

**OPENING ADDRESS BY DIRECTOR-GENERAL, QUALITY & EXCELLENCE,
ENTERPRISE SINGAPORE, CHOY SAUW KOOK,**

AT THE S&C SUMMIT 2026

ON 12 JUNE, GRAND COPTHORNE WATERFRONT

Minister for Sustainability and the Environment and Minister-in-charge of Trade Relations, Ms Grace Fu,

Your Excellencies,

President of ISO, Dr Khaled Soufi,

President of IEC, Mr James Matthews

Chairman of Global ACI, Mr Brahim Houla,

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning

On behalf of Enterprise Singapore, the Singapore Standards Council and the Singapore Accreditation Council,

Welcome to the Standards & Conformance Summit 2026.

1. Last night, we celebrated 60 years of standards and 40 years of accreditation in Singapore. It has been decades of standards development, accreditation rigour, capacity building, and strong partnerships. Today, we turn to how that foundation becomes the platform for what comes next. Our Deputy Prime Minister spoke of why standards and conformance (S&C) matter for Singapore's future, and our ambitions through the S&C 2035 roadmap. We now carry that conversation forward together.

2. The world is moving faster than the S&C work that underpins it. Across technology, climate, and trade, new developments are emerging every day, and the frameworks that ensure trust must keep pace. As trade relationships come under strain and regulatory frameworks pull in different directions, the task of building common technical ground has never been more consequential. The question is how we build that common ground together.

Building the foundations of trust

3. I think the answer lies in what this community has already achieved. Over the years, I've had the privilege of working alongside many of you, and what stays with me is not any single milestone, but the system of trust that we have built together. Standards bodies, accreditation councils, technical committees, regulators, industry – each doing different work, yet all working towards something none of us can achieve alone: trust that holds across borders.

4. And it is worth reflecting on how far this community has come. In Singapore's early years, we largely adopted international standards to help our businesses connect with and compete in the global economy. Today, together with partners such as many of you in this room, we contribute our expertise and perspectives, helping to shape international standards that underpin global trade and industry. That journey, from participant to contributor, speaks to the growth, capability, and collective impact of this community.

5. Our work on floating photovoltaic standards is a good example of this. For land-scarce Singapore, deploying solar photovoltaic systems on reservoirs and waterways is one of the few viable pathways for scaling clean energy. Recognising that new technologies need broad confidence before they can be safely deployed, we brought together technical experts and industry stakeholders to develop Singapore's Technical Reference 100 (TR 100). The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) subsequently adopted this framework as the baseline blueprint for the upcoming global standard, IEC TS 62548-3. That collaborative process produced more than a technical specification; it built the shared confidence that enabled local developers to scale massive projects safely, while positioning Singapore's expertise at the forefront of global clean energy benchmarking.

6. Today's conversations are our chance to forge more of such partnerships.

Our Commitment to Global Standards & Conformance

7. This collaborative approach extends to Singapore's broader contributions to global governance. We are a small country, but we believe that our work through ISO, IEC, Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated (ACI) and regional bodies strengthens not just our own capabilities, but the entire system that serves us all.

8. Take AI as an example. The rapid adoption of generative AI has outpaced the evaluation frameworks the industry relies on. Through ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 42, Singapore has put forward the first international standard of its kind for the testing of GenAI systems – establishing a framework that improves testing consistency across different applications. This is work in progress, but it reflects our community's commitment to advancing international AI standards, even in the absence of established evaluation protocols.

9. These efforts extend beyond individual standards. On the accreditation front, Singapore has played an active role in leading the strategic planning for Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC) 2030 and the ASEAN Consultative Committee for Standards and Quality (ACCSQ) Working Group 2 strategic plans. Each of these roles reflects a shared principle – that the quality infrastructure we build is only as strong as the community that sustains it.

10. Through my involvement in ISO governance as Council member, Vice President for Technical Management, and Chair of the Technical Management Board, I have seen first-hand what makes the international S&C system effective – not the structures, but the people willing to set aside national interest and hold to a common standard.

11. One of the most meaningful experiences of my career has been working to strengthen the partnership between the two technical management boards of ISO and IEC. In 2021, when I co-chaired the inaugural task force, we brought together two institutions, each with deep traditions and their own ways of working – to define collaboration principles and establish decision-making processes on topics of mutual interest. What moved us forward was the willingness to listen, and a shared belief that closer alignment was worth the effort. Today, this partnership has grown even further. From the establishment of the Joint Standardisation Evaluation Group on the Metaverse, to the Joint Technical Committee on Quantum Technology, we continue our work together to strengthen the global S&C community.

The Road Ahead

12. These collaborations demonstrate what is possible when we work together. Yet as partnerships deepen and expand, the challenge of keeping pace with change grows. S&C turns breakthrough solutions into something the world can trust – but only if it evolves fast

enough. Today's panels focus on three areas where that pressure is greatest, and where the direction this community sets in the coming years will shape global impact.

13. First, digitalisation. As emerging technologies – from AI to digital twins – become driving forces of our economies, we need trusted frameworks that can keep pace with innovation without compromising rigour.

14. Second, innovation across borders. Without clear conformance pathways, breakthrough technologies enter markets unevenly, create unresolved liabilities, and undermine the consistency that cross-border trade depends on. S&C closes that gap, helping innovations move reliably from lab into global markets.

15. And finally, sustainability – particularly, the infrastructure underpinning credible carbon markets. The integrity of climate commitments depends on robust measurement, verification, and assurance. What this community builds in the coming years will determine whether those commitments can truly be held to account.

16. Across these three areas, the stakes are ultimately about trust. Trust that what is measured is accurate, what is certified is safe, and what is agreed upon holds across borders. That is what this community exists to deliver, and it is work that I am glad and grateful we do not have to do alone.

Looking Forward Together

17. To our friends from ISO, IEC, Global ACI, national standards and accreditation bodies, technical experts, government partners, and industry leaders – none of this would be possible without you. Thank you for your partnership over the years and for being here today. I look forward to the journey ahead as we continue strengthening the global S&C community together.

18. Thank you, and I wish you all an insightful and productive day ahead.