

## **THE SCCCI'S 61<sup>ST</sup> COUNCIL INSTALLATION CEREMONY**

### **SPEECH BY PRESIDENT ROLAND NG**

**15 MARCH 2022**

### **TRADE ASSOCIATION HUB AUDITORIUM**

Honourable Deputy Prime Minister Heng Swee Keat,

Senior Government Officials and Trade Association Representatives,

SCCCI Honorary Presidents, Senior Honorary Council Members, Honorary Council Members and Council Members,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning everyone!

Today is an important day where the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCCI) inherits the past and ushers in the future, forging ahead together. It is our honour to have Deputy Prime Minister Heng Swee Keat to witness the installation of SCCCI's 61<sup>st</sup> Council. On behalf of SCCCI, I extend a warm welcome to DPM Heng and everyone.

In 2017, I led the 59<sup>th</sup> Council in the oath, reaffirming our commitment to fulfil SCCCI's mission, promoting the development of industry and commerce, culture, education and economic prosperity of Singapore. We set down three key work strategies – Promoting digitalisation and internationalisation of companies; promoting transformation and upgrading of various industries and Trade Associations (TAs); and upholding the succession of the SCCCI Chinese Entrepreneurial Spirit, developing the new generation of Chinese entrepreneur leaders.

In the past five years, the world situation and business landscape have changed dramatically. Two years ago, the sudden COVID-19 pandemic impacted the global and Singapore's economy. However, SCCCI remains steadfast in serving our members. Instead of slowing down, we stepped up and deployed flexible approaches to help companies navigate the uncertain business landscape.

In digitalisation and internationalisation, SCCCI constantly encourages our members to keep up with the times, acquire new knowledge and skills, and leverage on opportunities in the international market. In the past five years, SCCCI has set up Representative Offices in Chongqing, Chengdu and Nanjing, and the Singapore Import Pavilion in Shanghai, helping many Singapore companies set up offices in China and increased awareness of the Singapore brand. We also encourage Singapore companies to work together with their China counterparts to jointly explore third-party market.

To support industry transformation, SCCCI shoulders the mission of the era. With the Government's strong support, the Trade Association (TA) Hub was set up in 2017 at the Jurong Town Hall as we led TAs to share resources. We also help TAs to regularly convey feedback to the Government on their industries' needs, and carry out Industry Transformation Map projects.

With the Government's full support, SCCCI has achieved significant results. To support TAs' continuous transformation and growth amid the pandemic, the "SCCCI Live Streaming Studio" was launched to help TAs and their members seize opportunities by embracing digitalisation. Through streaming events, promoting services and products online, we have helped them to gain exposure to international markets. Benefiting from the society and contributing back to the society, SCCCI actively gives back by aiding affected communities during the pandemic.

Upholding the succession of the SCCCI Chinese Entrepreneurial Spirit is one of the key thrusts of the 59<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> Council. The Youth Business Affairs Committee was set up to groom young entrepreneurs. The SCCCI Chinese Entrepreneurial Culture Foundation (SCECF) was established to organise the Chamber's history of more than a century and step up our efforts in promoting

National Education. This includes publication of SCCCI's historical and cultural resources, and compiling the contributions made by SCCCI's past council members.

In recent years, SCCCI has also embarked on two projects with great significance:

Firstly, the renovation of the SCCCI Building at 47 Hill Street brings new life to this iconic building!

The pandemic has affected work and life, including the renovation of the SCCCI Building. We are very grateful for the Government's timely and effective measures, restoring social order in the shortest time possible. The renovation of the SCCCI Building is nearly completed, with the estimated grand opening in the second half of this year. We will pass the baton to the 61<sup>st</sup> Council to continue this historical mission.

Secondly, demonstrating the foresight of our forefathers, we purchased a floor of Samsung Hub in Church Street to help strengthen SCCCI's influence. Both the SCCCI Building and Samsung Hub are important landmarks in the city. We believe this move will lay a stronger foundation for SCCCI's long-term development!

I have been serving the community for 20 years. Serving the business community through SCCCI is a continuation of my loyalty to Singapore and giving back to the society. Of my 14 years in SCCCI, the first three years after I took over as President was the most difficult period. At that time, my business was at its lowest and faced many difficulties! SCCCI's Council members helped me tide over the tough times by providing much support and positive energy. In my heart, all of you are like my brothers and sisters!

I truly thank everyone, especially the Council members for their hard work. I also thank the Chamber Secretariat, all of you have been with me through the financial crisis and my lowest point in business.

Because of your tremendous support, I am able to complete my term as the Chamber's President, and at the same time, turn my business from loss into profit, of which my company's operations in Australia and China earned a record-high profit in the recent two years!

Life has its up and downs, but every cloud has a silver lining. As we boldly face the challenges that lie ahead, we will surely see the sun after the storm!

I am confident that under the leadership of President Kho Choon Keng, the new Council will bring SCCCI to ever greater heights!

I sincerely thank all members for their trust in SCCCI. I also thank the various government agencies, diplomatic corps and partners. Your support and trust continue to motivate SCCCI to do better!

Lastly, I wish everyone good health and good fortune!

Thank you!