

SPRING RECEPTION 2025
SPEECH BY SCCCI PRESIDENT KHO CHOON KENG
29 JANUARY 2025
SCCCI BUILDING

Mr Gan Kim Yong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry,
Mr Chan Chun Sing, Minister for Education,
Mr Edwin Tong, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth & Second Minister for Law,
Senior Ministers of State, Ministers of State and Members of Parliament,
Mr Lee Yi Shyan, Chairman of Business China,
Your Excellencies,
SCCCI Members,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. A very happy Lunar New Year to everyone! On behalf of the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCCI), I extend a warm welcome to all for joining us at this year's Spring Reception. I wish you and your families peace, success and great fortune in the Year of the Snake!
2. It is a double blessing this year as we also celebrate SG60. Singapore's 60 years of independence is a remarkable achievement. The future of our "Little Red Dot" is closely aligned with the Lunar New Year values of "unity" and "togetherness". These values symbolise the beginning of a new year and remind us that unity and solidarity are the keys to fostering good fortune, positive energy and fresh opportunities. It is only when we stand together as one united people that we can continue to build a stable society and prosperous economy. This will ensure that our nation remains on an upward path, bringing good health, happiness and prosperity to future generations – year after year, generation after generation!
3. The global landscape of today is highly unpredictable. Following the COVID-19 pandemic, challenges such as geopolitical tensions and conflicts, domestic unrest in different countries, rapid technological advancements and natural disasters caused by climate change are causes for concern. The escalating disputes among nations also

reflect the weakened trust between individuals, social stratification and conflicting values, posing significant challenges to global cooperation and harmony!

4. Thankfully, Singapore has continued to weather the storms and rise above the challenges in the past year, achieving remarkable results! Our economy has recorded its highest growth in years, our 4G leadership team has successfully taken over the helm, and Singapore-Malaysia ties are flourishing. These remind us that Singapore, built on a strong foundation and founding principles, is truly a blessed land. We must cherish and be grateful for what we have. At the same time, we must be even more vigilant to safeguard the peace and prosperity that did not come easy!

5. Earlier, we gathered around the “hotpot” in this auditorium for our “*tuan bai*” (團拜), where we exchanged Lunar New Year greetings and well wishes. The hotpot, though simple in concept, carries a profound message of “unity” and “togetherness”. Whether there is meat or only vegetables, the delicious broth brings warmth to our hearts. Similarly, when there is trust, sincerity, and a spirit of sharing among people, we can overcome challenges together and enjoy the fruits of our collective efforts. This embodies the timeless wisdom behind Singapore’s economic development and social harmony the past 60 years!

6. I am very happy to see today’s Spring Reception bringing together Singaporeans of diverse races and languages. “Regardless of race, language or religion”, we celebrate the Lunar New Year as one. This unity is built on our “hotpot broth” – our common vision “to build a democratic society”, as well as a harmonious and multiracial “Forward Singapore”. SCCCI will work even harder to uphold these important values, “so as to achieve happiness, prosperity and progress for our nation”.

7. Over the past year, SCCCI has worked tirelessly with our member companies to contribute to Singapore’s economy and society. We have actively explored opportunities relating to the Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone initiative and organised business missions

to Malaysia, Indonesia and over 10 municipalities in China, serving as a “bridge” to facilitate communication between the Government and the business community. We also support trade associations in their transformation journey, as well as give back to the society and promote sustainability. This includes establishing a scholarship with the Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS) to nurture the next generation of talent. On this note, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to all our partners for their strong support in building a more prosperous nation, economy and society together!

8. In this Year of the Snake, may the conflicts and hostility around the world give way to the path of shared progress and mutual benefit. I also wish everyone to be as agile as the snake in the new year, demonstrating sharp instincts and taking swift action to boldly seize opportunities. Let us strive together to scale greater heights and chart a new journey for Singapore in the next 60 years. Thank you!
