

**JOINT ANNOUNCEMENT
OF THE SINGAPORE AND JAPAN
PRIME MINISTERS
AT THE SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE AND JAPAN
FOR A NEW-AGE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP
(Towards Dynamism and Prosperity for
the 21st Century)**

1. We, the Prime Minister of Japan, Junichiro Koizumi, and the Prime Minister of Singapore, Goh Chok Tong, held a meeting in Singapore on 13th January, 2002, and exchanged views and analyses on several issues, in particular on the political and economic situation in the Asian region. Reaffirming our shared responsibility to contribute to the security, stability and prosperity of our region, we discussed candidly how our two nations should work closely to fulfil such responsibility.

2. We, the two Prime Ministers, looking back at the history of our region, are heartened by the recent positive development that countries in both Northeast Asia and Southeast Asia, once bitterly divided by ideologies reflecting the East-West confrontation under the Cold War, are now coming together. We also welcome the fact that their co-operation with other countries in the world has been enhanced at the same time.

3. Many difficulties and challenges, however, remain. The sour memory of the Asian financial crisis in 1997 and 1998 is still vivid. Furthermore, the current global recession is threatening the prosperity and growth of our region.

4. We recognise that the characteristic diligence, vitality and maturity of the peoples in this region must now be mobilised to inspire in us further creativity, technological innovation and entrepreneurship for the purposes of restoring economic vibrancy to this region. This will, in turn, contribute to the prosperity of our two nations.

5. In this context, we reviewed and re-evaluated the role our two nations should play in the region, and have decided that fresh impetus should be given to the existing close and warm relations between our two nations, by establishing a new framework for partnership.

6. Cognisant of the dynamism of globalisation and the rapidity of technological progress which have changed the global environment and presented new economic and strategic challenges and opportunities, we affirm the importance of establishing an economic partnership between our two nations to create a larger and harmonised market for Japanese and Singapore businesses, and to institutionalise regulatory and other policy reforms in both nations. This would enhance the attractiveness and vibrancy of our markets.

7. We are convinced that firmer economic linkages and integration between our two nations will create new opportunities for business, expand economies of scale, and promote stability and predictability for business transactions. We strongly believe that such linkages and integration would play a vital catalytic role in accelerating and promoting sound economic development and closer economic partnership in this region, which is endowed with rich human and natural resources. We are determined to work together to achieve this goal.

8. We believe that enhancing economic ties between our two nations would strengthen Japan's involvement in and its commitment to Southeast Asia. Such enhanced ties between Japan and Singapore would provide a framework for cementing economic relations between Japan and the other ASEAN countries. This could in turn help ASEAN's efforts to integrate into a common market of five hundred million people.

9. We recognise that such an economic partnership between Japan and Singapore should include mutual elimination of cross-border trade barriers, facilitation and promotion of investment flows, development of capital markets, exchanges of people, promotion of the use of information and communications technology, and alliances of scientific research institutes, universities, broadcasting houses, as well as of small and medium-sized industries.

10. We further share the conviction that, in view of the rapidly expanding roles of the private sector in modern economies, such a partnership should not only be established between the two Governments but should also involve a variety of entities outside the Governments.

11. Bearing all these beliefs and hopes in mind, we are pleased to announce that the signing of the Agreement between Japan and the Republic of Singapore for a

New-Age Economic Partnership has just been completed. Concurrently, we are pleased to announce our Joint Statement welcoming a number of partnerships and linkages involving the private sector of our two nations, which have been developed in the course of the establishment of the New-Age Economic Partnership. This Joint Statement also includes our shared views and convictions on specific issues relating to certain parts of the Agreement which has just been signed.

12. We, representing the Governments and peoples of our two nations, now warmly celebrate the conclusion of this comprehensive and substantive bilateral economic partnership agreement, the first in Asia, at the gateway of the 21st century.

Joint Statement

In signing the Agreement between Japan and the Republic of Singapore on a New-Age Economic Partnership (hereinafter referred to in this Joint Statement as “the JSEPA”), the two Prime Ministers present the following Joint Statement on specific issues.

