

OPENING REMARKS BY MR TEO CHEE HEAN, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR DEFENCE AT THE S RAJARATNAM SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES, THE RSIS DISTINGUISHED WORLD LEADERS LECTURE BY HIS EXCELLENCY DR YUKIO HATOYAMA, PRIME MINISTER OF JAPAN ON SUNDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2009, 3 PM AT FOUR SEASONS HOTEL

1. Your Excellency, Dr Yukio Hatoyama, Prime Minister of Japan, Ministers, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

2. It is our privilege to welcome His Excellency Dr Yukio Hatoyama on his first visit as Prime Minister of Japan to Singapore.

Prime Minister Hatoyama is here to attend the just-concluded APEC Economic Leaders Meeting.

We are honoured and delighted that Prime Minister Hatoyama has chosen Singapore to deliver his keynote speech on Japan's foreign policy towards Asia.

3. Ladies and Gentlemen, allow me to share a few words about our distinguished speaker today.

Prime Minister Hatoyama hails from one of the most prominent political families in Japan.

His grandfather, Ichiro Hatoyama, had served as Japan's Prime Minister from 1954 to 1956, while his father Ichiro Hatoyama served as Foreign Minister in the 1980s.

Prime Minister Hatoyama graduated from the University of Tokyo and received his Ph.D. in Operations Research from Stanford University before embarking on his first career as an Assistant Professor at Senshu University in 1981.

Prime Minister Hatoyama entered politics after winning his first election in Hokkaido with the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) in 1986.

He later left the LDP to form the Sakigake Party in 1993, and later the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) in 1996.

Well-known for his personal philosophy of *yuai* (fraternity), Prime Minister Hatoyama led the DPJ to a historic landslide victory at the Lower House Elections on 30 August 2009, winning 308 of the 480 seats in the House of Representatives.

Since taking office two months ago, Prime Minister Hatoyama has sought to implement many ambitious and bold initiatives.

As a close friend of Japan, Singapore wishes him success as he leads his country forward.

4. Singapore and Japan have longstanding and broad-based ties, and our good relations are underscored by the recent exchange of high-level visits.

There were the State Visits by Their Majesties The Emperor and Empress of Japan to Singapore in 2006 and by President S R Nathan to Japan in May this year.

In early October, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong was the first Asian leader to visit Japan after the DPJ government took office.

And now we have Prime Minister Hatoyama on his first visit to Singapore.

The opening of the Japan Creative Centre in Singapore yesterday will add yet another dimension to our relations.

5. Japan has played an active and constructive role in the Asian region for many years.

It has helped to promote regional stability and economic development, particularly in Southeast Asia.

Prime Minister Hatoyama recently spoke of his long-term vision of an East Asian community based on the principles of openness, transparency and inclusiveness, and this has drawn keen interest.

Prime Minister Hatoyama's speech today is no doubt eagerly awaited.

6. May I now invite Prime Minister Hatoyama to address us.
Prime Minister, please.