

## **Singapore-Malaysia Connection, Global Reach**

### **A delegation of 28 representatives from Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCCI) deepens collaborative ties with the Malaysian business community**

The Business Forum jointly organised by the SCCCI and the Associated Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia (ACCCIM) on May 22, 2018 at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre was a great success! The delegates at the Forum were senior leaders and main office holders from both business Chambers. Headed respectively by SCCCI President Roland Ng and ACCCIM President Tan Sri Datuk Ter Leong Yap, the groups exchanged views and opinions.

In the settings of the ASEAN Economic Community and China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), both Chambers have transcended national borders to forge close co-operation and promote integration of the economies of the various countries in ASEAN, paving the way for regional consolidation. The development and use of innovative technologies have helped overcome constraints of time and space, enabling businesses of Singapore and Malaysia to synergise with unprecedented ease.

SCCCI President Roland Ng said: "According to the SCCCI's latest survey findings, Malaysia's market is the top choice among Singapore companies. Partnerships between Singapore and Malaysian businesses are very strong, in line with the Chinese saying: 'distant relatives are not as intimate as close neighbours'. We hope to seize the historic opportunity for businesses in both countries to deepen their collaborative ties, bringing these to a new level."

ACCCIM President Tan Sri Datuk Ter Leong Yap pointed out that the two countries have always upheld the principles of economic cooperation, bringing mutual benefits to both sides, and constantly strengthening linkages, which have engendered a symbiotic relationship that cannot be torn apart. Finding out how to strengthen the liaison between business leaders, and to confront the challenges faced by the regional economy in order to build a win-win future, is the purpose for holding this Forum.

An entourage from the ACCCIM, headed by Tan Sri Datuk Ter, called on the SCCC in January this year. Following their discussion, the two leaders decided to reinforce the interconnection and interaction between the two Chambers as well as the system for joint development to re-invigorate the annual Forum helmed by the two Chambers. The 2018 Business Forum was hosted by the ACCCIM in Kuala Lumpur.

Originally the two Chambers were one family. The ACCCIM was formerly the Associated Chinese Chambers of Commerce of British Malaya established in 1921, and the SCCC was one of its founders. The first President of the ACCCIM after World War II was Tan Sri Datuk Lee Kong Chian, then SCCC's President. The two Chambers have always been in contact, and from the middle of the 1970s, they took turns to host the Malaysia-Singapore Business Forum for 11 years. Since then both chambers decided that the Forum could be held by either side depending on needs and circumstances, when they are confronted by a similar issue.

The Chambers have in recent years been regularly calling on each other and remain in touch to sustain close links. They also actively participate in each other's activities, such as sending delegations to attend founding anniversaries, including the celebrations of the SCCC's 110th birthday and the 95th of the ACCCIM.

They also invited each other's members to participate in other annual events, such as SCCC's Small and Medium Enterprise Conference and Infocomm Commerce Conference, and the ACCCIM'S Young Entrepreneurs Conference, to encourage discussion of new ideas. The leaders of both Chambers also together canvass opinions at the biennial World Chinese Entrepreneurs Convention (WCEC) and the annual WCEC Advisory Committee to help Chinese businesses grow and expand the regional economy.

The two Chambers have since 1991 devoted themselves to pushing for the growth of the hubbing event for Chinese businessmen from all over the world - the WCEC. This conference brings together all the ethnic Chinese entrepreneurs, providing Malaysia's and Singapore's businessmen with plenty of resources and abundant networks to tap on.

The theme of the 2018 SCCC-ACCCIM business forum is "Malaysia-Singapore Connection, Global Reach". The theme is picked to allow Chamber members from both countries to share their views on how to stimulate bilateral investments and trades, how to complement each other, and how to open up markets in the world, in a time of revolutionary changes and new challenges.

The Business Forum is divided into three sessions as follows:

Session One: Malaysia-Singapore Connection, Global Reach

Session Two: Digital Economy: Grab the Megatrends

Session Three: Harnessing Connectivity, Sharing Inclusive Prosperity

Participants at this year's Forum are business elites from various industries in Malaysia and Singapore. They shared their insights and experience on digital economy, joint development, sharing economy, as well as growth prospects of the entire region.

The members of the SCCC delegation led by President Roland Ng included Vice-Presidents Wu Hsioh Kwang and Charles Ho Nai Chuen, General Affairs Committee Chairman Thomas Pek, Research and Publications Chairman Ng Siew Quan, Technology Committee Chairman Chan Hian Siang, International Affairs Committee Chairman Pek Lian Guan, Youth Business Affairs Committee Chairman Sherman Kwek, other council members, executive committee members of the Youth Affairs Business Committee, and members of the Career Women's Group.

More than 110 members from the ACCCIM attended, including national councilors, director and vice director of the Working Committee, representatives from affiliated chambers, and ACCCIM Young Entrepreneurs Committee.

\*\*

For further enquiries, please contact:

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <p>Henry Loh<br/>Executive<br/>Communications &amp;<br/>External Relations,<br/>SCCCI<br/>Tel: 6430 8329<br/>HP: 9738 1676<br/>E-mail:<br/>henry@sccci.org.sg</p> | <p>Kelvin Khaw Ping Ping<br/>Senior Manager<br/>Communications &amp;<br/>External Relations,<br/>SCCCI<br/>Tel: 6430 8322<br/>HP: 9618 4696<br/>E-mail:<br/>pingping@sccci.org.sg</p> | <p>Chin Sin Yee<br/>Deputy Director<br/>Communications &amp;<br/>External Relations,<br/>SCCCI<br/>Tel: 6430 8320<br/>HP: 9109 3926<br/>E-mail:<br/>sinyee@sccci.org.sg</p> |
|---|---|---|

#### 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, a global business convention. 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 to be awarded ISO 9001 certification since 1995. In 2009, the Chamber successfully upgraded its ISO certification to ISO 9001:2008.

The SCCCI has a membership network comprising 5,000 corporate members and has more than 160 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. These members together provide vast resources and opportunities which enable the SCCCI to develop an influential global Chinese business network for business, education, culture and community development. In return, they share a strong sense of pride and identity together and benefit immensely from the SCCCI's membership services, facilities and activities.