

Statement by Ambassador Ishikawa Hiroshi at
the Science Tokyo and NUS X Forum

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Prof. Yoichi Oshima, Executive Vice President, Science Tokyo,

Prof. Kiyoteru Tsutsui, Director, Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center,
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Prof. Benjamin Tee, Vice President, NUS X,

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and gentlemen,

A very good afternoon to you all. First and foremost, I would like to offer my heartfelt congratulations to Science Tokyo and NUS X on the co-organising of this wonderful forum.

I would also like to extend my deepest gratitude to everyone involved for their tireless efforts in organising this event.

Today, the level of uncertainty in the world continues to increase — with the situation in the Middle East and Ukraine remaining unpredictable, tariff measures affecting the global economy, and the economic and tech competition between the US and China affecting not only the multilateral trade regime but also the global geopolitics.

Above all, the Iran War that broke out in February triggered a blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, causing an ongoing surge in energy prices. It has been a very real and mutual threat to Singapore and Japan, both which heavily depend on foreign crude oil producers.

Indeed, Singapore and Japan share most fundamental strategic interests in the midst of these challenges. I believe that, over recent years, or perhaps months, our common aim to ensure economic growth by maintaining a free, open, predictable domain in the Indo-Pacific, and promoting open innovation, will contribute to enhancing the welfare of people.

To reach that end, it is critical to establish and nurture a multilayered network of our communications, engaging all the stakeholders from the public, private, and particularly, the academic sectors.

In these endeavours, closer collaboration between the private enterprises' research institutions is always key, in terms of effective and efficient implementation of cutting-edge research outcomes into solutions for actual socio-economic challenges. And I believe that the significance of today's gathering also lies here.

With regard to open innovation, what is vital for us is to encourage Japanese academic organizations to collaborate with innovative and competitive start-ups in Asia. At this point, NUS is definitely the centre of excellence in this region. I sincerely hope that today's convention will be the first page of a bright, shared future between two universities, planting seeds of a number of collaborative initiatives in the future to come that will help Singapore and Japan to address our common challenges.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We celebrate the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Singapore and Japan this year. Here at this podium, I recall 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. Partnership between Science Tokyo and NUS X in Singapore is, without doubt, a clear demonstration of this conviction.

To conclude, please allow me to once again extend my warmest congratulations to Science Tokyo and NUS X, and to wish for the continued success to all the guests gathered here today.

Thank you very much.