

**SCCCI INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY CONFERENCE 2022**  
**BEING 我(WO)MEN**  
**WELCOME SPEECH BY SCCCI PRESIDENT ROLAND NG**

Honourable Minister for Sustainability and the Environment Grace Fu,  
Honourable Senior Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and National  
Development Sim Ann,  
Your Excellencies,  
SCCCI Career Women’s Group Chairperson Dr Hwang Yee Cheau and  
Advisor Quek Soo Boon,  
SCCCI Council Members and Distinguished Guests,

1. Good evening everyone!
2. Every year on International Women’s Day, the SCCCI Career Women’s Group (CWG) organises exciting activities to celebrate women’s achievements in all aspects and their huge contributions to the nation and society. Over the past two years, due to the pandemic, it was difficult to organise large-scale physical conferences. I am very happy that this year’s conference is back to normal, and we can interact with one another face-to-face. Firstly, I wish everyone a Happy International Women’s Day!

3. The CWG demonstrates strong resilience coupled with strength and gentleness that is admirable – not only “holding up half the sky” in their careers, but also playing the roles of wife, mother and daughter in their daily lives, navigating interchangeably and handling the different roles with ease.
  
4. The five speakers today are rare women leaders from diverse backgrounds in sectors such as finance, legal, education and manufacturing, as well as co-founder of a global co-working space provider. They form a perfect combination. I believe the sharing from the five successful women will broaden our horizons to see the opportunities ahead.
  
5. Highlights of this year’s conference include: Changes in business landscape due to the pandemic; how to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); as well as how career women can overcome limitations and achieve greater heights.
  
6. The two-year COVID-19 pandemic in addition to global warming have caused the world to place greater emphasis on green and low-carbon development. The adoption of digital and green technology help businesses innovate and change, promoting sustainable development. I am heartened to know that many businesses have decided to embark on this transformation journey. I encourage women entrepreneurs to leverage on this platform today to inspire creativity, put your dreams into action and move forward together!

7. Over the past two years, the pandemic has impacted the business landscape. The SCCCI remains committed to our objectives. We have frequent dialogues with relevant government departments and ministers on the challenges faced by the different sectors, sharing our recommendations to help the Government optimise policies. We also help our members transform and upgrade, especially in the areas of digitalisation and internationalisation.
  
8. Last year, in conjunction with the Singapore Government's review of challenges faced by women in the workplace, the SCCCI also helped to conduct a survey on this topic and co-organised the Conversation on Singapore Women's Development with the Government. Enabling employees of both genders to display their unique capabilities and complement each other at work is an important step to give full scope to the talents and enhance competitiveness of businesses.
  
9. During the pandemic, I really admire the CWG's flexibility and adaptability. Through virtual events, they continue to maintain the interaction between members and come up with innovative projects. One of CWG's innovative projects is the "Power Women Lunch". The CWG's perseverance to keep trying exemplifies the "spirit of craftsmanship" in this era, creating the elegant demeanour and charisma that are unique to women.

10. In this era of great change, opportunities are everywhere. Career women who keep up with the times will definitely be able to shine bright in their own ways. This is exactly how all the ladies here today are: You face challenges head on, dare to take risks, remain dedicated and professional, reaching self-actualisation and earning deep respect!

11. Lastly, on behalf of the SCCCI, I sincerely thank Minister Grace Fu for being the Guest-of-Honour today. I also thank the CWG for their meticulous planning. I wish all my sisters great health, happiness, and good fortune!

Thank you!