1. CHAPTER ON GENERAL PROVISIONS (ASSOCIATION WITH THE JSEPA)

- (1) Recognising the catalytic role which the JSEPA could play in accelerating global and regional trade and investment liberalisation and rule-making, the Prime Ministers note the possibility of associating other economies with the JSEPA.
- (2) They affirm that the terms of such association could be negotiated between the parties to the JSEPA (i.e. Japan and Singapore) and the economy seeking this association, taking into account the individual circumstances of that economy.

2. CHAPTER ON TRADE IN GOODS (JOINT ACTION IN THE WTO FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF DISCIPLINES OF ANTI-DUMPING MEASURES)

- (1) The two Prime Ministers recognise a growing inclination in the world to easy recourse to anti-dumping measures, and share the profound apprehension that such measures are frequently abused for protectionist purposes to obstruct trade and afford unfair protection to domestic industries. The two Prime Ministers note with grave concern that such measures produce trade restrictive effects which hamper global efforts towards trade liberalisation, currently being pursued strenuously, in particular by the WTO, which now stands at the gate of a new round of multilateral trade negotiations.

- (2) The two Prime Ministers hence affirm the pressing need to establish robust and clear rules to ensure not only fairness and consistency in the application of anti-dumping measures but also transparency in anti-dumping proceedings. At the same time, in recognition of the potential for abuse of anti-dumping measures, the two Prime Ministers are determined that, in the context of the JSEPA, the two Governments should not use such measures for protectionist purposes, and should only use them to the extent really necessary, and when no other means are available to remedy the injurious effects of dumping.
- (3) The two Prime Ministers are determined to continue and strengthen the co-operation between the two countries, particularly in the framework of the WTO, to clarify, improve and strengthen rules governing anti-dumping measures.

3. CHAPTER ON PAPERLESS TRADING

- (1) Recognising the importance of paperless trading, the two Prime Ministers welcome the linkage between Japan's document exchange servers such as the Trade Electronic Data Interchange ("TEDI")-related servers and Singapore's document exchange servers (i.e., servers to electronically transmit and deposit invoices, bills of lading, and other trade-related documents exchanged between enterprises).
- (2) The two Prime Ministers express their hope that the benefits from the above linkage would be enhanced by the following:
 - (a) As to Japan:
 - (i) initiative of the Government of Japan to provide one-stop service by interconnecting relevant trade-related electronic systems, such as the Japan Electronic Open Network Trade Control System ("JETRAS"), the Port EDI System and the Nippon Automated Cargo Clearance System ("NACCS") by FY2002;
 - (ii) effective utilisation of data exchange among Japan's document exchange servers and Japan's trade-related procedures systems, such as the JETRAS, the Port EDI and the NACCS; and
 - (iii) implementation of the Customs Co-operation Council initiative, which has been based on the results of the G7 work, on standardisation and simplification of customs procedures.
 - (b) As to Singapore:
 - (i) initiative of the Government of Singapore to facilitate linkages to TradeNet on a business-to-business basis by FY2002;

- (ii) effective utilisation of data exchange among Singapore's document exchange servers and Singapore's trade regulatory system; and
- (iii) studying the possibility of implementing the Customs Co-operation Council initiative, which has been based on the results of the G7 work, on standardisation and simplification of customs procedures.

4. CHAPTER ON MUTUAL RECOGNITION (CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF GOOD MANUFACTURING PRACTICE FOR MEDICINAL PRODUCTS)

The two Prime Ministers note with appreciation that the Government of Japan and the Government of the Republic of Singapore, upon the signing of the JSEPA, express their wish to start the co-operative activities enumerated below concerning Good Manufacturing Practice (hereinafter referred to in this Joint Statement as "GMP") for medicinal products, recognising that such activities will enhance the mutual understanding of their respective systems and help both Governments to consider, in the future, the expansion of the field for further co-operation between them. These activities will be put into practice by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare ("MHLW") of Japan and the Health Sciences Authority ("HSA") of the Republic of Singapore (hereinafter referred to in this Joint Statement as "the authority" or collectively as "the authorities"), in a manner consistent with the applicable laws and regulations of each country.

