

**OPENING SPEECH BY MR MASAGOS ZULKIFLI,
MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT,
CO-CHAIR OF THE SINGAPORE-LIAONING ECONOMIC
AND TRADE COUNCIL (SLETC), AT THE 11TH SLETC
MEETING ON 11 AUGUST 2026 IN SHENYANG, LIAONING**

Governor Wang Xinwei

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon.

1. It is a great pleasure to be here for the 11th Singapore-Liaoning Economic and Trade Council meeting. On behalf of the Singapore delegation, I would like to thank Governor Wang and the Liaoning Provincial Government for your warm hospitality.
2. We are saddened to hear the impact of Typhoon Bavi on Liaoning and extend our sympathies to those affected. We commend Liaoning leadership for the swift response and effective recovery efforts. The resilience shown by the people of Liaoning is admirable, and we wish the province continued strength and a swift return to full prosperity.
3. Singapore and China have shared a remarkable journey over the past 35 years. Our relationship has continually grown and evolved, and what began with trade and investment has expanded into innovation, sustainability and people-to-people cooperation.
4. Our longstanding partnership has been anchored by the Singapore-Liaoning Economic and Trade Council, or SLETC. For more than two decades, it has served as an important platform for advancing trade, investment and business collaboration between both sides.
5. Through this platform, Singapore companies have actively participated in Liaoning's economic transformation. They have contributed their expertise in urban development, industrial parks, modern services, logistics, and the education sectors.
 - a. CapitaLand's investment in the Dalian Ascendas I.T. Park, for instance, was among Singapore's earliest flagship projects in the early 2000s, helping to catalyse the province's modern services and innovation ecosystem, eventually expanding into retail, serviced residences and residential developments.

6. As Liaoning enters its next phase of high-quality development, I believe our complementary strengths position us well to deepen collaboration across four areas: technology innovation, trade and connectivity, sustainable development, and modern services.

Technology Innovation

7. Let me begin with technology innovation.
8. Artificial intelligence, or AI, is reshaping industries around the world and becoming a key driver of productivity, competitiveness and growth. Singapore's National AI Strategy 2.0 is a reflection of our commitment to accelerating AI adoption across advanced manufacturing, logistics and healthcare.
9. Simultaneously, Liaoning's strong industrial base and diverse application scenarios create opportunities for both sides to jointly develop and deploy AI-enabled solutions that support the next phase of growth in our economies.
10. I encourage our businesses, technology companies as well as research institutions from both sides to explore new partnerships. Together, we can translate innovation into practical solutions that support industrial transformation and create new growth opportunities.

Trade & Connectivity

11. Second, trade and connectivity.
12. As leading trade and maritime hubs in our respective regions, Singapore and Liaoning are natural partners. Liaoning's ports serve as major gateways for Northeast Asia, while Singapore serves the Asia-Pacific region and is also a global transshipment hub.
 - a. Singapore and Liaoning's partnership in port operations has deep roots. Since 1996, Dalian has been home to PSA's first overseas port investment. Three decades later, Dalian remains one of PSA's key port investments in China. PSA will continue to work with partners like Liaoning Port Group to accelerate Dalian Container Terminal's transformation through smart port technologies and green port initiatives, while also advancing its Node to Network strategy through

integrated port and supply chain capabilities, facilitating seamless trade and strengthening Dalian Container Terminal's role as a key gateway for Northeast China.

13. On the trade front, one emerging trade flow is green fuels. As Liaoning establishes itself as a gateway for green fuels produced across Northeast China, Singapore can play a complementary role by connecting suppliers in Liaoning with international traders and buyers through established trading and distribution networks that serve the broader Asia-Pacific region.

- a. Golden Island, a Singapore-based marine fuel supplier and trader, is one of only three companies licensed to conduct methanol bunkering in Singapore. It has established partnerships in China to source certified green methanol, and holds the certification needed to maintain chain of custody for these fuels to the end buyers, allowing green methanol produced in Liaoning to be recognised by buyers overseas, and reach these markets.

14. Food trade is another promising area. Liaoning has rich agricultural and seafood resources.

- a. Singapore traders such as Siji Trading, have built sourcing and distribution networks linking producers in China with buyers across Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, and parts of Europe. We encourage Liaoning producers to tap on Singapore as a regional trading and distribution hub.

Sustainable Development

15. Third, sustainable development.

16. Sustainable transport and green technology will play an increasingly important role as cities transit towards greener transport systems. Singapore can contribute sectoral expertise here, both at land and at sea.

- a. ComfortDelGro (CDG) currently operates the largest taxi fleet in Shenyang and is progressively electrifying its fleet. Building on this presence, CDG is prepared to work with Liaoning authorities to roll out robotaxi on a phased approach, drawing on their experience in other parts of China to share operational best practices in

regulatory adaptation, phased deployment and driver upskilling to support a safe and orderly transition.

- b. On sustainable maritime transport, the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) participated in the 4th Green Shipping Forum in Dalian earlier this year, sharing Singapore's experience in the development of green shipping corridors, standards development, and encouraging the offtake of green fuels. We look forward to deepening bilateral collaboration on maritime decarbonisation as both sides advance their green transition.

17. Green technologies present yet another area of collaboration.

- a. Building on earlier professional exchanges at conferences and workshops, A*STAR, Singapore's lead public sector R&D agency and the Dalian Institute of Chemical Physics, one of China's leading research institutes, are exploring opportunities for collaboration. This includes joint research projects, personnel exchanges and workshops, in areas such as advanced energy and decarbonisation. Such collaborations can strengthen research linkages while accelerating the development of innovative low-carbon solutions.

Modern Services

18. Lastly, modern services.

19. As Liaoning responds to demographic changes and continues to strengthen its modern services sector, Singapore is well-placed complement these priorities.

- a. The agreement between the Singapore University of Social Sciences, Shenyang University of Chemical Technology and Liaoning University (North-East Institute for Population and Development), to establish the Centre of Excellence for Social Work and Age+ Living Lab marks an important step in this direction, driving meaningful collaboration and research in social work and active ageing, helping our societies prepare for demographic change.
- b. Singapore is also prepared to bring our quality healthcare expertise to Liaoning. Q&M's Aoxin Group has been investing in Liaoning since 2013 and today operates

four hospitals and seven clinics across the province. This September, it will open its flagship dental hospital in Shenyang following an investment of RMB 35 million, extending their services even further.

20. To conclude, the SLETC remains a vital platform precisely because it brings together governments, businesses and institutions to identify new opportunities and translate them into tangible collaborations. I encourage more businesses, universities and research institutions to make full use of this platform and develop pathfinder projects.

21. As our partnership continues to evolve alongside the changing needs and opportunities of our economies, I am confident we will find new ways to work together. Singapore stands ready to remain a trusted partner in Liaoning's next phase of high-quality development.

22. I look forward to working closely with Governor Wang to bring Singapore-Liaoning cooperation to greater heights. Thank you!