

Statement by Ambassador Ishikawa Hiroshi at
the JMSDF Award Ceremony Presentation

23 September 2026

Good afternoon, Ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you very much for joining us today for the presentation ceremony of the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force Achievement Award.

First and foremost, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Captain Goh on receiving this distinguished award.

I am also very honoured by the attendance by Captain Goh's family today. I am sure that this is a very proud and special occasion for all of you as well, and I hope you will take great pride in this well-deserved recognition of Captain Goh's achievements.

Captain Goh graduated with the highest marks in his class from the Naval Junior Officers' Course in December 2025. I understand that, throughout the course, he volunteered to serve as Course Leader, where he demonstrated outstanding leadership by bringing his fellow officers together and contributing significantly to the overall success of the course.

In recognition of these achievements, I am truly delighted that we are able to present the JMSDF Achievement Award today to such a brilliant young officer, who embodies the professionalism, leadership, and potential of the Republic of Singapore Navy's next generation.

This year marks a significant milestone for Japan and Singapore as we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. Our defense relationship has also developed steadily over many years through extensive exchanges between respective services as well as individuals. In particular, the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force and the Republic of Singapore Navy took another important step forward this August with the conduct of SINGAPAN, our first bilateral naval exercise.

Against this backdrop, I believe it is particularly meaningful that, in this milestone year, we recognize a young officer who will certainly

contribute to shape the future of our two navies.

Captain Goh, I hope that this award will encourage you to continue striving for even greater achievements in the years ahead. I also sincerely hope that, throughout your career, you will continue to serve as a bridge between the two nations, and two navies.

I hope that today's presentation will be a memorable occasion for you, and that it will also mark another important step in carrying forward the friendship and mutual trust between the JMSDF and the Republic of Singapore Navy to the next generation.

Once again, Captain Goh, my heartfelt congratulations on receiving the JMSDF Achievement Award.

Thank you very much.