In this regard, recognising that the equivalence of the regulatory GMP systems of both countries as well as the economic benefits should be confirmed in considering mutual recognition on GMP, the Government of Japan takes note of the Government of the Republic of Singapore's view that the possibility of including a Sectoral Annex on GMP to Chapter 6 (Mutual Recognition) of the JSEPA should be considered in the future.

For the purposes of this Joint Statement, the term "medicinal products" means those products that are defined as "drugs for human use" in both countries and to which GMP requirements of the respective countries are applied. The definition of "medicinal products" includes active pharmaceutical ingredients.

The term "Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP)" means that part of quality assurance which ensures that products are consistently produced and controlled in accordance with quality standards appropriate for their intended use and as required by the applicable marketing authorisations or product specifications.

- (1) Each authority will:
 - (a) upon request, provide the other authority with copies of GMP inspection reports of manufacturing facilities of medicinal products located in the territory of the country of the requested authority, provided that the request is only made in respect of manufacturing facilities whose products are exported to the country of the requesting authority. In this regard, information to

be exchanged will be restricted to information that is routinely collected and maintained by the requested authority;

- (b) include the following information in the GMP inspection report requested:
 - (i) date(s) of inspection;
 - (ii) scope of inspection and activities undertaken;
 - (iii) summary of key observations or findings; and
 - (iv) GMP compliance status of the manufacturing facility for the products concerned; and
 - (c) provide the other authority with the inspection report, if available, in the English language.
- (2) Each authority will provide the other authority with information on classified recalls of medicinal products known by the former authority to have been manufactured or distributed in the country of the former authority. This information will include:
- (a) name of product;
 - (b) name and address of manufacturing facility;
 - (c) batch/lot number;
 - (d) expiry date, if available; and
 - (e) reason(s) for batch recall.
- (3) Each authority will, upon request, provide the other authority with information regarding the product quality of medicinal products, in particular, regarding the product defect(s), when necessary.
- (4) Each authority will welcome visits by officials of the other authority for the purpose of studying the implementation of the respective GMP inspection systems, where appropriate and as resources permit.
- (5) Neither authority will disclose any information exchanged under this Joint Statement that the requested authority has indicated to be confidential, unless otherwise required under the laws and regulations of the country of that authority.
- (6) Both authorities will:
- (a) review the progress of the co-operation under this Joint Statement once every three years after the JSEPA comes into force; and

- (b) depending on the result of such review, consider the possibility of expanding the field of co-operation between them.
- (7) Each authority will give the other authority three months written notice in the event that it wishes to cease any of the co-operative activities listed above.
- (8) Any details regarding the co-operation under this Joint Statement will be discussed between the two authorities.

5. CHAPTER ON INVESTMENT (ENVIRONMENT)

The two Prime Ministers recognise that there should not be any policy contradiction between, on the one hand, upholding and safeguarding an open, non-discriminatory and equitable trading and investment regime, and, on the other hand, acting for the protection of the environment and the promotion of sustainable development.

6. CHAPTER ON MOVEMENT OF NATURAL PERSONS (MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS)

- (1) The two Prime Ministers welcome the discussions on the mutual recognition of professional qualifications between the experts of the two Governments, which, particularly, have started in the field of civil engineering.
- (2) The two Prime Ministers recognise the potential benefit in promoting mutual recognition of professional qualifications between the two countries.
- (3) The two Prime Ministers express their intention that the two Governments will explore other possible areas for the mutual recognition of professional qualifications in the course of discussions in the Joint Committee on Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications established under Chapter 9 of the JSEPA.

7. CHAPTER ON FINANCIAL SERVICES CO-OPERATION

- (1) The two Prime Ministers reaffirm the importance of private sector co-operation between the financial sectors of both countries in promoting and strengthening economic partnership envisaged in the JSEPA.

The two Prime Ministers stress the need for co-operation between the two countries in facilitating the development of their capital markets. They decided that their financial regulators should review and discuss issues relating to financial markets and financial infrastructure, including the creation of a conducive environment for private sector collaboration across the financial sectors of the two countries. There has already been some recent progress in collaboration between stock exchanges of the two countries. The enhanced co-operation between the two countries would improve the depth and liquidity of the capital markets of the two countries.

