

Statement by Ambassador Ishikawa Hiroshi at
The Young Entrepreneurs Group (YEG) Young Business Leaders Network
(YBLN) Reception

28 July 2026

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and gentlemen,

A very good evening to all, and a warm welcome to my residence.

It is truly a pleasure to host all of you this evening. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Young Entrepreneur Group from Japan, YEG, and the Singapore Young Business Leaders Network, YBLN, for organizing this event.

YEG has been strengthening collaborations with Overseas Young Entrepreneurs Organizations to support Japanese small and medium sized enterprises to expand business overseas. This year, YEG signed Memorandum of Understandings with five young business leaders organizations in Southeast Asia, namely Brunei, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar and YBLN in Singapore. These MOUs aim to accelerate the networking of young business leaders and promote cross-borders business-matching between Japan and this region, in addition to facilitating the exchange of young business leaders to foster business collaborations.

Against this background, today's networking reception is truly a commemorative one, as it is the first event organized by YEG and YBLN since the MOU signing, which embodies the spirit of cooperation between the two groups.

As you may have already noticed the logo displayed here, this year, we are celebrating the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Singapore and Japan, or SJ60 in short. The slogan for this celebration agreed by the governments of Singapore and Japan is: Co-imagine, Co-create, and Co-evolve. Behind this slogan, there is a firm conviction that now the two countries are destined to look toward the future together and create solutions hand in hand as we continue to progress in this world.

In this regard, a key to our shared future is people-to-people exchange, particularly among young generations. The collaboration between YBLN and YEG is, therefore, a cornerstone not only for our bilateral business cooperation but also for our partnership in a broader context. Tomorrow, they will co-host a panel discussion on business collaboration between Singapore and Japan at the Singapore Business Federation. I look forward to many fruitful discussions at tomorrow's meeting, which will certainly be yet another step towards the successful conclusion of SJ60.

Finally, please allow me to once again extend my warmest congratulations to YEG and YBLN, as well as wish for the continued success of all the guests gathered here this wonderful evening.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.