

S'pore-Nanjing panel holds first meeting

SINGAPORE and Nanjing wrapped up the inaugural meeting of the Special Projects Cooperation Panel yesterday, a platform to help Singapore firms deepen collaboration with the capital city of eastern Jiangsu province.

Touted as the first of its kind to promote bilateral government cooperation at the city level, the panel is co-chaired by Minister of State for Trade and Industry Teo Ser Luck and Nanjing Mayor Ji Jianye. Sino-Singapore projects like the Tianjin Eco-City and Guangzhou Knowledge City take place at central government level and provincial level respectively.

This new panel offers "an additional platform for our Singapore small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to know more about Nanjing and the collaboration opportunities it offers", said Mr Teo, deputy co-chairman of the Singapore-Jiangsu Cooperation Council. "The governments of both sides can engage in direct dialogue, lend our support, or help resolve issues that Singapore companies may face in their projects," he added in a statement released by IE Singapore yesterday.

At the meeting, the panel discussed eight areas of collaboration ranging from environment services and education to culture, tourism and health care.

Discussions also focused on the development of two large-scale projects. One is the second Youth Olympic Games, which will take place next year in Nanjing. The inaugural event in 2010 had been hosted by Singapore.

Another is the Singapore-Nanjing Eco High-Tech Island (SNEHTI), which aims to develop an eco-friendly environment for high-tech and innovative enterprises. This private sector-led project recently received a cash injection of US\$99 million (S\$123 million) from the SNEHTI joint venture firm, which is divided between the Nanjing government and a Singapore consortium.

The Singapore side is made up of property group Yanlord Land and Sembcorp Development.

At the meeting, the firm signed an agreement with the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry to help Singapore SMEs participate in the project.

Also at the meeting, the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy inked a pact with the Nanjing government to send Nanjing officials to attend some of the school's master's degree programmes and explore other training projects.

Mr Teo wrapped up a three-day mission to Shanghai and Nanjing yesterday.

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