

**REMARKS BY MR ALVIN TAN, MINISTER OF STATE FOR
FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
AT THE 16th SINGAPORE-GUANGDONG COLLABORATION
COUNCIL (SGCC) MEETING, 25 AUGUST 2026**

尊敬的孟凡利省长，
王乙康部长，
各位嘉宾，
女士们、先生们

1. 大家下午好！非常高兴能出席粤新合作理事会第十六次会议。
也欢迎孟省长和代表团到访新加坡。

2. 广东和新加坡的合作基础深厚，双方在经贸、科技、旅游等领域的交流密切。从中新广州知识城到中新（深圳）智慧城市项目，双方在多个领域都取得了扎实的合作成果。希望通过今天的交流，我们能够继续推动并深化双方合作。

3. 接下来，我会以英语发言。

Our flagship platforms continue to deliver

4. Our bilateral projects have made good progress.

- a) The China-Singapore Guangzhou Knowledge City (CSGKC) continues to serve as a landing pad for Singapore companies to the GBA and beyond. **Keppel** deployed its Energy-as-a-Service solution at the CSGKC last year, using AI to optimise its cooling systems and operations to improve energy efficiency and deliver energy savings. **Singrow**, a Singapore agritech company, set up its first indoor vertical farm in the CSGKC in 2023. In just two years, it has scaled up to a 27,000-square-metre open-air facility in the CSGKC, expanded to other cities, and is now in its Series A+ funding round — a testament to how CSGKC helped it grow rapidly in a short space of time.
- b) Likewise, our Singapore-China (Shenzhen) Smart City Initiative continues to drive cooperation in the digital economy and innovation domains. We launched the **Singapore-Shenzhen Joint Innovation Call** in 2023 and to date, have received over

60 applications and supported close to 20 projects across biotechnology, artificial intelligence, and robotics.

Singapore companies leveraging Guangdong's robust ecosystem

5. Beyond our bilateral projects, Singapore companies continue to have strong confidence in Guangdong, scaling up their presence and diversifying into new areas.

- a) **ComfortDelGro** has built close partnerships with Guangdong companies. These include operating the Tianhe Bus Terminal and the Guangzhou ComfortDelGro Guangjiao New Energy Company with Guangzhou Public Transport Group. They are also collaborating with Pony.ai and other AV technology partners to deploy commercial robotaxis. This year, ComfortDelGro is establishing their Regional AV Centre of Excellence and headquarters for their future AV business in Qianhai to oversee their robotaxi operations nationwide. This reflects Guangdong's importance as the ideal base to scale ComfortDelGro's autonomous vehicle ambitions.

Singapore-Guangdong collaboration runs both ways

6. The business interest runs both ways. Just as Singapore companies are drawn to Guangdong's scale and opportunities, Guangdong companies are equally keen to expand to the region through Singapore. There are several sectors with strong potential for partnership:

- a) The first is the built environment. Singapore's construction sector faces manpower constraints and an urgent need to raise productivity through automation and technology adoption. Guangdong's robust robotics ecosystem can help address this. ZoeRobot (卓蚁科技) wall-panel installation robot has been deployed at LTA's Cross Island Line project since 2025, reducing manpower requirements by around 30%. Under such partnerships, Singapore offers a testbed and rich application scenarios in an urban setting, while Guangdong companies gain international track record that can open doors beyond China. Singapore is launching a large-scale robotics and physical AI testbed at the Punggol Digital District later this year, and we welcome more Guangdong companies to pilot their projects there.
- b) The second is financial services. Singapore and Guangdong are working together to mobilise capital to meet energy transition needs across the Greater Bay Area and ASEAN. Earlier this year, the **Singapore Exchange** facilitated a USD 500 million green bond listing for Guangzhou Development District Holding Group, demonstrating Singapore's value as a trusted international platform for Guangdong enterprises seeking global capital. Today, **OCBC** will sign an MOU with China Gas Industry (Shenzhen) Limited to support the company's regional growth strategy, including renewable energy projects across Southeast Asia.
- c) The third is tourism, where Singapore and Guangdong have their respective strengths. Singapore brings experience in destination branding, MICE, and blending business with leisure travel. Guangdong brings expertise in harnessing culture and heritage to

drive tourism, and in theme park development such as the Changlong (长隆) theme parks in Guangzhou and Zhuhai. I am glad Governor Meng and his delegation visited Sentosa yesterday, and hope both sides will find more opportunities to do more together.

Talent exchanges form the foundation

7. Our economic cooperation is underpinned by robust talent exchanges.
 - a) Through Business China's **Singapore-China Youth Interns Exchange Scheme (YES)**, 471 students from Singapore have interned in China since 2023, including 93 in Guangdong province. We hope to grow this number, so more young Singaporeans can experience Guangdong's business environment and help shape how the next generation of Singaporeans engages with China. Building on this, Business China will sign an MOU with the CSGKC JV Company today to deepen collaboration in talent development, youth engagement and education. The JV Company will also be signing MOUs with two other Singapore IHLs, on education and commercial collaboration. I hope that as we continue to boost economic linkages, we can also strengthen the links between our people.

Conclusion

8. These examples illustrate that Singapore-Guangdong cooperation continues to advance on multiple fronts. The SGCC meeting has made this possible, and I look forward to seeing it open new collaboration avenues in the years ahead.
9. On that note, I wish everyone a successful and productive meeting ahead. Thank you.