

Statement by Ambassador Ishikawa Hiroshi at
the FC Jurong Kick-off Party

02 September 2026

Mr. Xie Yao Quan, Advisor, Jurong Central Grassroots Organisation, and
Deputy Speaker of Parliament,

Mr. Takao Shinkura, Chairman, Takasago Singapore Private Limited (Pte
Ltd), and all the partners supporting FC Jurong,

Mr. Daisuke Korenaga, Chairman of FC Jurong,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

A very good evening to you all. It is my great pleasure to join you
today at the FC Jurong 2026/2027 Kick-off party.

First of all, I would like to extend my warm congratulations to FC
Jurong as you embark on a new season. I wish the players, coaches,
management and partners every success in the year ahead.

This season is particularly special as the club, formerly known as
Albirex Niigata Singapore, begins an exciting new chapter under the name
FC Jurong. The change reflects the club's commitment to becoming even
more deeply rooted in Singapore society and strengthening its connection
with the local community. I am confident that FC Jurong will continue to grow
as a source of pride for Jurong and for Singapore football as a whole.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of
diplomatic relations between Japan and Singapore, known as "SJ60". Since
1966, our two countries have built a strong partnership based on trust,
friendship and close cooperation across various fields including culture and
sports.

In this context, I believe FC Jurong has a special role to play. For more than 20 years, Albirex Niigata Singapore has contributed greatly not only to the development of football culture in Singapore, but also to people-to-people exchanges in a wider context between our two countries, which have already been the cornerstone of our friendship.

I am hopeful that FC Jurong will continue to serve as a bridge between Japan and Singapore. While the name has changed, the spirit of friendship, cooperation and exchange between the two countries remains as strong as ever.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to everyone who has supported the club over the years, including the management, coaches, players, sponsors, and fans.

As FC Jurong begins this new season, I wish the club every success, both on and off the pitch. May it continue to strengthen its ties with the community and contribute to an ever-closer relationship between Japan and Singapore.

Thank you very much, and Go FC Jurong!