

Statement by Ambassador Ishikawa Hiroshi at Tokyo Node Night, held at
One&Co

22 April 2026

Mr. Takahiko Ito, CEO of N9,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

A very good evening to everyone. Thank you very much for inviting me to TOKYO NODE NIGHT today. It is a great pleasure to see such a diverse group of entrepreneurs, corporates, investors, and ecosystem leaders gathered here today. I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to all of you, for your continued contribution in strengthening the partnership between Singapore and Japan.

Today's gathering is extremely timely and strategically significant in the context of our bilateral cooperation. Just a month ago, Prime Minister Lawrence Wong made his first official visit to Japan, and agreed with Prime Minister Takaichi on establishing strategic partnership between the two countries. Among a number of areas for our future collaboration, the two leaders articulated promoting open innovation and co-creation as well as enhancing startup cooperation as a dynamic area for further actions. This is, I believe, a clear representation of the spirit of the 60th anniversary of our bilateral friendship we are celebrating this year: Co-imagine, Co-create, Co-evolve.

In recent years, the Singapore-Japan relationship has been increasingly driven by innovation and co-creation. Many Japanese delegations visiting Singapore from the government, parliament and business sectors are seeking even more opportunities for innovative partnership. A remarkable development we have witnessed this year in this regard was a defence technology workshop held at the Singapore Airshow in February – the first-ever occasion where cutting-edge defence technologies of the two countries met together seeking better defence solutions. Also in Japan, the brand-new Singapore Chamber of Commerce in Japan, SCCJ in short, was founded in last December, have been pro-actively facilitating interactions between Singaporean and Japanese startup communities.

Looking ahead, “SusHi Tech Tokyo”, which will take place next week, will bring together startups, global companies, investors, and city leaders from around the world to explore and build solutions for sustainable cities – another promising area for cooperation between us. In the light of that, it is therefore particularly meaningful that conversations and connections are already beginning here in Singapore — even before the main event in Tokyo. I sincerely hope that the discussions and encounters this evening will not remain as one-time exchanges, but will continue to grow into concrete collaborations in Tokyo and beyond.

The Government of Japan will continue to support cooperation between the innovation ecosystems of our two countries proactively and creatively. I would like to wish tonight’s event a success, and for everyone gathered here continued happiness, good health, and the prosperity for both Singapore and Japan.

With that, I conclude my remarks. Thank you very much.