

Statement by Ambassador Ishikawa Hiroshi at
JET Homecoming Gala

3 December 2025

Mr Takano Kazuki, Executive Director of J.CLAIR Singapore,
Ms Hoong Shao Ting, President of the JET Alumni Association of Singapore,
Distinguished guests, Ladies and gentlemen,

Good evening. I am delighted to join all of you this evening at the JET Homecoming Gala.

For those of you who have returned from Japan, welcome home. Congratulations on your outstanding achievements – be it in teaching English to Japanese students or working in local administrations. Each one of you has made a significant contribution toward bridging Japan and Singapore closer together.

Since 1987, The JET Programme has been promoting international grassroots exchanges between Japan and the rest of the world, including Singapore. It is now recognized as one of Japan's most successful exchange programmes.

The Singapore JET programme began in 1999, and a total of 528 Singaporeans have participated since then. I am delighted to share that Singaporean participants are highly regarded for their hard work and adaptability and are much loved and respected in Japanese communities.

It is heartwarming to see that many alumni continue to support Japan-Singapore exchanges. Next year marks the 60th anniversary of the diplomatic relations between Japan and Singapore, or what we call SJ60. I would like to highlight that the daily interactions and support provided by all the JET alumni in their respective communities have cumulatively contributed to building and enhancing our long-lasting bilateral friendship.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank J.CLAIR Singapore and JET Alumni Association, or JETAA Singapore, for their dedication and commitment to enriching the JET programme all these years. Your

consistent support has made the JET programme more viable and meaningful, further accelerating our bilateral friendship through interactions across various regions of Japan.

Also with us here tonight are guests from various Japan-related organisations. Thank you for your attendance. I am particularly pleased that we could once again have this welcome event here at the Japanese Association, especially in this newly renovated building, which has been constantly contributing to friendship and goodwill between Japan and Singapore for many years. Together with all of you here, I look forward to making SJ60 a great success in 2026.

Again, to all those who have returned from Japan, may your experiences there become cherished memories and valuable assets. I truly hope that you will also continue to walk with us towards SJ60 and beyond, nurturing our friendship for many years to come.

Everyone, please enjoy the rest of your evening.