

**OPENING SPEECH BY MINISTER INDRANEE RAJAH,
CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE SINGAPORE-JIANGSU
COOPERATION COUNCIL (SJCC),
AT THE 18TH SJCC MEETING IN NANJING, 3 DECEMBER 2024**

Governor Xu Kunlin

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

1. It is my pleasure to co-chair the 18th Singapore-Jiangsu Cooperation Council (SJCC) meeting with Governor Xu today. I would like to thank the Jiangsu Provincial People's Government and the Nanjing Municipal People's Government for extending your kind hospitality.

2. This year marks an important milestone for both Singapore and Jiangsu as we celebrate the 30th anniversary of Suzhou Industrial Park (SIP), which is our first government-to-government project established in 1994, and it has since played a pivotal role in fostering demonstrative collaborations.

Longstanding and progressive Singapore and Jiangsu bilateral relations

3. Singapore and Jiangsu share a longstanding and progressive bilateral relationship, underpinned by the SJCC platform. Despite global headwinds, both sides have continued to work closely in capturing growth opportunities in emerging sectors such as low carbon development and sustainability.

4. Over the years, the SJCC, together with SIP and Singapore-Nanjing Eco Hi-Tech Island (SNEHTI) projects, have built up a strong business environment and supporting ecosystems in bringing forth new opportunities in key industries. They also serve as landing pads for Singapore companies to access East China and beyond. Our collaborative efforts have seen several Singapore projects achieve good milestones, and the continued interest from Singapore companies to expand their business activities and footprint in Jiangsu. For example,

- a. Sembcorp completed a distributed solar power project for its industrial water plant in June 2023 and launched an advanced industrial wastewater treatment project in April this year in Nanjing. Through these projects, the Sembcorp industrial water plant can avoid its carbon emissions by about 4,000 tonnes a year, and the solar power generated makes up more than 70% of electricity required by the plant. This enables their industrial water plant in Nanjing to become greener and more energy efficient, driven by the common goal of advancing meaningful low-carbon sustainable solutions beneficial for the urban community.

- b. Beyond existing companies expanding their presence in Jiangsu, companies from various sectors continue to show interest in forming partnerships in Jiangsu. Earlier this year, Changi Airport International and Wuxi Airport Group established a joint venture company to manage non-aeronautical businesses, including retail, and advertising segments at Wuxi Shuofang International Airport.

5. Our bilateral relations are also strengthened by close people-to-people linkages at all levels from businesses to youths. With the newly commenced Jetstar Asia direct flight between Singapore and Wuxi end last year, the enhanced connectivity and accessibility with Jiangsu cities, including Nanjing, will facilitate more exchanges between our people.

Deepening partnerships in sectors of common interests such as Green and Innovation

6. In-line with the key focus areas such as green, low-carbon initiatives and innovation under the ambit of SJCC, I am delighted to see that Singapore and Jiangsu companies have collaborated in relevant projects and made good progress on these fronts.

7. On Green Economy and Sustainability, Singapore and China are both working towards reducing carbon footprint and achieving more sustainable economic growth. I believe Jiangsu is well-placed to host more innovative green projects, where we can leverage on our strong partnerships with each other to explore forward-looking green collaborations.

- a. An example is the joint-venture (JV) between Singapore companies, Keppel and Surbana Jurong, and their Chinese partner, Sungent, on developing a China-Singapore Green Digital Hub (CSGDH)¹ in the SIP. The project is a good showcase of high-quality and innovation-driven development.
- b. At the meeting later, Singapore company, REDEX, will be signing an MOU with Jiangsu company, CSTEP Technology, to explore collaboration on enhancing low-carbon management and reducing carbon footprint of export-oriented Chinese companies.

8. I encourage more Singapore and Jiangsu companies to tap on each other's experiences and strengths to co-develop and implement sustainable solutions, and work towards achieving our green goals.

9. On innovation, I am glad to see that there is good momentum from both Singapore and Jiangsu companies to co-innovate solutions across key areas such as advanced manufacturing, digitalisation and sustainability.

- a. The Jiangsu Joint Innovation Call (JIC) was first launched in 2022, and we have seen some successful results. For example, Singapore company, Keystone Offshore, has worked with a Chinese SOE, Sinopec Star East China Jiangsu New Energy Development, to do a feasibility study on geothermal resources

¹ The CSGDH was previously known as the Net-Zero Emissions Zone (NZEZ).

utilisation in Singapore. The collaboration transformed into a strategic partnership with potential co-development and market access opportunities.

- b. The JIC remains as an important platform to advance synergistic collaborations and drive technological advancements. I am heartened to note that there is continued interest from both sides to partner for co-innovation this year.
- c. A*STAR is also making good headway through its A*STAR Partner Centre outfit in SIP, by supporting Singapore companies' expansion and R&D productisation journey in China via the SIP. For example, Vivo Surgical, a startup focusing on the development of advanced medical technologies such as endoscopic surgical robotics, set up its office at the A*STAR Partners' Centre in 2023. Through the support of the Centre, the company was connected to business partners in China such as Contract Research Organisations. I am also happy to note that Vivo Surgical has recently announced a clinical and technical collaboration with Zhongshan Hospital in Shanghai for the development of next-generation robotic endoscopy tools and solutions. The company has also expanded and moved into a larger space within Suzhou Industrial Park.

10. Today, we will witness the signing of 21 Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) between our companies in areas spanning sustainability, healthcare and biomedical, technology and people-to-people exchanges. This is testament to the sustained business interest from both sides, and I hope that the SJCC will continue to be an effective platform to foster more collaborations between Singapore and Jiangsu.

Singapore continues to support internationalisation of Jiangsu companies

11. As China companies look to internationalisation, they can expand their business and networks through working with Singapore as a launchpad to the region, by leveraging on our conducive business environment and global connectivity.

- a. As of August this year, an estimated number of 642 Jiangsu companies have set up in Singapore with a cumulative investment of about USD5.9 billion. The sectors span across trade and connectivity, healthcare and medical, renewable energy and finance sectors.

12. As Jiangsu companies continue to grow their global footprint in the region and beyond, Singapore will remain as the trusted partner to them.

- a. Our partners have been important in facilitating these two-way business flows by providing the necessary landing pad infrastructure in Singapore. For instance, the SIP International Business Cooperation Centre (IBCC) in Singapore has landed 48 new Chinese companies in Singapore between January and October this year. These include companies like Zooming New Energy, Brightgene and Imotion Automotive Technology.

- b. In the thematic sharing segment later, we will hear from a Jiangsu company, DSBJ², on their internationalisation journey through leveraging Singapore as a springboard for its expansion into Southeast Asia.

Conclusion

13. I am confident that Singapore and Jiangsu will continue to build on the momentum of our good work over the years to further advance bilateral cooperation and demonstrate high quality development in high growth and emerging areas. I would like to encourage more partnerships between Singapore and Jiangsu companies, and I look forward to working closely with Governor Xu to advance the next phase of Singapore-Jiangsu cooperation.

14. I wish all participants a fruitful meeting this morning.

15. Thank you.

² Suzhou Dongshan Precision Manufacturing Co., Ltd. (DSBJ) is one of the largest companies specialising in precision sheet metal manufacturing services in China.