

ERC/PR/2018

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MEDIA ADVISORY:
Lunar New Year Gathering 2018

SCCCI President Mr Roland Ng said: “The main objective in setting up the SCCCI Scholars Network is to inculcate the spirit of succession and nurture a new generation of talents endowed both with capabilities and virtues, help them unleash their potentials, develop their capabilities so as to make practical contribution towards the country’s development, and guide them to inherit the four core principle of Chinese entrepreneurs, namely, ‘integrity, loyalty, giving back to the society and innovation’.”

This is the very first time that the Chamber has held its Lunar New Year Gathering in the Trade Association (TA) Hub. Close to 600 foreign diplomats, senior government officials, leaders from the business, cultural and community organisations and trade association members have attended the event. The following are the three main highlights of this year’s Lunar New Year Gathering:

1. Official Launch of the SCCCI Scholars Network

The Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCCI) Scholars Network was officially launched on 16th February 2018 by Mr Ong Ye Kung, Minister for Education (Higher Education and Skills) and Second Minister for Defence, at the 2018 Lunar New Year Gathering jointly hosted by SCCCI and Business China. The Network was first announced on 29th September 2017.

The SCCCI Scholars Network aims to bring together wisdom, experiences and networks of our scholars, so as to contribute back to the society. The 3 main goals of the Network are:

- Helping the industry sectors upgrade
- Helping the younger generation develop
- Strengthening national education

In 1967, the Chamber began handing out scholarships to students who excelled in academic results and conduct, regardless of their background, ethnicity and the discipline they chose to pursue. Over the years, close to 2,000 students from tertiary institutions have benefited from the scholarship.

The Network will be led by SCCCI Scholar Dr Wilson Goh. He said: “The SCCCI Scholarship has benefited many scholars. Now is the best time for us to give back to the society.”

In the past year, with strong support from the government and all parties, the Chamber worked hard to attain the goals set during the installation of the SCCC I 59th Council:

- Harness the strengths of trade associations to help industry sectors upgrade and transform
- Spur local enterprises to digitalise and internationalise
- Ensure succession is carried out well in the Chamber and in enterprises, as well as promote the Chinese entrepreneurial spirit

We have since achieved the first goal, which was to set up the Trade Association Hub (TA Hub). The Chamber is now working actively towards achieving the second goal, which is to spur local enterprises to digitalise and internationalise through the TA Hub.

2. Becoming the only Business Chinese Test Centre in Singapore

The Singapore Chinese Chamber Institute of Business (SCCIOB) has been appointed as the sole Business Chinese Test (BCT) Centre in Singapore by Hanban/Confucius Institute Headquarters, China from 1st January 2018.

SCCIOB has also received support from the government, with SkillsFuture Singapore (SSG) sponsoring up to 90 per cent of the fees for participants attending the Business Chinese course. This initiative aims to encourage locals to enhance their proficiency in written and spoken Chinese by building on their existing foundations, so that they could better leverage on the boundless business opportunities available in the China market.

The Chamber also plans to expand and deepen the scale and content of SCCIOB's Business Chinese training course, in order to provide more opportunities for trainees to go to China to experience first-hand and acquaint themselves with the actual business environment.

3. First collaboration with Business China to jointly host the Lunar New Year Gathering

The 2018 Lunar New Year Gathering is jointly hosted by SCCC I and Business China, an organisation founded by SCCC I. This is the first time that the Chamber is partnering with Business China to co-organise this Lunar New Year Gathering. Business China set up by the SCCC I in November 2007 was the initiative of our Founding Prime Minister Mr Lee Kuan Yew. It aims to nurture an inclusive bilingual and bicultural group of Singaporeans through extensive use of the Chinese language as the medium of communication, so as to sustain our multi-cultural heritage, and to develop a cultural and economic bridge linking the world and China.

One of the programmes under Business China is the “Future China Global Forum”. This year, Business China will be co-organising the Future China Global Forum with the Singapore Business Federation. The focus will be on the regional collaboration amongst ‘Singapore, ASEAN and China’. The Forum will discuss innovation and collaboration that arises from the Belt and Road Initiative.

Another programme under Business China is the “Future China Advanced Leaders Programme”. Launched in 2012, this high-level course has since nurtured 130 participants. Through the course, participants will have a comprehensive understanding of the factors fueling China’s rapid rise and a good grasp of China’s future trends, in order to explore the vast business opportunities. This year, following the development of China’s ‘Southern Transport Corridor’, participants will have the opportunity to visit China’s Chongqing, Guizhou and Guangxi to interact first-hand with the local companies and government officials.

Business China will also be launching two new programmes this year. The first programme is the ‘Business China Dialogue Series’, a monthly event which Business China started to organise since the end of last year. Business leaders and industry experts will be invited to share the latest insights and developments with regard to China. Past sessions included discussions about sectors such as property and e-commerce in China, as well as tools such as Reits and other forms of Securitisation. Business China also looks to invite well-known commentators in the cultural and social scene to provide a holistic view on China.

The second programme that Business China looks to launch is an ‘Internship Programme Fund’, which aims to support up to 500 Singaporean youths to intern at various industries in China for 3 to 6 months. Business China believes that this is the most effective way to raise the ‘China Quotient’ of our youths, and will also partner with various institutions and organisations to launch this internship programme.

For further enquiries, please contact:

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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 chamber 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 proactive 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 some 5,000 corporate members and has more than 160 trade association members, representing over 40,000 companies including large financial and business organizations, 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.

About Business China

Launched in November 2007 by Founding Patron and Singapore's Founding Prime Minister Mr Lee Kuan Yew, Business China's mission is to nurture an inclusive bilingual and bicultural group of Singaporeans through extensive use of the Chinese language as the medium of communication, so as to sustain our multi-cultural heritage, and to develop a cultural and economic bridge linking the world and China.

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