In the context of enhanced private sector co-operation in the financial sector of both countries, the two Prime Ministers believe that it is important to strengthen regulatory co-operation between the financial authorities of both countries. The JSEPA and the Memorandum of Understanding between the Monetary Authority of Singapore (“MAS”) and the Financial Services Agency (“FSA”) of Japan would play an important role in developing the two countries’ financial markets and financial infrastructure, as well as contribute to the effective enforcement and administration of the securities laws of each country.

- (2) In view of the shared interest in enhanced bilateral co-operation in financial services under the JSEPA, the two Prime Ministers decided to explore the possibility of starting negotiation on a bilateral swap agreement between their two countries under the Chiang Mai Initiative of the ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers Process. The Chiang Mai Initiative includes a network of bilateral financing arrangements among ASEAN countries, China, Japan and the Republic of Korea, aimed at enhancing economic and financial stability in the region.

8. CHAPTER ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

- (1) The two Prime Ministers, reaffirming the importance of having pervasive and robust Information and Communications Technology (hereinafter referred to in this Joint Statement as “ICT”) networks and services as a vital foundation for the development of the two countries’ economies and the economic ties between the two countries, and recognising their mutual interests and benefits in building a strong partnership between the public and private sectors of the two countries in the field of ICT, express their intention to promote closer co-operation between the two countries in this dynamic field.
- (2) The two Prime Ministers recognise the importance of building a strong partnership between the public and private sectors of the two countries in the field of ICT by:
 - (a) promoting dialogue and joint collaboration between the two countries on ICT issues;
 - (b) building trust through such measures as protection of personal data and ensuring information security;
 - (c) adopting a clear and consistent legal framework in each country in order to encourage private sector initiatives and to protect consumers’ interests.
- (3) The two Prime Ministers share the view that, in order to accomplish the intentions described above, the following general principles should be taken into consideration:
 - (a) the private sector should lead in the development of ICT and in the establishment of business practices;

- (b) in the field of ICT, the Government should create a favourable environment, which would promote private sector initiatives and would maximise consumers' interests. It should also endeavour to deliver high standard online services for the full benefit of the private sector;
- (c) the Government should avoid imposing unnecessary regulations or restrictions on the private sector in the field of ICT. Government regulations or restrictions should be clear, transparent, predictable and cost-effective to the private sector;
- (d) the Government should respond positively to, as well as encourage consumers in the uptake of new technologies. The Government should also encourage the private sector to introduce new services quickly in order to respond to the growing demand for new services in the field of ICT so as to develop electronic commerce;
- (e) the Government should bear in mind that international co-operation and harmonisation are needed to construct a seamless ICT environment.

(4) Inter-operability of Public Key Infrastructure

- (a) The two Prime Ministers share the view that it is desirable for Public Key Infrastructure (hereinafter referred to in this Joint Statement as "PKI") in both countries to inter-operate smoothly. Therefore, the two Governments will make efforts to take proper measures to promote PKI inter-operability, such as providing relevant information on legal and policy aspects of PKI, and encouraging the private sectors of both countries to develop a dialogue on PKI inter-operability.
- (b) The two Prime Ministers share the view that co-operation on PKI inter-operability should be promoted not only between the two countries but also at the regional and international levels. They also share the view that the co-operation between the two countries may be a reference model for co-operation at regional and international levels.

(5) Protection of Personal Data

- (a) The two Prime Ministers recognise the importance of developing a better mutual understanding of the laws and practices of each country relating to the protection of personal data. Therefore, the two Governments will hold expert level dialogue at mutually available dates to keep abreast of developments in each other's systems for personal data protection and to explore further co-operation in this area.
- (b) The two Prime Ministers, recognising the importance of the role of the private sector in the area of protection of personal

data, urge their Governments to make efforts to encourage the private sectors of the two countries to develop co-operation in this area.

