

For Immediate Release

ABU DHABI AND SINGAPORE TO EXPLORE POTENTIAL AREAS OF COOPERATION AT THE 12TH ABU DHABI-SINGAPORE JOINT FORUM

1. Minister-in-charge of Trade Relations S Iswaran will be in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE) from 13 to 14 November 2019. While in Abu Dhabi, Mr Iswaran will co-chair the 12th Abu Dhabi-Singapore Joint Forum (ADSJF) with Chairman of the Executive Affairs Authority (EAA) of Abu Dhabi H.E. Khaldoon Al Mubarak on 14 November 2019.
2. During the forum, Mr Iswaran will reaffirm the bilateral links between the UAE and Singapore, and highlight the wide-ranging business interests in the UAE especially in Abu Dhabi and Dubai, where Singapore companies have established themselves in the energy, water, urban solutions, and consumer sectors.
3. Mr Iswaran and H.E. Khaldoon are also expected to discuss ways to deepen bilateral engagement through connecting the Singapore and Abu Dhabi start-up ecosystem, furthering collaboration between Singapore's and Abu Dhabi's space industries, and developing partnerships on innovation with UAE's large enterprises, such as GlobalFoundries and Abu Dhabi National Oil Company.
4. Mr Iswaran said, "We have strengthened our bilateral ties with Abu Dhabi since the 1st ADSJF in 2007. As the global economy shifts towards innovation and digitalisation, we hope that our bilateral cooperation will similarly incorporate new areas of collaboration such as the digital economy. This will ensure continued relevance as both our economies adapt and move ahead in the global state-of-play."
5. During the visit, Mr Iswaran will also be meeting with UAE Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence Omar Bin Sultan Al Olama and Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council Sheikh Khalid Bin Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan.
6. The UAE is Singapore's largest trading partner and investment destination in the Middle East and North Africa region. Bilateral trade between the UAE and Singapore has increased since 2016, reaching S\$18.1 billion in 2018.

7. Mr Iswaran will be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Economic Development Board, Enterprise Singapore, Info-comm and Media Development Authority and Singapore Space and Technology Association.

Ministry of Trade and Industry
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