

Ambassador Haruhisa Takeuchi, Ambassador of Japan to Singapore,
Ms Olivia Lum, Executive Chairman and Group CEO of Hyflux Ltd,
Mr Ronnie Tay, CEO of the National Environment Agency
Ladies and gentlemen,

Good afternoon.

1 I am happy to be here today to witness the signing of the Waste-to-Energy Services Agreement between Hyflux Limited, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd, and the National Environment Agency (NEA) to build Singapore's 6th Waste-to-Energy Incineration Plant.

2 Singapore's approach to waste management is a reflection of how we have harnessed technology to turn our vulnerabilities into strengths. When we gained our Independence in 1965, as a young nation with limited land and a growing population, we knew that we could not deal with waste management in the same way other emerging cities did. Filling up part of our scarce land with waste was not a viable solution for us.

3 Therefore, in the 1970s, we started putting in place plans to incinerate our waste. Over the next few decades, we saw the completion of five incineration plants – Ulu Pandan Incineration Plant, Tuas Incineration Plant, Senoko Incineration Plant, Tuas South Incineration Plant, and the Keppel Seghers Tuas WTE Plant. This helped us to reduce the volume of waste disposed by 90 per cent.

4 From our initial intent of solving a major municipal problem of managing our waste, we harnessed technology to recover energy when we incinerate our waste through our Waste-to-Energy plants. Today, our four existing WTE plants contribute about 2 to 3 percent of the electricity generated in Singapore.

5 We could not have done this alone. This was only possible because we were able to tap on our close working relationship with the industry and its use of new technologies.

6 The consortium comprising Singapore's Hyflux and Japan's Mitsubishi Heavy Industries also reflects the long-standing cooperation between our two countries. In 1973, when Singapore was looking into building incineration plants, a study team from the Environment Ministry visited Japan to learn from the Japanese experience of operating incineration facilities. Today, we are in collaboration again, to develop Singapore's largest and most-efficient incineration plant.

7 It is commendable that Hyflux and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries have managed to seize the opportunities afforded by the green economy and in the process, develop innovative solutions to challenging issues such as our land and energy constraints. One

other example of such innovation is our development of the co-located Integrated Waste Management Facility (IWWMF) and Tuas Water reclamation Plant (TWRP). This co-location helps us reap the potential synergies of the water-energy-waste nexus and marks Singapore's first initiative to integrate used water and solid waste treatment processes to maximise both energy and resource recovery, while minimising land footprint.

8 Even as we look for innovative solutions to manage solid waste more efficiently, we also must look to longer-term, more sustainable solutions. In the Sustainable Singapore Blueprint, we have expressed our ambition to increase the national recycling rate from 60% to 70% by Year 2030. This will require all of us to commit to lifestyle changes, to reduce waste, increase reuse and recycling. The 3R philosophy must be part and parcel of daily living. This will go a long way to help to conserve resources and free up land that would otherwise have to be set aside for landfills.

9 I am glad that there is rising 'green consciousness' among businesses. We should capitalise on this. Businesses should not only introduce viable solutions but they should also embrace sustainability practices as part of their corporate social responsibility efforts.

10 With this, I look forward to further partnerships, such as that of Hyflux, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries and the NEA to help us realise our goal of a sustainable Singapore.

Thank you.

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