- (c) The two Prime Ministers welcome the Memorandum of Understanding between the Japan Information Processing Development Corporation and Commerce Trust Pte Ltd, Singapore, entered into on 8th August 2001, to embark on discussions aimed at cross-recognition of their respective personal data protection marks. They express their hope that the discussion will be concluded by June 2002, as pursued by these two institutions.
- (d) The two Prime Ministers also welcome the Memorandum of Understanding between the Japan Computer Communications Association and Commerce Trust Pte Ltd, Singapore, entered into on 20th August 2001, to embark on discussions aimed at cross-recognition of their respective personal data protection marks in the telecommunications business.

(6) Consumer Protection

The two Prime Ministers recognise that consumer protection is one of the key elements to ensure sound development of electronic commerce. They also recognise that consumers using electronic commerce in the two countries should receive an equivalent protection to that which was provided to them when using other forms of commerce to the extent practicable.

(7) Advanced Telecommunications Networks

- (a) The two Prime Ministers recognise the importance of developing advanced telecommunications networks in both countries and improving access to them, and welcome efforts in that regard.
- (b) Therefore, the two Governments will exchange information, views and experiences on the following issues:
 - (i) facilitating the further development of advanced telecommunications networks;
 - (ii) bridging gaps in opportunities for the use of advanced telecommunications networks;
 - (iii) promoting a conducive environment for creative research and development in the area of advanced telecommunications networks.

(8) Interactive Broadband Multimedia Services

- (a) The two Prime Ministers note with satisfaction that Japan and Singapore are both developing high-capacity broadband

networks and industries, and recognise that there is a need to encourage the private sectors of the two countries to respond positively to the growing demand in both countries for interactive broadband multimedia services.

- (b) Therefore, the two Governments will hold regular dialogue to discuss and propose joint activities that can accelerate the growth of interactive broadband multimedia services. The two Governments will also encourage the private sectors of the two countries to take the lead in promoting interactive broadband multimedia services and to strengthen the ties between the private sectors of the two countries in this area.

(9) Regulatory Strategies to Promote Competition in the ICT Sector

- (a) The two Prime Ministers recognise that diffusion of cost-effective and reliable ICT services underpin economic activities in the new information age and that sound competition is necessary to ensure consumers' benefits. They also share the view that regulating the converging multi-operator market is a challenging task and the regulators should take flexible approaches so as to ensure growth of the market and embrace innovative technologies and services.
- (b) Therefore, the two Governments (between the Ministry of Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications of Japan and the Info-communications Development Authority of Singapore) will meet at their convenience to exchange information and views on the latest developments in the area of regulation of ICT services. The two Prime Ministers expect that it will help the two Governments understand each other's regulatory environment, practices and procedures.

(10) e-Government

The two Prime Ministers note with satisfaction that each Government is trying to introduce ICT within its administrative system and to realise e-Government. Therefore, the two Governments will share their own experiences in this area in order to achieve their respective objectives in a more efficient way.

(11) Developing IT Skill Standards and Cross Certification of Information Technology Project Management Skills of ICT Professionals

- (a) The two Prime Ministers recognise the need to encourage the growth and development of ICT talent in both countries by developing and commonly evaluating the abilities of ICT professionals.

- (b) In this context, the two Prime Ministers welcome the Memorandum of Understanding entered into on 24th August 2001 between the Central Academy of Information Technology and the Japan Information Technology Engineers Examination Centre of the Japanese Information Processing Development Corporation and the National Infocomm Competency Centre of Singapore and the Singapore Computer Society for the mutual certification of skill standards between Japan's Information Technology Engineers Examinations and Singapore's National IT Skills Certification Programme (IT Project Management).
- (c) The two Prime Ministers share the view that ICT engineers of each country, whose scope of knowledge and skills have been certified as equivalent to those of ICT engineers of the other country pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding referred to in (b) above, should be granted appropriate entry and stay permits in the case of Japan, or employment passes in the case of Singapore, if they apply for them, in that other country in accordance with its laws and regulations.
- (d) In this context, the two Governments will explore further co-operation in developing IT skills standards and mutual cross certification.

