Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry held the Installation Ceremony of the 59th Council on 15 March 2017. In presence of Guest of Honour for the ceremony, Deputy Prime Minister Mr Teo Chee Hean, Mr Thomas Chua, President of the 58th Council, passed the baton to Mr Roland Ng, who succeeded as the President of the 59th Council. Mr Roland Ng then led all members of the 59th Council in an oath-taking and signing ceremony.

Taking to the rostrum, President Roland Ng thanked Immediate Past President Thomas Chua for his outstanding leadership of the 57th and 58th Council, whose achievements had laid a very good foundation for the Chamber. He then identified three key thrusts for the Chamber in the next two years:

1) Integrate the strength of the trade associations, and help businesses to upgrade and transform

This will be achieved through the Trade Association Hub. The Trade Association Hub will offer not only good physical facilities but also shared Secretariat services. At the same time, the Chamber has specially set up the Trade Association Committee to help trade associations consolidate their resources, improve capability, promote TA mutual cooperation, build up new partnership, and work as a channel for government feedback on industry-related issues.

2) Help enterprises to digitalise and internationalise

The Chamber will align efforts with the government's thrust to promote digitalisation via the Trade Association Hub – enabling local enterprises to understand what digital economy is all about, and how to apply new technologies to transform their industries. Besides the IE-SCCCI Singapore Enterprise Centre in Shanghai as well as the Representative Office in Chongqing, the SCCC will also

leverage on the Chinese business network around the world to help businesses venture overseas more effectively.

3) Prepare for succession at the Chamber and for enterprises, and uphold the Chinese entrepreneurial spirit

The Chamber has set up a Youth Business Affairs Committee to groom successors, and nurture future Chinese business leaders. President Roland Ng said: “This would enable our Chamber, having a history of more than 100 years, to continue to thrive from generation to generation.” The new committee is led by Mr Sherman Kwek, Deputy CEO of City Developments Limited.

Mr Sherman Kwek said: “My grandfather, Mr Kwek Hong Png, used to be a Council Member of the Chamber and my uncle, Mr Kwek Leng Joo, also formerly served as the Chamber’s President. I am deeply honoured to continue the tradition. Today, due to the inspiring examples and strong guidance of the predecessors in my family as well as past and present council members of the Chamber, I have the privilege of serving the Chamber and society as a whole. Their exemplary attitude has impressed upon me a deep appreciation of Chinese business culture and the Chinese entrepreneurial spirit, which form the fundamental pillars of Chinese business. The current Council has high expectations for the newly formed Youth Business Affairs Committee. Upholding and passing on the Chinese entrepreneurial culture and spirit is a very important part of the Youth Business Affairs Committee. We will invest significant effort in this area and work hard to spread this concept among the wider community of young Chinese entrepreneurs.”

On the topic of Chinese entrepreneurial spirit, President Roland Ng also cited one inspiring example. Mr Tan Tong Hai, Chief Executive Officer of StarHub Ltd, who is a new member of the 59th Council, had received financial support from the Chamber during his university days. “This embodies the Chinese entrepreneurial spirit of succession. As long as the Chamber or the enterprise has a sound succession plan in place, and earnestly grooms the younger generation, we would be able to achieve sustainable development,” said Mr Roland Ng.

Mr Tan Tong Hai said: “Having received financial support from the Chamber during my university days, I always wanted to contribute back to the Chamber and the society. With my forte and knowledge on digitalisation, I will work together with the Chamber, utilising my experience and expertise to help the Chamber spearhead initiatives and projects to assist Trade Associations and local enterprises to adopt technology and

embrace digitalisation to transform their industries and be ready for the future economy.”

In his speech, DPM Teo noted that for over a century, the SCCC has always been an important partner working with the Government. Thus, he hoped that the SCCC will continue to assist enterprises in the Future Economy to acquire and utilise deep skills, build up digital capabilities, and help implement the Industry Transformation Maps. He also hopes that the new Council will continue to help local businesses internationalise and grow.

As torch-bearers of their respective industries, DPM Teo also encouraged more Trade Associations and Chambers to be more pro-active in helping their members in this period of economic transition. These include helping their members to transform, innovate and venture into new markets. “By working together, Government agencies and the unions, the trade associations and workers, we can develop new capabilities, new innovations and new markets. Unity is strength,” noted DPM Teo.

President of the 58th Council Thomas Chua took the opportunity to thank the Council and the Secretariat for their support, in particular after he was appointed Nominated Member of Parliament. He also expressed his sincere appreciation to the member companies for their enduring trust, and the government agencies, community groups and all partners for their unwavering support. He also thanked all members of the diplomatic corps, Chinese business organisations and friends of the media for their perpetual support. Mr Chua expressed confidence that under the stewardship of President Roland Ng, the new Council would lead member companies into the future, and enable this Chamber, with more than a century of history, to scale new heights!

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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 and the World Chinese Business Network (www.wcbs.com.sg), a global online business information portal. It plays a key and pro-active role in representing the interests of the local business community. In its continued drive for service excellence, the SCCCI has become the first business chamber in the region that has been awarded ISO 9001:2000 certification since 1995. In 2009, the Chamber successfully upgraded its ISO certification to ISO 9001:2008.

The SCCCI has a membership network comprising over 4,000 corporate members and more than 150 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. Together, they provide the business community with vast resources and an influential global Chinese business network for business, culture and education.