

Statement by Ambassador Ishikawa Hiroshi at
the Japanese Association Singapore (JAS) Open House

12 September 2026

A very good morning to everyone.

Thank you very much for inviting me to the Japanese Association's Open House today. It is a delight to be here with you all, together with our Guest of Honour, Member of Parliament Ms. Valerie Lee, as well as a special guest from Japan, Mr. Yohei Onishi, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs.

It is also my great pleasure to have many members of the local community and across Singapore, to have a deeper understanding of the Japanese Association and its activities. Indeed, MP Lee's presence today symbolizes a growing partnership between the Japanese Association and local communities of Singapore, as she has been continuously supporting JAS's Natsu-Matsuri held in Changi area, as an MP from Pasir Ris-Changi GRC.

I would like to send my special thankfulness to MP Lee for enduring dedication to grassroots initiatives to support the development of the local community.

And our special guest, Mr. Onishi, is visiting Singapore mainly for joining the 19th Japan-Singapore Symposium. In his keynote speech at the event, he recalled the strong relationship that the two countries have cultivated over 60 years, and reaffirmed his commitment to working further to advance our bilateral cooperation into our ever-better shared future, and for regional peace and prosperity.

In this commemorative year for SJ60, it is extremely encouraging for us to welcome Mr. Onishi here today to witness how active Japanese community in Singapore is exchanging with local communities as well as helping one another for their higher, positive presence in Singapore.

Last but not least, as Mr. Ashida mentioned, I am deeply grateful to the Japanese Association and all its members who have been conducting a number of events to commemorate SJ60. As of today, the number of commemorative events in Singapore has reached 263, and it had outnumbered that of SJ50 already in July. This rapid growth would not have been possible without your contribution, and I look forward to working with everyone to make the upcoming flagship event in November a great success.

With the hope that the friendship between Singapore and Japan will continue to be strengthened in deeper and meaningful ways, I would like to conclude my opening remarks.

Thank you.