(12) Postal Services

- (a) The two Prime Ministers note that postal services are an important area related with ICT. In spite of the advent of e-mail and other electronic forms of communication, traditional postal services continue to be a reliable and convenient way of communicating, conducting business and maintaining close contacts among people.
- (b) In this regard, the two Prime Ministers welcome that postal operators of both countries will consider exploring ways to enhance the quality of, improve the efficiency of, and expand the scope of postal services between Japan and Singapore. In particular, the postal operators will endeavour to improve delivery service standards of their express mail services and international airmail services through such means as reduction of delivery time. The postal operators will also embark on studies to explore ways for greater co-operation for the development of new services between Japan and Singapore.

(13) International Fora related to ICT

Recognising the global nature of ICT, the two Prime Ministers recognise that it is important for the two Governments to continue to co-operate closely, where appropriate, at relevant international fora, which may include but shall not be limited to the World Trade Organisation, the International Telecommunication Union, the Asia Pacific Telecommunity, the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation

forum, the World Intellectual Property Organisation, the Customs Co-operation Council, the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

(14) Bridging Digital Divide

The two Prime Ministers recognise the importance of bridging the digital divide not only within but also between countries. Therefore, the two Governments will explore the possibility of co-operating with each other in extending assistance to third countries, in particular, in the Asia region.

9. CHAPTER ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- (1) The two Prime Ministers share the view that science and technology are crucial and indispensable for the economies of their two countries in the 21st century, and welcome the expansion of co-operation between the two countries in the field of science and technology in the spirit of the JSEPA.
- (2) The two Prime Ministers welcome the development of co-operation in the field of life sciences, which both Prime Ministers recognise would contribute substantially to the economies of their two countries. Such co-operation includes the following:
 - (a) the Biomedical Symposium in Singapore in March 2001 and the Bio-science Symposium in Tokyo in October 2001 which had the participation of relevant institutes, universities and Government agencies of Japan and Singapore; and
 - (b) the co-operation between the Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology ("IMCB") in Singapore and the Institute of Medical Science, University of Tokyo ("IMSUT") to promote the development of research and other academic activities.
- (3) The two Prime Ministers are also pleased with the development of co-operation in the field of biomaterials. They welcome the efforts to establish an institutes exchange arrangement between the Centre for Biomaterials Applications and Technology of the National University of Singapore ("BIOMAT-NUS") and the Biomaterials Centre of the National Institute for Materials Science ("BMC-NIMS") in Japan.
- (4) With the framework established under the JSEPA, the two Prime Ministers are confident that these will herald other collaborative projects which will contribute substantially to the development of science and technology of the two countries and hence enhance their competitiveness.

10. CHAPTER ON HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

(1) Extension of the JSPP21

- (a) The two Prime Ministers reaffirm the importance of the Japan-Singapore Partnership Programme for the 21st Century (hereinafter referred to in this Joint Statement as "JSPP21") and renew their appreciation of the role JSPP21 has played not only in materialising meaningful third country co-operation, but also in levelling up bilateral relations in a more mature stage. JSPP21 has been a driving force for the two Governments in jointly extending technical assistance to developing countries for their economic and social development. JSPP21 is unique in its basic principle of equal partnership between the two countries. They note with appreciation that through JSPP21, the two Governments had successfully extended technical co-operation to East Timor and a number of countries, including ASEAN and African countries.
- (b) In this regard, they welcome the extension of JSPP21. They particularly appreciate that co-operation on a "Senior Volunteer Program" was added to the scope of the revised JSPP21. Recognising the importance of tackling ageing issues, the two Prime Ministers express their hope that Singapore would establish a similar senior volunteer program. This would allow the two Governments to consider the possibility of jointly dispatching senior volunteers to third countries in the near future.
- (c) They also note the JSPP21's role in providing training for third countries for developing ICT with a view to bridging the digital divide. Recognising that the JSPP21 had already played a significant role in this area, they hope that ICT-related training will remain as an important area for future co-operation.

