

SICCI's 67th Annual General Meeting Dinner Reception, 28 April 2008
Speech by Mr Vijay Iyengar, Chairman-elect, SICCI

Guest of Honour, Mr Lim Swee Say, Minister, Prime Minister's Office
Excellencies
SICCI Advisors
Board of Directors and Members
Ladies and Gentlemen

I thank all of you for taking time and attending SICCI's 67th AGM Dinner. After the able leadership of my predecessor Mr Rajaram, I am extremely honoured to take over and chair the Board of this august institution particularly at a time that the Chamber has clearly evolved into an organisation that is taking its rightful role in national development. As elaborated by Mr Rajaram last year was an eventful year for the Chamber and I look forward to many more such vibrant years.

This is a challenging year to be taking office considering the world wide financial meltdown. At a time when caution appears to be the buzz word, opportunities will be plenty and the Chamber will do its bit to disseminate information and organising networking for sharing experiences that can better equip members to take advantage of these opportunities. I am confident that the incoming Board will be dedicated and work towards improving on the Chamber's successful initiatives and develop new ideas befitting the Chamber's long-lasting history.

Some of the key Thrusts and Initiatives that we will be focusing on include:

Membership and Networking

The new Board will strive to increase SICCI membership base by tapping inflow of new Indian companies to Singapore as well as the existing large base of Indian Professionals in Singapore; Their presence will be a resource base for our members and we will strive to give maximum opportunities for new members to network with counterparts in a business environment

Enterprise Development Centre, EDC@SICCI

The Enterprise Development Centre, EDC@SICCI, a subsidiary of the Chamber was successfully launched in early March 2008. This EDC@SICCI will play a pivotal role in assisting chamber members develop and expand their businesses;

SICCI-Institute of Business

SICCI-Institute of Business, a division within SICCI, will be developed into a full-fledged institute that will assist its members enhance their capabilities, by providing timely and relevant programmes. The institute will be hosting series of seminars, language classes, professional programmes and work-shops;

SICCI Youth

SICCI will be developing a discrete 'wing' that will strive to focus on recruitment and development of young Singapore Indian entrepreneurs; Rejuvenation has been one of the major issues that concern us and it is important for us to get the second and third generations of Singapore family businesses into the frame of chamber activities. The youth wing will be tasked with the responsibility of engaging young entrepreneurs and tailoring some of the chamber activities specifically towards them. Exposure to business practises and business environment in India will also be on the agenda. We have some youngsters on our Board who will spearhead this initiative;

SICCI Professionals

The Chamber will be developing a distinct division in line with the government's drive to encourage and promote entrepreneurship amongst the Singaporean professionals;

Corporate Citizenship

SICCI has always played its role as a corporate citizen and will continue to serve the needy Singaporeans by organising charity projects in the year 2008;

The Chamber has developed an in house event management capability and a data base and with the new facilities at the Chamber, Chamber members may consider using chamber facilities for some of their activities and meetings

Specifically, some of the key Events and Activities that you can look forward to over the coming months:

- SICCI, in collaboration with PA-Narpani Pearavai, will be organising the 'SICCI-Narpani Youth Enterprise Award 2008' which is a part of the 'Entrepreneurship Carnival' which will be held on 8 June 2008; This is our effort to widen the knowledge of entrepreneurship among adults and youth at the grass root level
- The Chamber will be organising a Business Mission to India from 14 to 21 June 2008 which would cover Ahmadabad, Cochin and Coimbatore – the emerging cities of India; This is part of our drive to take members to 2nd and 3rd tier Indian cities to explore opportunities there
- After the successful business mission to China in 2007, SICCI, in collaboration with the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry, will be organising a business mission to China covering the cities of Beijing and Tianjin in the month of September 2008;
- SICCI will be organising a two-day business conference in the month of October, which amalgamates key industry players, government officials and potential businessmen from Singapore and other Asia Pacific regions;
- The on-going initiatives, which include the SICCI-DBS Singapore-India Business Award and SICCI-DBS Singapore Indian Entrepreneur Awards, will continue and the awards presentation will be held in conjunction with SICCI's Anniversary Celebrations in October 2008;
- In line with the successful business missions organised to the emerging markets, SICCI will also be looking at organising business missions to Vietnam and the UAE during the month of November;

I would like to thank Minister Lim Swee Say for his presence here tonight. The government has always been open and responsive to working with us and we look forward to more such interaction in the years to come

Lastly, on behalf of the incoming board, I would like to assure all SICCI members that our key goal would always be to serve you. My Board of Directors and I will be available for any input and suggestions from members on a continual basis The Chamber has tremendous potential and future and will definitely continue to be of Singapore's most respected and active commercial organisations.

Once again I thank all of you for your presence here and look forward to successful years ahead.

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