

**THE SCCCI'S 62<sup>ND</sup> COUNCIL INSTALLATION CEREMONY  
SPEECH BY SCCCI PRESIDENT KHO CHOON KENG  
15 MARCH 2025  
SCCCI BUILDING**

Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, President of the Republic of Singapore,  
and Ms Jane Ittogi,  
Mr Seah Kian Peng, Speaker of Parliament,  
Ms Grace Fu, Minister for Sustainability and the Environment and  
Minister-in-Charge of Trade Relations,  
Members of Parliament,  
Your Excellencies,  
Senior Government Officials,  
Leaders of Trade Associations and Chambers,  
SCCCI Honorary Presidents,  
Senior Honorary Council Members,  
Honorary Council Members and Council Members,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

A very good morning to all of you.

1. On behalf of the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCCI), I extend a warm welcome and my heartfelt appreciation to all of you for taking time to attend the SCCCI's 62<sup>nd</sup> Council Installation Ceremony. I would also like to express my deepest gratitude to President Tharman for officiating today's ceremony. It is a great honour and an immense responsibility to be entrusted by the business community and our members to lead SCCCI for the next three years. Together, we will embark on a new chapter and scale new heights!
2. Through the years, SCCCI is committed to uniting the local business community to drive progress, promoting domestic and international trade and economic prosperity, as well as giving back to the society and preserving our cultural heritage. I sincerely thank the 61<sup>st</sup> Council and my fellow Council members for their dedication and hard work over the past three years. Guided by the Chinese Entrepreneurial Spirit and core beliefs of "patriotism, integrity, succession, innovation and uniting businesses", SCCCI has achieved remarkable results. Since Singapore emerged from the

COVID-19 pandemic, there is robust recovery in the various economic sectors in the last three years. Last year, Singapore even recorded its highest economic growth in recent years.

3. The core beliefs of our Chinese Entrepreneurial Spirit have guided and shaped SCCCI's 119-year journey, demonstrating their significance and impact, especially in a world undergoing profound transformation – geopolitical tensions, the shift towards a multipolar global order and trade system, and the disruption brought about by technological revolution and climate change.
4. Guided by the beliefs of “patriotism, integrity and succession”, whether we are from the Pioneer Generation, Merdeka Generation, younger generation or even students, we must recognise that – it is only when we continue to stand together as one united people, foster racial harmony and inclusivity, work hard and strive for excellence, stay vigilant, prioritise the bigger picture and our collective future, that we can develop a broader perspective, be more open-minded, and foster a deeper level of thinking. As the ancient saying goes: “Cultivate oneself, manage the family, govern the country, and bring peace to the world.” While this may be interpreted in different ways, it underscores that every individual is part of the nation and humanity. It is only when we fulfill our own responsibilities that we can build a prosperous nation and vibrant society together. While an individual's destiny may be limited, the destiny of humanity can be boundless and unlimited. It is only when we prioritise the bigger picture and our collective future, that Singapore and SCCCI will continue to grow stronger – year after year, generation after generation.
5. The future presents both challenges and opportunities! SCCCI will be bolder and more agile in keeping up with the times, driving industry transformation, staying attuned to global developments, and creating new opportunities for our members. This embodies the essence of our Chinese Entrepreneurial Spirit – “innovation” and “uniting businesses”.

6. Over the next three years, the 62<sup>nd</sup> Council will bring SCCCI to a new level. Our key priorities will focus on addressing the core needs of Singapore's business community:

**a. Expanding Our Global Network and Influence, Unlocking Global Business Opportunities**

To strengthen Singapore's position as a global business and trade hub as well as create unique investment opportunities for both international investors and our members, SCCCI plans to establish an International Advisory Panel. This panel will comprise distinguished leaders from the international and regional political and business sectors to provide strategic foresight and market insights.

**b. Seizing Growth Opportunities in ASEAN**

Leveraging on our extensive experience in international markets, SCCCI will support Singapore enterprises in forging strong partnerships to seize the opportunities in ASEAN. This includes capitalising on the opportunities presented by the Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone, deepening industrial cooperation between ASEAN, China and global markets, and unlocking the full potential of ASEAN's economic integration.

**c. Driving Industry Transformation, Strengthening Workforce Upskilling**

In response to rapid technological advancements, intensifying competition, and evolving industry demands, SCCCI will provide more targeted and effective support for businesses. We will enhance cross-industry collaboration among trade associations and chambers, offering high-quality talent development and providing resources to facilitate business transformation.

**d. Venturing into New Frontiers, Bringing in New Members from Emerging Sectors**

To harness the opportunities brought about by the global technological revolution, SCCCI will broaden our membership base, in particular to attract enterprises from emerging sectors such as the green economy, digital economy and artificial

intelligence, in order to leverage one another's strengths and facilitate win-win cooperation.

**e. Upholding the Chinese Entrepreneurial Spirit, Nurturing Outstanding Young Entrepreneurs**

SCCCI will expand its network of young entrepreneurs across institutes of higher learning and the business community to nurture a new generation of young Chinese entrepreneurs who are strong and innovative leaders. At the same time, we will continue to nurture the next generation of talent through the SCCCI Scholars Network, empowering them to become the future pillars of our society.

7. Ladies and Gentlemen, SCCCI has journeyed through 119 years of transformation and progress, while Singapore has achieved six decades of remarkable growth, reaching a key milestone of SG60 this year! SCCCI always progresses with the nation, grows with the business community, and advances with the society.
8. Our forefathers have built a legacy with their hard work and dedication. The 62<sup>nd</sup> Council and I hold this mission and responsibility in the highest regard. We will remember our roots by upholding our forefathers' enduring values, staying united and contributing selflessly to build a more prosperous economy and stable society.
9. In closing, I once again thank all of you for the trust and support. With the strong support from the Government, business community, members as well as partners in Singapore and abroad, we look forward to working hand in hand with all of you to chart a new chapter in the development of Singapore's Chinese business community and build a more prosperous nation. Thank you!

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