(2) Joint Third Country Programme with Private Sector

- (a) The Prime Ministers welcome the continuing bilateral co-operation in promoting technology transfer to and human resource development in the private sectors of ASEAN countries, under the newly established Japan-Singapore Joint Training Programme (hereinafter referred to in this Joint Statement as "Joint Programme"). The Joint Programme will focus on courses in management of business, commerce and industrial technology, and cover practical business topics in these areas where there are private sector interests. The training courses will be conducted in Singapore, and organised by both Japanese and Singaporean associations.

- (b) The Prime Ministers encourage Japan-related and Singapore-related companies with business operations and ties in ASEAN countries to nominate trainees to the Joint Programme.

(3) Exchange of University Students

- (a) The two Prime Ministers share the view that exchanges of university students between Japan and Singapore are important and effective in acquiring the newest and highest knowledge in each other's academic field, and in promoting mutual understanding between the two countries.
- (b) The two Prime Ministers are pleased to recognise that exchanges of university students between the two countries have been steadily carried out and they welcome the conclusion of the following new Universities Exchange Agreements:
 - (i) Kyushu University – National University of Singapore
 - (ii) Keio University – National University of Singapore
 - (iii) Hiroshima University – Nanyang Technology University
- (c) The two Prime Ministers express their hope that existing University Exchange Agreements will continue to encourage exchanges of university students and that these exchange students will be assets and bridges for further strengthening the close and friendly relations between the two countries.

(4) Exchange of High School Students

- (a) The two Prime Ministers recognise that exchanges of high school students between the two countries contribute effectively to the enhancement of mutual understanding between the two countries.

In this connection, the two Prime Ministers are pleased to note that the existing junior high school student exchange programmes between Singapore and Hamamatsu City through the International Youth Association of Japan K.S.K.K. and between Singapore and Sapporo City have succeeded in promoting friendship and mutual understanding between the two countries.

- (b) The two Prime Ministers are also pleased to note that the Japan-ASEAN Exchange Programme for High School Students provides an opportunity for Singapore high school students to visit Japan. They believe that this would foster closer relations between the two countries.

(5) Internship

- (a) The two Prime Ministers share the view that it will be both useful and beneficial to give university students of both countries opportunities to have working experiences in the other country through internship programmes. They strongly believe that activities through internship programmes will greatly contribute to the enhancement not only of co-operative relations in the private sector of the two countries but also of mutual understanding between the peoples of the two countries.
- (b) In this regard, they express their hope that more university students will take advantage of the internship programmes established in accordance with their respective laws and regulations.
- (c) The two Prime Ministers decided, with the spirit of the JSEPA in mind, to further encourage the use of the internship programmes.

11. CHAPTER ON TRADE AND INVESTMENT PROMOTION

- (1) The two Prime Ministers, recognising the importance of promoting strategic alliances between private enterprises of the two countries in Singapore, Japan and Asia, welcome the Memorandum of Understanding, which was signed by the Japan External Trade Organisation (“JETRO”) and the Singapore Trade Development Board (“TDB”) on 26th October 2001 to enhance co-operation in trade and investment promotion. JETRO and TDB will co-operate to jointly organise the following activities:
 - (a) industry-specific missions and seminars, focusing on high growth sectors;
 - (b) business study missions to third countries; and
 - (c) linkage of on-line databases of Singapore and Japanese companies.
- (2) The two Prime Ministers welcome the initiative between the ECICS Credit Insurance Ltd. (“ECICS”) and the Nippon Export and Investment Insurance (“NEXI”) to enhance the trade and investment insurance co-operation between the two organisations as follows under the Memorandum dated 1st June 2001 issued by NEXI in addition to the existing re-insurance co-operation based on the Reinsurance Agreement of 1999:
 - (a) co-insurance co-operation for medium-to-long term export credit insurance for the export of goods and services;
 - (b) exchange of buyer information; and
 - (c) training for ECICS staff in credit and investment insurance.

