



FRANCE AND SINGAPORE DEEPEN BILATERAL TIES AND COOPERATION IN INNOVATION THROUGH THE FRANCE-SINGAPORE YEAR OF INNOVATION 2018

30 November, 2017 – SINGAPORE: In March 2017, then-French President François Hollande and Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong designated 2018 as the Year of Innovation. Both sides expressed their commitment to deepening the bilateral relationship through intensifying cooperation on innovation.

Innovation is at the heart of our strategic partnership and a key area of both countries' growth strategies and economic transformation. The France-Singapore Year of Innovation 2018 (YOI) will focus on priority sectors that are of relevance and interest to both France and Singapore. These include: (i) smart and sustainable cities; (ii) fintech; (iii) health, aging, and biotechnologies; (iv) aerospace, advanced manufacturing; (v) start-ups, emerging technologies; and (vi) education and lifelong learning. Other sectors of focus for deepening bilateral collaboration include: public policies fostering innovation, digital and info-communications and media, logistics, fashion, and luxury.

The two countries will also deepen the emerging Franco-Singaporean innovative ecosystem by fostering synergies between academia, researchers, businesses and entrepreneurs, through joint institutional and financial support to promote bilateral exchanges.

Mr S Iswaran, Singapore's Minister for Trade and Industry (Industry), said, "Singapore looks forward to enhancing the links between the innovation ecosystems of France and Singapore in the upcoming Year of Innovation. There is much scope for French and Singapore enterprises and start-ups to partner in technology development and seek out regional market opportunities. I am confident that through deeper collaboration, France and Singapore can advance our national strategies to strengthen innovation and transform our economies for the benefit of our citizens."

During his meeting with Minister S Iswaran in Paris on 6 November, Mr Jean-Yves Le Drian, French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs underscored the importance of reinforcing the strategic partnership between our two countries, notably in sectors that promote innovation. "The Joint Year of Innovation between Singapore and France, which will take place in 2018, will strengthen our scientific, technological and economic partnerships, and the collaboration between both our startup networks and our governmental sectors in charge of digital transformation" he said.

The key areas of focus for the YOI highlight the sectors that are propelled for growth in both countries. The YOI will see France and Singapore collaborate closely to strengthen their respective innovation ecosystems, invest in research and development initiatives, and provide their full support for entrepreneurship activities to ensure both countries are well-placed into the future.

The YOI will leverage key events hosted in Singapore and France throughout 2018 to showcase innovation and highlight bilateral initiatives to mutually reinforce each other's efforts to attain their innovation goals. Two of the key events which will be featured in Singapore and France are:

- **Global Young Scientists Summit:** The five-day Global Young Scientists Summit, organised by the National Research Foundation in Singapore, is the kick-off event of YOI 2018. In its sixth run in 2018, the summit provides the opportunity for young scientists aged 35 and below from all over the world, including France and Singapore, to interact with their research heroes. These include Nobel laureates and winners of other prestigious awards such as the Fields



Medal for mathematics, Millenium Technology Prize for ground-breaking innovations, and the Turing Award for the computing sector.

- **VivaTechnology:** VivaTechnology is the leading global innovation event in France. The three-day festival aims to convene 68,000 attendees, 6,000 start-ups and 500 speakers from innovative industries. Business networking sessions, seminars and other activities are expected to take place on the side-lines of the festival.

For more information on the France-Singapore Year of Innovation 2018, please visit [https://www.mti.gov.sg/MTIInsights/Pages/France-Singapore-Year-of-Innovation-\(YOI\)-2018.aspx](https://www.mti.gov.sg/MTIInsights/Pages/France-Singapore-Year-of-Innovation-(YOI)-2018.aspx) or <https://sg.ambafrance.org/-France-Singapore-YOI>.

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In the France-Singapore Year of Innovation 2018, France and Singapore will intensify exchanges and collaborations between relevant stakeholders in the domain of innovation. The line-up of events in Singapore and France during the course of the year will serve to encourage further reflection on how both countries could work together to mutually reinforce each other's efforts to attain their innovation goals.

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