



Speech of the President of the Max Planck Society

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At the Openings of the Max Planck-Asia Center for Biocultural Worlding and the
Max Planck-Singapore Center for Data-driven Chemistry

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“Singapore is a shining nation that inspires the world”. I could not agree more with this quote by our Ambassador, Dr. Fanghänel. Dear Ambassador, thank you for joining us today!

When our Max Planck delegation visited Singapore two years ago, we were indeed inspired. We were assured that we should strengthen our collaboration – and we promised to be back. As you see, we kept our promise. We are back and today, we will inaugurate two Max Planck Centers here in Singapore. These centers are established together with our partner, NTU, and one of them also together with NUS and A*Star.

Dear Provost Wolfrum,

Thank you for hosting us today and for being our partner to connect global talent to advance science in a way that neither one of us could accomplish alone.

Dear Chairman Heng,

Thank you and the National Research Foundation for your unwavering support. I know that Singapore will invest 37 billion Dollars in research and innovation until the year 2030. This is truly impressive, many congratulations! As a global leader in both education and research, your country is really a very attractive partner to us.

Dear colleagues,

I am impressed by your scientific proposals and your dedication. Thank you for your efforts and your openness. The Center for Data-driven Chemistry will harness machine learning to accelerate chemical synthesis and its automation.



And the Center for Biocultural Worlding will examine the intricate interplay of – and threats to – biological and cultural diversity. I am looking forward to seeing your presentations!

Dear guests,

It is important to know that these two Centers are built on firm ground. Indeed, researchers from Max Planck and Singapore published over 800 papers together in just 5 years, between 2020 and 2024. This is impressive – yet it is only the beginning. We just approved a second Max Planck Partner group located in Singapore, so that now we have one group at each of the two universities. And I am sure we will achieve far more together in the future. Certainly, we are committed to fostering more successful collaborations.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Let me at the end emphasize that in these times of strong geopolitical challenges, reliable partners matter more than ever. To us, Singapore is such a partner. And we want to be such a partner.

Thank you, and all the best for the future!