12. CHAPTER ON SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

- (1) The two Prime Ministers recognise that small and medium-sized enterprises (hereinafter referred to in this Joint Statement as “SMEs”) function as engines of growth in a knowledge-based economy, and that they play an important role in their economies and, increasingly, in cross-border activities.
- (2) The two Prime Ministers welcome the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Singapore Productivity and Standards Board (“PSB”) and JETRO on 26th October 2001 to promote collaboration between SMEs in the two countries. In accordance with this Memorandum of Understanding, the operations and investments of Japanese SMEs in Singapore as well as those of Singapore SMEs in Japan will be facilitated through their close co-operation such as (a) promotion of business alliances, (b) development of one-stop information services and (c) establishment of the JETRO Business Support Centre in Singapore.

13. CHAPTER ON BROADCASTING

- (1) The two Prime Ministers recognise the potential of broadcasting as a means of promoting understanding between two countries. They also share the view that, with the rapid development of innovative broadcasting services, their Governments should endeavour to promote exchange of views and information between their regulatory authorities and to encourage co-operative efforts in the field of broadcasting.
- (2) To promote co-operative efforts in the field of broadcasting, the two Prime Ministers welcome business alliances and tie-ups between broadcasters in Japan and Singapore. They observe that broadcasters in their countries have already been engaging in active business ties.
- (3) The two Prime Ministers welcome the fact that the two Governments are to sign a Common Statement of Policy on Film, Television, and Video Co-production which is intended to introduce a better environment for joint production projects by independent Japanese and Singaporean production houses or broadcasters. This is to facilitate the growth of creative industries of the two countries as a means of promoting understanding of the two countries' cultures by each other and by the international community.

14. CHAPTER ON TOURISM (TWINNING OF STREETS)

- (1) The two Prime Ministers welcome the conclusion of a Memorandum of Understanding on the Twinning of Ginza and Orchard Road (collectively known as “Twinning Streets”) between Japan’s Ginza Street Association and Singapore’s Orchard Road Business Association, to further encourage tourism and business co-operation between Japan and Singapore.

- (2) The two Prime Ministers believe that the Memorandum of Understanding would:
- (a) promote the image of the Twinning Streets through the organising of activities of a business, cultural or artistic nature and which are representative of the Streets; and
 - (b) facilitate contacts and enhance friendship between the relevant associations and enterprises involved in the Twinning Streets, through business, cultural and technical exchanges, visits and study trips.

15. ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- (1) The two Prime Ministers decided to promote the awareness of and access to the use of the Alternative Dispute Resolution (hereinafter referred to in this Joint Statement as “ADR”) mechanisms of mediation and arbitration within the mainstream legal frameworks of both countries, through the collaborative efforts of the Japan Commercial Arbitration Association (“JCAA”), the Tokyo Maritime Arbitration Commission (“TOMAC”) of the Japan Shipping Exchange, Inc. (“JSE”) and other ADR organisations in Japan, and the Singapore Mediation Centre (“SMC”), the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (“SIAC”) and other ADR organisations in Singapore.
- (2) The two Prime Ministers welcome the three Memoranda of Understanding concluded between the JCAA and the SMC, the JSE and the SMC, and the JSE and the SIAC. The two Prime Ministers encourage these organisations to co-operate in the following areas in accordance with such Memoranda of Understanding:

As between the SMC and the JCAA and the JSE:

- (a) the provision of mediation services;
- (b) the provision of training in negotiation and mediation skills;
- (c) the provision of consultancy services for dispute avoidance, dispute management and ADR mechanisms; and
- (d) the provision of facilities for negotiation and mediation (subject to arrangements for reimbursement of fees and expenses) and assistance in selecting and appointing suitable mediators in appropriate cases.

As between the SIAC and the JSE:

- (a) the provision of arbitration services;
- (b) the provision of consultancy services in relation to arbitration; and

- (c) the provision of facilities for arbitration hearings (subject to arrangements for reimbursement of fees and expenses) and assistance in selecting and appointing suitable arbitrators in appropriate cases.

ISSUED at Singapore on 13th January, 2002 in the Japanese and English languages. In case of any divergence of understanding on the contents of this Joint Statement, both sides will refer to the English version.

For Singapore:

For Japan:

Mr Goh Chok Tong
Prime Minister
Singapore

Mr Junichiro Koizumi
Prime Minister
Japan