

SCCCI SCHOLARS' NIGHT
SPEECH BY SCCCI PRESIDENT KHO CHOON KENG
11 OCTOBER 2024
SCCCI BUILDING

新加坡中华总商会董事，
总商会奖学金得主，
各位来宾朋友们，

1. 大家晚上好！我谨代表新加坡中华总商会，热烈欢迎各位出席今天的奖学金得主之夜。
2. 总商会自 1906 年成立以来，本着“取之社会，用之社会”的无私奉献精神，长期支持公益慈善与文化事业，尤其是在支持教育、作育英才方面不遗余力，体现了“十年树木，百年树人”的传统价值观！
3. 总商会于新加坡独立后的 1966 年设立“新加坡中华总商会基金”，每年颁发奖学金给成绩优异的学生，至今已超过两千位奖学金得奖者。我们每年也和回教社会发展理事会（Yayasan MENDAKI）以及新加坡印度人发展协会（SINDA）联合颁发奖学金，不分种族和宗教，深具包容性地支持全民的教育。
4. 总商会的核心价值观本着“爱国、诚信、传承、创新、聚商”的精神，支持全国朝向这样一个新时代前进和发展。因此，各位除了在获取优越成绩的同时，也得牢记与落实这些价值观，来体现你们具有这些有历史贡献与意义的优良传统，同时又是与时俱进、敢于创新与追求梦想的过人之处！我衷心鼓励在座各位学生善用这份奖学金，精进课

业，学有所成，将来也能为国家、为经济、为社会回馈你们的力量！

接下来，我将以英语继续发言：

5. On behalf of the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCCI), it is my pleasure to welcome all of you to the inaugural Scholars' Night. This evening, we gather not only to congratulate a new batch of our scholarship recipients but also to reiterate the importance of nurturing talent, building character, and fostering a sense of duty and contribution back to the society.
6. Over the years, giving back to our society and promoting education is an integral part of SCCCI's mission. Since the establishment of the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce Foundation (SCCCF) in 1966, SCCCI has awarded more than 2,000 scholarships for students to complete their tertiary education, including our Malay and Indian students. As Singapore celebrated 59 years of independence this year, we are reminded of the Chinese saying “前人种树，后人乘凉”，which means “One generation plants the trees under whose shade another generation enjoys”. This reflects the foresight and selfless dedication of our pioneering forefathers who worked hard to lay the foundation selflessly for a secure, stable and prosperous Singapore that we enjoy today. Their efforts reminded us that success is not only about personal achievement but also about contributing for the greater good.

7. At the SCCCI Building Diamond Jubilee Celebration on the 17th of September, I have shared that SCCCI will donate \$1.2 million to the Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS). This is the sixth public university that we are establishing a scholarship with. At the same time, we will also continue to collaborate with Yayasan MENDAKI and SINDA to support education for all ethnic groups.
8. Last month, as part of our “SCCCI Care” (总商会关怀计划) community service initiative, our scholarship recipients packed and distributed a total of 1,000 care packs (惠民礼包) to families supported by the Chinese Development Assistance Council (CDAC), Yayasan MENDAKI, SINDA and Eurasian Association. Moving forward, SCCCI will organise more of such initiatives to bring our different communities together in a spirit of inclusiveness and giving back to our society.
9. As Prime Minister Lawrence Wong pointed out in his inaugural National Day Rally speech, “all of us, young and not so young, want a refreshed Singapore Dream”, “where we thrive and flourish on our own terms – in ways that are less prescribed and determined, more adventurous and open”. Together with SCCCI’s core values of “patriotism, integrity, succession, innovation and uniting businesses”, I am confident that as SCCCI’s scholars, you can make the mark with a difference in contributing back to our society while chasing your own “rainbow” and achieving your success.
10. We thus encourage our scholarship recipients to take up internship opportunities with SCCCI to gain experience and

understanding of the rationale, principle as well as the importance of trade associations' contribution to our country. In addition, we hope you will join SCCCI as members after completing your studies, and in the years to come, take up leadership roles in SCCCI as we work together for the progress of our business community, society and country.

11. In closing, I thank all our guests for your presence tonight, and once again I congratulate all our scholarship recipients and your families on this joyous occasion. Last but not least, I wish all of you good health and success in your endeavours! Thank you!
