

Statement by Ambassador Ishikawa Hiroshi at
the SEIKO Manufacturing Singapore 50th Anniversary Event

17 September 2026

Your Excellency Dr. Tan See Leng, Minister for Trade and Industry (Energy and Industry),

Mr. Akio Naito, Director and Senior Executive Vice President of Seiko Group Corporation, and President of Seiko Watch Corporation,

Mr. Yosuke Murai, Managing Director of Seiko Manufacturing Singapore,

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and gentlemen,

A very good evening to you all. First and foremost, I would like to offer my heartfelt congratulations to SEIKO Manufacturing Singapore on your 50th anniversary. I would also like to extend my deepest gratitude to Mr. Naito, Mr. Murai and everyone involved for their tireless efforts in organising this milestone event.

During the founding of Singapore as an independent nation and under the resolute leadership of the late Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, Singapore proactively sought to attract Japanese manufacturers for its economic growth and prosperity. In response to this call, one of the first few companies that expanded into Singapore was SEIKO, which set up its first overseas manufacturing site in 1973, less than 10 years after our official diplomatic ties were forged.

Since then, Prime Minister Lee attended SEIKO's official foundation ceremony in 1976 as well as its 15th and 30th anniversary celebrations, showing just how special SEIKO was to him. With over 5,000 Japanese companies operating in Singapore today, we must never forget SEIKO as one of the pioneers.

Two generations ago, Singapore was chosen as a manufacturing base for Japanese companies. Today, it has increasingly solidified its presence as a "trusted regional hub" - a dynamic hub that drives growth, innovation, and talent development with unmatched speed and agility. As

Japan Embassy, we are not just helping Japanese companies enter the local market; we are also looking at the whole Southeast Asia and beyond, promoting open innovation and fostering entrepreneurship, often based on joint initiatives.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we celebrate the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Singapore and Japan this year, I am reminded of the SJ60 slogan: **Co-imagine, Co-create, Co-evolve**. This spirit represents our shared firm conviction to ensure an open, prosperous, inclusive and resilient future for not only our two countries but also for the rest of the world. This was reaffirmed in the joint statement issued earlier in March this year, where our bilateral relations were officially elevated to a "Strategic Partnership."

Against this backdrop, the 50-year contribution by SEIKO to Singapore stands as one of the most compelling examples of the deep, long-term trust and the strong economic ties between us. What SEIKO has built together with its Singaporean friends is not merely a manufacturing base; it is a living demonstration of Japan's unwavering commitment to going ahead to a brighter future hand-in-hand with Singapore. It is my sincere hope that SEIKO will take today's opportunity to open a new chapter of its friendship with Singapore over the next 50 years.

To conclude, please allow me to once again extend my warmest congratulations to SEIKO Manufacturing Singapore, and to wish for continued success to all the guests gathered here today.

Thank you very much.