

Statement by Ambassador Ishikawa Hiroshi at
The JET Farewell Reception 2026

15 July 2026

Mr Takano Kazuki, Executive Director of J.CLAIR Singapore,

Ms Yuka Ong, President of the JET Programme Alumni Association of Singapore,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good evening. Thank you for joining us this evening for the JET Farewell Reception 2026.

First and foremost, a warm welcome and congratulations to our new JET participants as you prepare to embark on this exciting journey.

Over the years, the JET Programme has served as a bridge connecting the diverse regions of Japan with the wider world, fostering meaningful cross-cultural exchanges. Now, it is your turn to contribute to this proud and enduring legacy. I commend each of you on your decision to live and work in Japan.

I would also like to express my gratitude to J.CLAIR Singapore and JETAA Singapore for your continued dedication to the JET Programme. Your organisations play a vital role in strengthening the bond and mutual understanding between Singapore and Japan.

My appreciation also goes to the Japanese School Singapore. I understand that, as in previous years, the teachers graciously welcomed the JET ALT trainees and provided them with the opportunity to observe their classes. I am sure that this experience has been extremely beneficial in helping our new JET participants gain insight into Japanese school education and in equipping them to plan and deliver their own lessons at their respective schools.

As you may already know, this year marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Singapore and Japan, a milestone we are celebrating as SJ60.

Singapore and Japan share a long and rich history of people-to-people exchanges at various levels. This includes the JET Programme, in which Singapore has participated since 1999. To our new JET participants, I offer my warmest congratulations as you depart for Japan during this momentous year.

If you encounter any challenges along the way, please remember that you are never alone — support is always available from the friends beside you here today, and from those whom you will meet in Japan.

I wish you a fulfilling and truly memorable experience in Japan.

Thank you.