

## **2014 Business China Enterprise Award Recipient**

### **Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry**

#### **Background**

- Established in 1906, the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCCI) is an internationally renowned business organisation and the apex body of the Chinese business community in Singapore.
- Founder of the biennial World Chinese Entrepreneurs Convention and the World Chinese Business Network, a global online business information portal linking Chinese businesses worldwide.
- Plays an active and important role in representing the interests of the local business community and is one of the largest and most influential Business Chamber in Singapore.
- Membership network of over 4,000 corporate members and 151 trade association members including large financial and business organisations, multinational corporations, government-linked companies, small and medium enterprises from a wide spectrum of trades and industries.

#### **Achievements**

- Acts as a bridge between the government and the private sector, contributing useful recommendations for the government's policy-making process and gathers feedback from the business community, thus helping to shape a more pro-business environment.
- Works closely with its trade association members to improve the capability of their respective industries and raise their overall competitiveness. In 2006, SCCCI launched the EDC@SCCCI, later renamed SME Centre@SCCCI, to help local SMEs and micro-enterprises adapt to changes in the business environment, and promote government assistance schemes. In 2008, it set up the SME Infocomm Resource Centre (SIRC@SCCCI) to help SMEs with information technology adoption. In 2013, the SCCCI launched satellite centres to help traditional industries and neighbourhood shops operating in the heartlands.
- Conceptualised and founded the inaugural World Chinese Entrepreneurs Convention (WCEC) in 1991 with the aim of congregating the global Chinese business community. Since then, the WCEC has been hosted by more than ten countries and regions around the world and serves as an important platform to strengthen economic cooperation amongst the global Chinese business community and to promote mutual understanding.
- In 2011, the SCCCI hosted the 11<sup>th</sup> WCEC, further strengthening its organisational structure and stature by making concerted changes to the overall organisation and programme format. It also designed a permanent logo and banner for the WCEC to ensure its continuity.

- Encourages local enterprises to expand overseas by organising numerous overseas business missions for its member companies. Its business missions, CEO training camps and International Business Fellowship programmes have left their footprints in more than 20 countries and regions within the continents of Asia, Europe, Oceania and Africa.
- The SCCCI pro-actively fosters social and cultural development by promoting Chinese culture, upholding the Chinese entrepreneurial spirit, and disbursing scholarships to groom future pillars of society. Through its specialised training subsidiary, it provides courses in Chinese language and culture, skills upgrading and management training.
- At the same time, the SCCCI promotes racial and social cohesion, taking strides to help new immigrants integrate into society, and support charitable causes of the nation.

### **Contribution to Singapore-China relationship**

- The SCCCI has been the point of trade, business and relational contacts between Singapore and China since its inception, way before the formalisation of bilateral ties. During the 1911 Chinese revolution, anti-Japanese protests, and working together with China to break the monopoly of the Western shipping conferences in the 1970s, the Chamber and China have always maintained a strong connectivity over the years.
- The SCCCI has expended great efforts to preserve and redevelop the Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall, the villa where Dr Sun Yat Sen had stayed in Singapore. The memorial hall is the overseas base of China's 1911 Revolution and a testimony to China's revolutionary activities. Besides being a strategic link for Singapore to engage with overseas Chinese, it is also a national-level tourist attraction and an important heritage museum that contributes to national education.
- With the rapid opening up of China's economy, the SCCCI's relations with China have also evolved. The SCCCI's representatives take active roles in the government-led Singapore-China Business Councils to promote bilateral trade and business cooperation and development.
- Apart from opening up the channels to expand Singapore business in China, the SCCCI also helps many Chinese provincial and municipal governments and their enterprises to organise investment seminars in Singapore. Each year, the SCCCI arranges business missions to China, signs MOUs with many national-level business organisations and municipal governments, and maintains close relations with China's representative offices locally.
- From the 1990s, the SCCCI began to provide management training courses to officials and entrepreneurs from Singapore and China. Government officials and entrepreneurs from China were trained at the SCCCI's subsidiary, and local entrepreneurs were also sent to China for training.

- In 2007, the SCCCI spearheaded the establishment of Business China. Business China uses Singapore as its base to build an effective business network with China, and encourages young Singaporeans to take a strong interest in Chinese language and culture; in doing so it grooms bilingual and bi-cultural pillars for Singapore society, and leverages on the opportunities provided by China's future economic development.
- In 2010, the SCCCI set up its first overseas representative office in Shanghai, and in 2013, the SCCCI joined hands with International Enterprise Singapore to upgrade the representative office into the IE-SCCCI Singapore Enterprise Centre (ISSEC). The work of ISSEC focuses on strengthening its relations with the China government and private sector, and assisting member companies to venture into the China market. At the same time, it also attracts China enterprises to do business in Singapore.
- The SCCCI's efforts in promoting Sino-Singapore business relations have been widely acknowledged by both governments. It was responsible for organising many high-level business activities on behalf of the local business community, received visits from many China political leaders, and actively engaged in and promoted collaborative projects of both countries.