

**SPEECH BY MINISTER FOR MANPOWER JOSEPHINE TEO AT THE BIG DATA AND TECHNOLOGY SUMMIT AT THE 2ND INTERNATIONAL SMART CHINA EXPO, CHONGQING, ON 26 AUGUST 2019**

Distinguished guests,  
ladies and gentlemen.

1. A very good morning and thank you very much for inviting Singapore to take part in the 2nd International Smart China Expo.
2. I wish to first congratulate Chongqing for hosting this significant platform for companies from around the world to exchange ideas and forge new partnerships. The inaugural International Smart China Expo last year was a huge success, and has encouraged even greater international participation in this year's Expo.
3. For instance, Singapore's Pavilion this year is twice the size of last year's. We have also brought a larger business delegation of more than 200 representatives.
4. One reason for our growing interest is due to our strong Singapore-China relations and multifaceted cooperation. A highlight of our partnership is the China – Singapore (Chongqing) Connectivity Initiative, or the CCI. It is the third and most recent Government to Government partnership project between Singapore and China. The CCI and the CCI-New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor, or CCI- ILSTC, will contribute to the Belt and Road Initiative and catalyse Western China's development.
5. In the spirit of advancing with times, the CCI and CCI-ILSTC cover both traditional physical links, as well as modern dimensions of connectivity such as finance, talent, technology and data. Last year at the opening ceremony of the 1st International Smart China Expo, Singapore's Emeritus Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong made a keynote address. He highlighted how a vibrant and dynamic Information and Communications Technology, or ICT, connectivity between Singapore and Chongqing will facilitate greater physical and digital trade between the two countries and our regions.

6. Through strong leadership guidance and support on both sides, much progress has been made on this front. Singapore and China are starting to leverage the link between China's National Single Window and Singapore's Networked Trade Platform to facilitate trade, starting with a pilot in Chongqing and along the CCI-ILSTC. When the link between our respective National Single Windows is fully deployed, trade data and information can flow seamlessly between both countries, reducing the need for hardcopy trade documentation. Traders will be able to reap time and costs savings. If successful, this model of trade facilitation can be extended and replicated with other countries.

7. Superior ICT infrastructure is important to support increased cross-border data flows. This afternoon, an MOU will be signed between Singapore and Chinese telecommunication companies to strengthen digital connectivity between Singapore and Chongqing. This will help Chongqing position itself as the Data Hub for China's Western Region, connecting with Singapore, the Data Hub of South East Asia. Enhanced digital connectivity, coupled with the CCI- ILSTC, will facilitate trade, generate new growth, create jobs and enable new businesses. I thank my colleagues from the Chongqing Municipality Government, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, as well as enterprises from both countries, who have all worked tirelessly to make this happen.

8. The global economy is undergoing a rapid digital transformation and the Service Economy, enabled by new business models, is on the rise. The service industry, in turn, will become more important as economies develop. In Singapore, the services sector accounts for more than seventy percent of our GDP. Last year, Singapore's Infocomm Media Development Authority, or IMDA, launched the Services and Digital Economy Technology Roadmap, which identified nine emerging technology trends such as the pervasive adoption of Artificial Intelligence, greater human-machine collaborations and the greater use of codeless development tools. These trends are far reaching and likely to reshape all of our future of economies over the next few years.

9. To remain competitive and future-proof, companies will need to embrace the concept of Services 4.0, which means delivering seamless services that are end-to-

end, frictionless, empathic and anticipatory. [提供端到端、无摩擦、能理解客户要求、预测客户需求的新一代服务] This will improve services to their customers, whether in the Business-to-Consumer, Business-to-Business or intra-Business space.

10. Services 4.0 is an exciting area where companies from different sectors with complementary strengths can create new value in. I would like to invite all of you to visit the Singapore Pavilion, and other countries' as well, as we explore opportunities to innovate and collaborate in this area.

11. Thank you and I wish the International Smart China Expo every success!