

**SICCI's 70th Annual General Meeting Sinner Reception, 13 April 2011**  
**Welcome Address by Mr R Narayanamohan, Chairman, SICCI**

Mr Gan Kim Yong, Minister for Manpower, Singapore  
Excellencies  
SICCI Advisors and Board of Directors  
SICCI Members  
Distinguished Guests  
Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry, I extend a warm welcome to you to this evening's reception which marks SICCI's 70th Annual General Meeting (AGM). This year's AGM Dinner is significant and special for two reasons. The first is that it marks the first full term of my term as Chairman and for my Board.

Dear friends, It has been one year since we came together to write another chapter in SICCI's growth and evolution. Much of SICCI's achievements can be found in the Annual Report. I will, therefore, limit myself to just few points – acknowledging those who have brought SICCI to where it is today, and sharing with you the key areas of focus of SICCI in the coming months ahead.

The last AGM in April 2010 witnessed the re-election of several Directors as well as the election of new Directors, in particular, the Executive Committee, ensuring both continuity and change at the Chamber. The re-election of the Directors has ensured continuity while the new Directors have brought new and fresh perspectives. Together, they have helped to further advance the Chamber in the last one year.

SICCI's philosophy has always been to be "*forward looking*". All our activities are dedicated to building networks, connecting businesses and creating opportunities for our members. This is apparent in every programme and event that we initiate for our members.

In the last one year, SICCI undertook many notable events and programmes. All in all, organised more than 90 events and programmes and supported 75 events – all with the aim of serving our broad and diverse membership. These events have facilitated the transfer of knowledge and understanding on key issues relating to businesses locally, regionally and internationally. They have also provided important networking opportunities for our members to expand their contacts as well as explore business opportunities in Singapore and beyond.

SICCI is determined to ensure a conducive and favourable business environment that will enable our member companies of all sizes and from various sectors to grow and flourish on a local and global scale. My Board and I have endeavoured to fulfil the pledge and commitment we made at the last AGM. Moving forward, we have identified several key areas for the Chamber.

- We will focus on initiatives on productivity and innovation. Amongst others, we will explore ways and means to tap on the National Productivity Fund and work with the National Productivity and Continuing Education Council for the benefit of our members.
- We will strengthen collaboration with professional organisations through joint events and invitation to participate in SICCI's events and programmes.
- Following missions to Indochina last year, we will lead business missions to emerging markets such as Uzbekistan, Mauritius and Indonesia in the next 12 months. We will also organise a business mission to India as well as explore the possibility of a business mission to China in collaboration with the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry.
- There will also be a greater focus on publications for SICCI members. We have undertaken a publication project on doing business in India and several of its key states. Moving on, we will publish a regular newsletter which will keep SICCI members.

- Last but not least, we are undertaking a corporate branding exercise for SICCI. The exercise will include SICCI's corporate, programme and membership brochures, newsletter and the website.

The second reason for the importance of this evening's gathering is that we will pay homage and recognise members who have had long and continued membership with the Chamber. This is a new initiative by the Chamber – one which we deemed important and timely. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my deepest gratitude to SICCI's long-serving members whose support and involvement in the Chamber all these years have been instrumental in ensuring its growth, progress and success.

The ceremony today underlines the importance that SICCI places on the support and contributions of its members. In many ways, the plaque presentation ceremony is more than just about recognition – it also represents long-lasting friendship. With such strong partnership between the Chamber and the members, I strongly believe that SICCI will continue to be the business partner of choice.

Ladies and gentlemen, in closing, I would like to thank SICCI's Advisors, Directors, members and the Secretariat. Without their support, commitment and participation, SICCI would not have achieved the success that it did in recent times. I am confident that the collective strength and wisdom of this partnership will produce even greater benefits for the members and take SICCI to even greater heights.

It has been a tremendous honour and pleasure for my Board and me in serving you in the last one year. We look forward to a rewarding and enriching year ahead. With that, I wish you a fruitful and entertaining evening.

Thank you.

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