

For Immediate Release

**SINGAPORE AND THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES AGREE TO DEEPEN  
COLLABORATION IN DIGITAL ECONOMY, SPACE TECHNOLOGY, ENERGY  
AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**

1. Singapore and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) will deepen collaboration in areas of mutual interest such as the digital economy, artificial intelligence (AI), as well as the space technology and energy sectors. This was a key outcome of the 12<sup>th</sup> Abu Dhabi Singapore Joint Forum (ADSJF) co-chaired by Minister-in-charge of Trade Relations S Iswaran and Chairman of the Executive Affairs Authority of Abu Dhabi H.E. Khaldoon Al Mubarak, in Abu Dhabi on 14 November 2019.
2. During the Joint Forum, Mr Iswaran and Mr Khaldoon agreed to explore substantial collaboration in AI ethics and governance models, the application of 5G and opportunities in the space technologies. The Abu Dhabi National Oil Company also expressed its interest to partner Singapore in the area of innovation.
3. Mr Iswaran said, “Singapore looks forward to broadening and enhancing our bilateral relations with the UAE, especially in frontier sectors such as AI, digital economy and space. We also welcome the deepening of partnerships between our governments and companies in traditional areas of cooperation such as energy. I look forward to the positive outcomes from the new working groups which were formed at this year’s ADSJF.”
4. While in Abu Dhabi, Mr Iswaran also called on His Highness (HH) Sheikh Khalid Bin Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy National Security Advisor, Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Executive Committee and Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Executive Office. Mr Iswaran and HH Sheikh Khalid emphasised the mutual interest to deepen bilateral engagements between Abu Dhabi and Singapore, building upon the commonalities of an open market with strong trading capabilities.
5. Mr Iswaran also met the Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence Omar Bin Sultan Al Olama where they discussed collaboration initiatives in the ethics and governance framework of AI.
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 was 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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**Annex A: Photo and Caption**

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**Annex A: Photo and Caption**



Caption: Minister-in-charge of Trade Relations S Iswaran meets with His Highness (HH) Sheikh Khalid Bin Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy National Security Advisor, Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Executive Committee and Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Executive Office.