

**Closing Remarks by Mr. ONISHI Yohei,
Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs,
at the Japan-Singapore Symposium
September 11, 2026, Singapore**

Mr. Zhulkarnain Abdul Rahim, Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Home Affairs, Co-Chairs, Distinguished Guests, good afternoon. I am Yohei Onishi, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Japan.

On behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all those involved from both Japan and Singapore, including the Japan Institute of International Affairs and the Singapore Institute of International Affairs, who have worked tirelessly to organize the 19th Japan-Singapore Symposium.

I would like to make two points as we conclude this year's symposium.

Firstly, it is of great significance for our two countries, which share fundamental principles and values, to discuss various themes in a multi-layered and multi-faceted manner, especially amidst the accelerating changes in the security environment surrounding the international community.

In the "post-Cold War era," many countries enjoyed prosperity and stability thanks to international trends characterized by the expansion of a free and open international order, the advancement of globalization, and the deepening of interdependence among nations.

However, it is said that such an era, referred to as the "post-Cold War era," has come to an end. As the international community undergoes significant changes, what can Japan and Singapore, which share fundamental principles and values, do? At today's symposium, speakers from diverse backgrounds discussed this question across a wide range of fields.

In the current international situation, the importance of efforts to strategically coordinate with various countries is increasing even further. Japan and Singapore also elevated our bilateral relationship to a "Strategic Partnership" this year.

To build a strategic relationship, a multi-layered relationship of trust with partner countries is indispensable. Participating in today's symposium, I strongly felt that this symposium plays a significant role in fostering such trust between our two countries.

Secondly, given the current severe international situation, it is necessary for each country to acquire "autonomy" and "resilience" for the peace, stability, and prosperity of the region. Through these, becoming "more resilient and prosperous together" is the vision of the Updated "Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)" advocated by Japan. Japan and Singapore have great potential to cooperate for this purpose.

For example, since 1994, our two countries have been jointly providing technical cooperation to third countries, mainly ASEAN countries, through a program called JSPP21. Approximately 8,000 people have participated in the program to date. Last month, a training program on "Digital Economy: AI Tools, Governance, and Policy" was held in Japan.

Such cooperation, which is possible precisely because Japan and Singapore share fundamental principles and values, is being discussed and implemented in a multi-layered and multi-faceted manner. This symposium is one such example.

Moving forward, based on the multi-layered relationship of trust that our two countries have built so far, we aim to advance cooperation under the newly launched "Strategic Partnership" and strive for the entire Indo-Pacific region to become "more resilient and prosperous together."

I would like to once again express my gratitude for your lively and engaging discussions over the past two days. Thank you.