

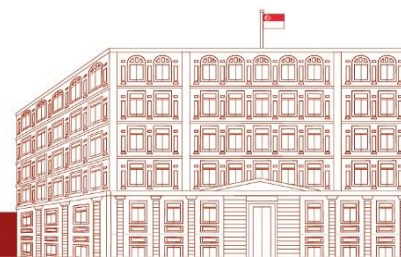
Opening remarks by Mrs Josephine Teo, Minister for Communications and Information, at the signing of the Artificial Intelligence Memorandum of Understanding between Singapore and Republic of Korea on 6 December 2022

Mr Lee Jong-ho, Minister of Science and ICT, Korea

Korean partners

Colleagues and friends

1. Ahnnyeong-ha-ship-ni-gga (안녕하십니까) and good afternoon. I am very happy to join you here today to witness this partnership, and to sign the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Republic of Korea and Singapore.
2. The Republic of Korea and Singapore share a strong partnership in the digital space. Just two weeks ago, our countries signed the Korea-Singapore Digital Partnership Agreement (KSDPA) in Singapore. The KSDPA will strengthen our digital trade architecture and deepen our digital connectivity, especially with our collaboration in new and emerging technologies, such as Artificial Intelligence (or AI).
3. AI holds immense potential to power innovations and is shaping the future of humanity across nearly every industry. Over the last two days, I had the opportunity to engage with leading Korean tech companies and government agencies. I have observed Korea's advancements in AI, the vibrant public-private partnership, and Korea's commitment towards the development and deployment of AI use cases. I would like to thank Minister Lee and colleagues from MSIT for inviting us and for arranging these meaningful visits.
4. Korea and Singapore's AI strategies share many similarities. For one, we take a practical approach to ensure that AI is deployed for the benefit of people. For example, Singapore has identified seven National AI Programmes to deliver strong social and economic impact, in sectors such as healthcare, education and finance. I understand that Korea has also identified a list of high impact AI convergence projects to pursue. Both countries also have a strong focus on AI governance, ensuring that the AI systems we use are trustworthy and human-centric. We hope to continue to deepen our collaboration in the AI and digital space.
5. The Korea-Singapore AI MOU will be a new milestone in our digital partnership, and will allow us to exchange AI technologies and experiences in promoting the responsible use of AI. For a start, we have identified three areas of collaboration.



6. First, to expand collaborative research and development opportunities by co-organizing joint AI research grant calls, starting with one in the sustainable building domain. The joint research grant calls will give Singaporean and Korean researchers the opportunity to work together, and bring our research ecosystems closer to one another.

7. Second, to explore alignment and compatibility of Singapore's and Korea's AI governance frameworks and policies. This facilitates deployment of trustworthy AI across both countries, and potentially reduces costs of implementation for companies. This collaboration also allows both countries to contribute to the development of international standards in AI.

8. Third, to share best practices in regulating and deploying healthcare AI solutions, and to explore the test-bedding of such solutions across both countries.

9. Collaborations are critical to drive innovation at the frontier of AI. We are glad to be able to work with Korea, a like-minded partner with strong research capabilities, industry-academia partnerships, and AI talent. Through our collaboration, we hope to demonstrate impact, by using AI to deliver solutions in areas such as more sustainable buildings and better healthcare.

10. I look forward to our growing partnership, as we work together to harness the potential of AI and bring its benefits to our people.

11. Thank you and Kamsa-hamnida (감사합니다).

