

*Prime Minister  
Singapore*

29 June 2007

Mrs Yoko Miyazawa  
6-34-1 Jingumae  
Shibuya Ward  
Tokyo 150-0001

Dear Mrs Miyazawa,

I am deeply saddened to learn of your beloved husband's passing.

Mr Miyazawa had a long and distinguished career in the public service. As Prime Minister and subsequently Finance Minister of Japan, he provided vision and leadership for the country through its difficult economic transition.

Mr Miyazawa's contributions extended beyond Japan. During the Asian financial crisis a decade ago, Mr Miyazawa worked to stabilise the situation and restore confidence to the region. He initiated an aid package and a system of bilateral currency swaps between the Asian countries, which became known as the "Miyazawa Initiative". The countries are building upon this to deepen regional cooperation and strengthen the basis for Asia to prosper.

Mr Miyazawa also did much to forge closer ties between Singapore and Japan. As Finance Minister, his personal commitment and support helped launch negotiations for the Japan-Singapore Economic Partnership Agreement (JSEPA). This agreement has not only benefited our two countries, but also been a catalyst in deepening Japan's linkages with the rest of Asia.

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I have been privileged to know Mr Miyazawa over the last decade. Whenever I visited Japan, I made it a point to call on him. I always benefited from his views and insights on Japan and the region. Mr Miyazawa was a good friend of Singapore and we will miss him greatly. Please accept my heartfelt sympathies and condolences to you and your family.

Yours *sincerely*

*Lee Hsien Loong*

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