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MEDIA ADVISORY:
Lunar New Year Gathering 2019

SCCCI President Mr Roland Ng said: “From returning to their ancestral homes in China, to putting down their roots here, from Singapore to Singaporean, local Chinese businessmen had worked hard to actively develop Singapore's economy, society and culture over all these years. Entering the age of the digital economy, we will continue to do our share in contributing to the prosperity and stability of Singapore together with the people of all ethnicities!”

The annual Lunar New Year Gathering held at Trade Association Hub is co-organised by Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Business China. 600 senior government officers, foreign diplomats, leaders from the business, cultural and community organisations and trade association members have attended the event. This tradition has lasted for more than a hundred years and has the significance of a heritage being passed down across generations. Diplomatic representatives of many countries as well as our fellow countrymen from other ethnic groups attending this gathering had given this traditional festival an even deeper meaning, which is promoting multi-racial and multi-cultural interaction.

We commemorate the Singapore Bicentennial this year. It was an important historical milestone that had shaped our present and will influence our future, it is also a key testimony of the journey “from Singapore to Singaporean”. We trace and reflect upon Singapore’s historical journey to express our appreciation, follow the example our forefathers’ indefatigable and dedicated entrepreneurial spirit to work hard for our dream home. Chinese businessmen had developed a strong sense of identity and a sense of belonging to Singapore. After Singapore became a nation-state, Chinese businessmen became even more zealous in participating in the building of the country, allowing the Spirit of Chinese Entrepreneurs, which embodies integrity, loyalty, contributing back to society, and innovation, to shine forth fully. They gave their unwavering support to the development policies of the government. The chamber will uphold the succession of the Spirit of Chinese Entrepreneurs and continue to contribute for the prosperous and stability of Singapore.

The Chamber has decided to reform the term system of Council Members after a century. This is to better strategise and ensure the stability of the long-term development of the Chamber. The term of service for Council Members has extended from two years to three years per term. Council Members gained ample time for planning, implementation and enforcement. The members of 60th Council are of a younger age and come with a more professional background. They will be sworn into the office on 15 March. Building on the solid foundation laid by our forefathers, and in line with government policies, the 60th Council Members will continue to draw upon the wisdom of

the Chinese entrepreneurs to facilitate the development of The Chamber, trade associations and businesses as well as promoting the culture and Spirit of Chinese Entrepreneurs.

Business China Internship Programme expected to be implemented this year

Since its establishment in 2007, Business China has dedicated to nurturing a group of effectively bilingual and bicultural group of Singaporeans, so as to sustain our multi-cultural heritage, and to develop a cultural and economic bridge linking China and the world.

In the efforts to nurture Singapore-China-savvy talents, youth is a key target group for Business China. Last year, Business China Chairman Mr Lee Yi Shyan announced the establishment of the "Business China Internship Programme Fund". This will provide financial support for Singapore students pursuing internship opportunities in China. This initiative is expected to be implemented this year, facilitating youths from Singapore and China to engage in internship opportunities in each other's country, thereby enhancing their mutual understanding and broadening our network of Singapore-China-savvy talents. This initiative garnered strong support from senior leaders and government officials of both countries. During his speech at the 44th Singapore Lecture, co-organised by Business China and ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, Chinese Premier Mr Li Keqiang underscored his support for youth exchange in the form of internships.

As part of implementation, Business China will set up a specialized online portal to publish the list of companies with internship opportunities available in both countries. Singaporean and Chinese youths can use this platform to seek out internship opportunities. Conventionally, internship and corporate attachment opportunities were only available through schools. Through our Business China Internship Programme, youths can secure internships directly via the portal.

In his speech, Mr Lee Yi Shyan also talks about Business China's flagship programme - the FutureChina Global Forum (FCGF). FCGF 2018 successfully concluded with strong support from the Singapore Business Federation last year. This year, Business China will collaborate with the Temasek Foundation for the first time. The forum will take place on 7 June 2019, as an anchor event of the Temasek Ecosperity Week from 4 to 7 June 2019. The theme for FCGF this year is "Sustainable Development in a Dynamic World Order". A special feature of FCGF 2019 is the emphasis on youths. A sub-forum fully organized by the Business China Youth Chapter will be held in parallel to the FCGF 2019. Youth leaders from around the region will convene at this youth forum to discuss future developments, in line with the theme of FCGF 2019. In the evening, Business China will host the 9th Business China Awards Ceremony. The Awards is to recognise individuals and organisations that have made outstanding contributions to the advancement of Singapore-China relations.

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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, 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 that has been awarded ISO 9001:2000 certification since 1995. In 2018, the Chamber successfully upgraded its ISO certification to ISO 9001:2015.

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 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.