

Statement by Ambassador Ishikawa Hiroshi at  
Japan Fintech Reception 2025

11 November 2025

Mr. Takeshi Kito, CEO, GFTN Japan,  
Mr. Masao Shimazaki, Deputy Director-General, FSA Japan,  
Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

A very good evening to you all. It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the Japan Fintech Reception at my residence. I am delighted to host this gathering for the fourth consecutive year among distinguished leaders and innovators.

First, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to GFTN Japan and Mr. Takeshi Kito for making this event possible on the eve of the Singapore FinTech Festival. This year marks the 10th anniversary of SFF, now the world's premier fintech gathering. Japan is proud to have been an active participant, reflecting our commitment to financial innovation and cross-border collaboration.

Indeed, earlier today, I had the privilege of joining the Insights Forum, particularly the 'Japan in the Spotlight - Connecting Financial Corridors across Asia' session. It was truly insightful, demonstrating Japan's significant leadership in digital finance and its crucial role in connecting financial networks across Asia. I was particularly impressed by the lively discussions and fresh perspectives, and I am pleased that Mr. Masao Shimazaki, whom you will hear from shortly, was one of the key speakers.

This year, Singapore celebrates its 60th anniversary of independence, showcasing its extraordinary transformation into a global financial and technology hub. Next year, Japan and Singapore will commemorate the 60th anniversary of our diplomatic relations, which we call SJ60, under the theme "Co-imagine, Co-create, Co-evolve." This offers an excellent opportunity to deepen our bilateral cooperation in fintech and beyond.

We have seen tremendous innovation in financial technology, from

blockchain to AI-driven services. This event underscores the critical role of collaboration. Partnerships between Japanese institutions and fintech innovators from Singapore and worldwide are key to advancing our sector. As we celebrate these milestones, I am confident our collaboration will lead to greater prosperity.

Tonight's reception aims to strengthen relationships among the Japanese, Singaporean, and global fintech communities, fostering discussions and partnerships. I am particularly excited about this evening's program: a keynote speech from Mr. Masao Shimazaki.; a fireside chat on "Connecting Financial Corridors" with representatives from Tokyo, Osaka, Fukuoka, and Sapporo and; pitch presentations from four innovative Japanese fintech startups participating in SFF's Japanese Pavilion: Finatext, Sustainable Lab, Soramitsu, and Cappy. It promises to be an enriching program.

Of course, no Japanese reception would be complete without exceptional Japanese cuisine. We are honored to present dishes by AKANE, the flagship restaurant of the Japanese Association, which will hold a celebration ceremony for completing its renovation Saturday next week. Let me also introduce our residence chef, Mr. Tsunoda, here. He will prepare Tempura tonight, so I strongly encourage you to visit the live tempura station. We also have a fine selection of Japanese sake.

Thank you for being here tonight. I look forward to inspiring conversations and the continued evolution of fintech as we drive the next wave of innovation together. Please enjoy the evening.

Thank you.