

Statement by Ambassador Ishikawa Hiroshi at
the Sports and Style Festival 2026

25 September 2026

Mr. Desmond Tan, Senior Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office,

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and gentlemen,

A very good evening to all. First of all, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to ABC HORIZON, Singapore Golf Association (SGA) and NTUC Club for inviting me to Sports & Style Festival 2026 Singapore today.

Sports and wellness are increasingly relevant topics in Singapore, as awareness of healthy living and participation in recreational activities continue to grow. This trend is reflected in the rising interest in activities such as jogging, cycling, pickleball, gym exercises, golf and even winter sports, creating opportunities for people to explore new ways to stay active and enjoy their leisure time.

I am a golf player myself, so I cannot resist expressing my personal interest in this event - in other words, I am also an ordinary visitor here. From that perspective, I find this event appealing particularly because it brings together sports experiences and lifestyle elements in one place, allowing visitors to explore new activities, products, and experiences in an actively engaging environment.

As you may have already noticed a SJ 60 logo at the backdrop, this year, we are celebrating the 60th anniversary of the diplomatic relationship between Singapore and Japan, or SJ60 in short.

As a highlight of this year's celebration, Prime Minister Lawrence Wong visited Japan in March, where the two leaders announced the elevation of our bilateral relationship to a Strategic Partnership. Among the many areas for future cooperation, people-to-people exchanges always lay indispensable foundations, only by which we can nurture our cooperation in other areas. And I believe that sports exchanges are their critical component, making players closer to one another in a most effective way.

Based on this recognition, I am confident that today's event will contribute not only to strengthening individual people-to-people exchanges between Singapore and Japan but also to bringing our two nations even closer together.

Last but not least, I would like to celebrate the successful opening of the Sports & Style Festival 2026 Singapore, and wish everyone gathered here continued happiness, good health, and prosperity. Thank you very much.