

Speech by Guest of Honour
Mr Heng Swee Keat, Chairman of National Research Foundation at
The 3rd Quantum Industry Day, 23 April 2026

Ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

To all our guests from overseas and in particular to the Japan delegation, a very warm welcome to Singapore.

1 I am pleased to join you at this 3rd Quantum Industry Day (QID) as we gather to review progress, strengthen partnerships and chart the future of Singapore's quantum ecosystem.

2 Your presence here reflects the progress we have made, in advancing quantum technologies, and in building a collaborative ecosystem in Singapore. Quantum technologies are moving from the laboratory into real-world applications. These applications include the use of quantum computing and quantum communications in areas from drug discovery to logistics optimisation to secure communications.

3 Increasingly, advanced compute - across HPC, AI and quantum is emerging as a strategic capability for economies. Countries that can effectively harness this capability will be better positioned to drive innovation and build new growth sectors.

4 By bringing together researchers, technology developers and industry end-users in the quantum domain, the Quantum Industry Day seeks to **accelerate the translation** of quantum science into real-world impact, and to promote closer collaboration to pursue the next phase of quantum-enabled innovation.

Past Achievements of Quantum in Singapore

5 Singapore's journey in quantum technology began more than two decades ago, with early investments in fundamental research. A key milestone was the establishment of the **Centre for Quantum Technologies (CQT)** in 2007. Since then, we have steadily built a strong reputation in quantum science, placing Singapore among the leading global hubs in this field.

6 Today, our quantum research ecosystem is vibrant and internationally recognised with CQT now ranked sixth globally amongst quantum institutions, based on h-index. The depth of our capabilities in quantum communication, computing, and sensing is anchored by world-class talent and sustained investment in foundational science.

7 In recent years, we have also taken significant steps to translate research into national platforms and industry capabilities. The establishment of **the National Quantum Office (NQO)** in 2022 and the announcement of the **National Quantum Strategy (NQS)** in May 2024 marked major steps in coordinating Singapore's quantum strategy and strengthening partnerships both locally and internationally.

8 To support this transition, we have established National-level Quantum Programmes (NQPs), namely:

- a. National Quantum Computing Hub (NQCH);
- b. National Quantum Federated Foundry (NQFF);
- c. National Quantum-Safe Network (NQSN);
- d. National Quantum Processor Initiative (NQPI) and,
- e. National Quantum Sensor Programme (NQSP).

9 These programmes serve as single focal points for research translation, industry collaboration and capability building, ensuring that our RIE investments are coordinated and aligned with both advancement and real-world impact.

10 Beyond research, Singapore has also made good progress in industry ecosystem development. We have seen growing interest from companies (both quantum and others) to pilot proof-of-concept projects to test the feasibility of quantum technologies in real-world environments. One example is our strategic partnership with Quantinuum, whom NQO partnered with to organize this 2026 edition of this Quantum Industry Day. Earlier this year, Quantinuum established an R&D and Operations Centre in Singapore and will deploy a state-of-the-art quantum computing system here. This reflects growing confidence in Singapore as a trusted node for quantum innovation and deployment.

11 Our startup ecosystem has also flourished. The Centre for Quantum Technology has fostered spin-offs and startups in the areas of advanced instruments, Quantum Communications, Quantum Computing and Quantum Sensing. We are encouraged to see local startups reaching new milestones. Let me take this opportunity to congratulate Horizon Quantum on your successful public listing on the Nasdaq via a SPAC transaction, securing approximately US\$120 million. This is a strong signal of growing confidence in what you are doing, and in the potential of Singapore's quantum ecosystem on the global stage.

Future Plans for Quantum under RIE2030

12 Quantum technologies will continue to be a key strategic focus area, driving economic transformation by creating new opportunities, boosting productivity, and strengthening Singapore's competitive edge in the global digital economy.

13 Singapore's RIE2030 Quantum Thematic Plan will build on the strong momentum of the National Quantum Strategy, with a clear focus on: a) positioning Singapore to capture future quantum opportunities, and b) developing a strategic niche within the global quantum supply chain.

14 To achieve this, we will continue to invest in foundational research through the Centre for Quantum Technology, while strengthening specialised capabilities and international partnerships. Our National-level Quantum Programmes will play a key role in bridging research and deployment, to translate cutting edge research into real world applications.

15 Finally, we will strengthen talent development in our ecosystem and international partnerships. Quantum is a highly specialised field, and talent is a critical enabler. We will continue to attract top global researchers while nurturing local talent through initiatives like the **National Quantum Scholarship Scheme (NQSS)** and facilitating internship opportunities.

MoU between NQCH and University of Osaka QIQB

16 Today, I am pleased to witness the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Singapore's National Quantum Computing Hub and the Centre for Quantum Information and Quantum Biology at the University of Osaka (QIQB). This marks another milestone in Singapore's international collaboration with Japan following the signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) on Quantum Science, Technology, and Innovation in January this year.

17 Collaborations like this are essential, especially in a field as complex and fast evolving as quantum. By working together with leading institutions around the world, we can accelerate progress, share knowledge, and tackle challenges that no single entity can address alone.

18 I extend my congratulations to both teams on this important partnership, and I look forward to the impactful outcomes that will emerge from this collaboration.

Closing

19 Singapore has made good progress in the quantum domain because of researchers, technologists, industry partners and policymakers, in Singapore and in around the world, has been working effectively together.

20 We are still at an early stage of this journey. To make further progress, we must stay ambitious, stay open to working together, and stay focused on translating ideas into impact.

21 I trust that all of you will make full use of today's discussions - to explore new use cases, form new partnerships, and work together to shape the next phase of quantum development. Together, we can build a vibrant and globally connected quantum ecosystem here in Singapore.

22 I wish you all a fruitful and inspiring Quantum Industry Day. Thank you.