

Statement by Ambassador Ishikawa Hiroshi at
Namiki Exhibition Opening Ceremony

13 November 2025

His Excellency Ambassador Tommy Koh,
Mr Fumio Fujisaki, President of Pilot Corporation,
Mr Taisuke Ryu, Managing Director of Pilot Pen Singapore,
Mr Ng Siew Quan, First Vice President of Singapore Chinese Chamber of
Commerce & Industry,
Dr Iskandar Jalil,
Distinguished guests, Ladies and gentlemen,

Good evening.

It is my great honour to welcome all of you to the opening of this special exhibition, “The Timeless Craftsmanship of Maki-e: Namiki – Past, Present, Future”. This exhibition celebrates the artistry and enduring heritage of Japan’s traditional Maki-e lacquer craft, which continues to inspire admiration both in Japan and around the world.

It is a privilege to once again witness here in Singapore, such an exquisite display of finely crafted fountain pens that embody the spirit of Maki-e, the centuries-old Japanese art of painting with lacquer and precious metals. Each piece represents not only exceptional craftsmanship but also Japan’s aesthetic sensibility and pursuit of harmony and refinement.

Some of you may recall that in 2014, Japan Creative Centre presented an exhibition featuring Namiki Maki-e fountain pens produced between 1998 and 2014.

This time, you will see the newer masterpieces created between 2016 and 2022, as well as the 2025 limited edition, “Blooming Flowers in Profusion”. We are deeply honoured to have His Excellency Ambassador Tommy Koh as our Guest of Honour this evening. Ambassador Koh is a long-time friend of Japan, a distinguished advocate for cultural exchange, and now, the Special Advisor to the Executive Committee to celebrate the 60th anniversary of our bilateral friendship next year. Taking this opportunity,

I would like to reiterate my thankfulness to his continued dedication to ever deeper mutual understanding between Singapore and Japan.

Each fountain pen on display stands as a testament to the enduring dialogue between tradition and innovation, transforming an object of daily use into one of artistic and cultural significance.

We are also privileged to welcome two distinguished guests from Japan: Mr Seiki Chida from Kokkokai, the group of Maki-e artisans, and Mr Kiyoshi Hasegawa, the Pilot pen doctor. Through their demonstrations, we will have the rare opportunity to witness the skill, patience, and dedication that sustain this remarkable craft.

In closing, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all those who made this exhibition possible, in particular, Ms Constance Tan and her team for their kind cooperation and support.

Thank you very much for joining us this evening. I hope you will enjoy this celebration of Japanese craftsmanship and artistry, and that it will deepen your appreciation for the timeless beauty of Maki-e.