

Video Message by H.E. Mr. MOTEGI Toshimitsu,
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan,
for the 19th Japan-Singapore Symposium
(September 11, 2026 at Singapore)

I am MOTEGI Toshimitsu, Minister for Foreign Affairs.
I would like to extend my congratulations on Japan-Singapore Symposium this year, which marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries.

This symposium was launched in 1995, when the international community was exploring a new framework for a new era to replace the Cold War structure. It has now developed into a valuable intellectual foundation that discusses responses to challenges faced by the regional and international community, and supports the strengthening of cooperation between Japan and Singapore. I would like to express my deep gratitude to all those who have been involved in this symposium to date. Affected by shifts in the balance of power and the intensification of conflicts and confrontations, the world is once again facing major structural changes.

At this turning point in history, Singapore, which shares fundamental values and principles with Japan, and has jointly upheld and promoted a free and open international order based on the rule of law, is a very reassuring regional partner for Japan.

In March this year, on the occasion of Prime Minister Wong's visit to Japan, two countries upgraded their bilateral relationship to a "Strategic Partnership" and identified priority areas for cooperation such as "promotion of free trade and economic cooperation" and "digitalization and technology."

I intend to materialize cooperation and further advance the relationship between Japan and Singapore, together with my long-time friend, Foreign Minister Balakrishnan.

Singapore will serve as the ASEAN Chair next year. To ensure the entire Indo-Pacific region to "become stronger and more prosperous together," we will further advance Japan-ASEAN cooperation in partnership with Singapore, which will bear a heavy responsibility.

Today's symposium is a valuable opportunity for stakeholders from two countries to gather and engage in active discussions toward the further development of the "Strategic Partnership" between the two countries.

I sincerely hope that meaningful discussions will take place to further strengthen the multi-layered and multifaceted intellectual foundation of both countries, and with that, I conclude my remarks.