

SINGAPORE AND THE NETHERLANDS COMMEMORATE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

1. Minister-in-charge of Trade Relations Grace Fu met with the Netherlands' Minister of Economic Affairs Dirk Beljaarts on 19 May 2025, during his official visit to Singapore. During their bilateral meeting, both Ministers reaffirmed the strong and longstanding diplomatic ties between Singapore and the Netherlands, built over decades of close cooperation. They also discussed opportunities to deepen collaboration in innovation, exchanged views on national technology policies, and shared perspectives on the investment climates in both countries.
2. This year marks the 60th anniversary of the Singapore-Netherlands diplomatic relations. To commemorate this milestone, Minister Fu attended a Showcase Celebration event, where she delivered remarks alongside Minister Beljaarts. Organised by the Embassy of the Netherlands, the event highlighted successful collaborations between Dutch and Singapore companies in sectors such as engineering, technology, and industrial solutions. The event was attended by government officials, industry leaders and entrepreneurs from both countries.
3. Minister Fu said, "Our 60 years of diplomatic relations are underpinned by shared values and a commitment to open, rules-based trade. This is evident through the strong and growing presence of Dutch companies, across diverse industries. Singapore and the Netherlands have complementary strengths in many areas including maritime, agri-tech innovation, semiconductors, and other high-tech sectors. As respective gateways to ASEAN and the EU, I look forward to charting new paths with the Netherlands in emerging and future-oriented areas of mutual interests."
4. The Netherlands is Singapore's largest EU investor, with almost 2,000 Dutch companies locally registered. In turn, the Netherlands is Singapore's second largest investment destination in the EU with total stock of investments at over S\$80 billion.

Annex A: Joint Statement on Singapore-Netherlands Diplomatic Relations

MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
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Joint Statement on Singapore-Netherlands Diplomatic Relations

Joint Statement by Singapore Minister-in-charge of Trade Relations Grace Fu and the Netherlands Minister of Economic Affairs Dirk Beljaarts on Singapore-Netherlands diplomatic relations

This year, Singapore and the Netherlands mark sixty years of close and enduring diplomatic relations. Our joint history and deep friendship are most notably illustrated by the long-standing advisory role of Dr Albert Winsemius, who served as Chief Economic Advisor to the Singapore government for nearly 25 years from 1961. Since the establishment of diplomatic ties in 1965, our countries have forged a strong partnership built on mutual trust, robust trade and investment links, and a shared commitment to open and rules-based trade.

Our bilateral diplomatic ties are broad, dynamic, and forward-looking. Businesses from both countries collaborate across diverse sectors, including logistics, technology, agri-food, and advanced manufacturing. Today, the Netherlands is Singapore's largest EU investor, with over 2,000 Dutch companies locally registered. In turn, the Netherlands is Singapore's second largest investment destination in the EU with total stock of investments at over S\$80 billion.

Looking ahead, Singapore and the Netherlands are committed to strengthening cooperation in emerging and future-oriented areas. These include digitalisation, agri-tech innovation, and maritime collaboration. Notably, Singapore and the Netherlands are both recognised for our strengths in the semiconductors space. Both countries will be dedicating further efforts to connect technology and innovation ecosystems, catalyse public-private partnerships through joint initiatives, and launch further dialogue to deepen relations in the semiconductor and other high-tech sectors. Such partnerships reflect our shared ambition to stay at the forefront of global economic trends and technological advancements.

As like-minded and trusted partners, Singapore and the Netherlands are well-positioned to jointly address global challenges and create new opportunities for our businesses and people. We look forward to strengthening our partnership for the future, contributing to sustainable growth, economic resilience, and shared prosperity for our countries.