

**SPEECH BY SENIOR MINISTER OF STATE FOR MANPOWER,  
SUSTAINABILITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT DR. KOH POH KOON,  
CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE SINGAPORE-NANJING SPECIAL  
PROJECTS COOPERATION PANEL (SNCP)  
AT THE 10<sup>TH</sup> SNCP MEETING,  
16 MAY 2023, NANJING**

尊敬的陈之常市长 (Mayor Chen Zhichang),

各位嘉宾,

大家下午好

1. 非常高兴能与大家相聚在南京,也很荣幸能和陈市长第一次一起联合主持今天的会议。这是新宁会第十次的会议,也是疫情后第一次线下开会,所以特别有意义。
2. 今天参会的还有近 30 位新加坡企业和商会代表。逐年来,企业们在南京活跃于不同领域,也不断寻找新契机,促进新加坡与南京的共同合作与发展。
3. 在此,我要感谢陈市长及南京团队的细心安排和招待,让这次会议能顺利举行。接下来,我会以英语发言。

**Growing Partnership between Singapore and Nanjing**

4. Over the years, Singapore and Nanjing's partnership remained steadfast. Trade flows between Singapore and Nanjing remained strong, with total trade amounting to about US\$1.3 billion in 2022. On the investment front, there were more than 500 Singapore projects in Nanjing as of end-2022, amounting to US\$3.6 billion in cumulative actual investment.
5. Nanjing remains attractive to Singapore companies from a diverse range of sectors, including:

- a. healthcare,
- b. transport and logistics,
- c. lifestyle and modern services,
- d. water and energy management,
- e. and tech and innovation.

6. For example:

- a. Keppel Land acquired a senior living project in Qixia (栖霞) district late last year. This is the company's first foray into the China senior living market, making quality medical and elder care amenities accessible to the elderly in Nanjing.
- b. On the renewable energy front, Singapore Eagle Renewable Energy, a company that develops, invests in, and operates renewable energy projects, has also set up its Nanjing office in March this year, to service more Nanjing companies and promote the use of renewable energy.

7. Our Trade Associations and Chambers are also facilitating more opportunities for Singapore companies in Nanjing.

8. At the last SNCP meeting, we announced the establishment of the Singapore Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry's (SCCCI) Jiangsu Representative Office.

9. Today, I hear that SCCCI's new representative office has been set up here on the Singapore-Nanjing Eco Hi-Tech Island. It will serve as a gateway for Singapore companies, especially the small and medium enterprises, to expand into Jiangsu or broader China, through Nanjing.

### **SNEHTI as a testbed for sustainability and green solutions**

10. Just before today's meeting, Mayor Chen and I toured the Eco Island. I am happy to note the new partnerships forged to advance exchanges and collaborations, especially in the area of sustainability.

11. First, new partnerships have been forged to advance research on sustainability. One of the sites that Mayor Chen and I visited just now was the Yangtze River Innovation Centre for Ecological Protection. At last year's Singapore-Jiangsu Cooperation Council (SJCC)

meeting, the Centre signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Singapore Nanyang Technological University and Nanjing University to conduct joint research work in industrial organics wastewater pre-treatment, resource utilisation and others. Through such collaboration, Singapore and Nanjing academia can work together to better understand sustainability issues and co-develop new solutions.

12. Second, at the enterprise level, Sembcorp's International Water Hub, or IWH for short, has been supporting innovative companies to land on the Eco Island.

13. I am happy to announce that Sembcorp will be rolling out a new initiative, Singapore Water Technology Overseas Landing Pad, to support Singapore water companies looking to expand into China. Through this programme supported by Enterprise Singapore, Sembcorp will avail its R&D facilities and office spaces at IWH to these startups to conduct lab-scale and pilot-scale trials.

14. This new initiative, together with the MOU that Sembcorp IWH and the Singapore Water Association signed last year to support the commercialisation of water technologies, provides the resources and network to support Singapore water technology companies in their commercialisation efforts in China.

15. I hope that the IWH can serve as a landing pad for Singapore's innovative companies to testbed and pilot new solutions to meet the sustainability needs of Nanjing and the rest of China.

16. These are some examples of ongoing and new sustainability-related initiatives on the island that are building blocks to the development of a vibrant ecosystem for sustainability.

17. I hope the Nanjing Eco Island Administrative Committee and relevant agencies in Nanjing and Singapore will continue to lend your support to shape Nanjing Eco Island into a vibrant ecosystem to enable the commercialisation and pilot of new green solutions and foster new partnerships between Singapore and Nanjing to solve global sustainability-related issues.

### **Next Lap of Partnership**

18. Today is an important milestone in Singapore-Nanjing cooperation, as this is the 10<sup>th</sup> SNCP meeting. Over the past 9 meetings, the Singapore-Nanjing partnership has grown from

strength to strength, with new projects and new areas of collaboration forged between both sides.

19. Building on this strong foundation of Singapore-Nanjing cooperation, Mayor Chen and I will be signing the SNCP renewal MOU later today. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> MOU on Singapore-Nanjing cooperation, underlining collaboration in various areas including trade and investment, technology and innovation, and people-to-people exchanges. In addition to these existing areas of collaboration, the MOU will include two new areas of collaboration.

- a. First – cooperation in green development. Singapore and Nanjing share common goals in sustainability. In addition, the Nanjing Eco Island is well-positioned to serve as a platform to spur cooperation around the theme of sustainability. I am happy to see Quantified Energy Labs, a startup that develops aerial solar solutions for the photovoltaics industry, tapping on the island's resources to support its development of a digital platform for PV asset lifecycle management.
- b. Second – collaboration in modern services. Last December, Nanjing was one of the six cities approved by the Chinese State Council for a comprehensive pilot project on the opening up of the services sector. As Nanjing accelerates efforts to open up its services sector, I hope that Singapore companies can also explore new collaboration opportunities with Nanjing companies.

20. The 4<sup>th</sup> MOU re-affirms the strong ties between Singapore and Nanjing and sets the directions for our cooperation for the next three years. I am confident that we will see more fruitful exchanges and collaborations in the coming years.

## **Conclusion**

21. 最后，我要感谢陈市长以及南京市历任领导对新宁合作的支持和重视。《新加坡·南京重点项目合作委员会》的合作机制，为我们双方的合作，带来了许多成效。今天我们见证了新宁会第十周年的里程碑，我深信新加坡与南京的合作必将更进一步、再攀高峰。让我们携手加深现有的合作，并开拓新领域的发展！

22. 谢谢大家。

-End-

***Issued by Enterprise Singapore, as secretariat of the Singapore-Nanjing Special Projects Cooperation Panel***

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