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Dear Mr Chew,

I look back with great pleasure on my recent visit to your beautiful country.

Trade, investment and innovation were key themes of our visit to Singapore and so we were honoured by the opportunity to hold an in-depth exchange with the Singapore Business Federation.

Both our countries face similar challenges, such as globalisation, growing competition from emerging markets, attracting enterprise and talent, and fostering entrepreneurship. What is more, Singapore and the Netherlands have similar ambitions: to be the preferred 'hub' for business, knowledge and talent in our respective regions.

Our meeting represented a new step forward in our long-standing economic relations. Once again, we were inspired by your methods and structures, your institutions and people. I am delighted that a number of concrete results were achieved and that there are promising prospects for new strategic partnerships.

Finally, let me take this opportunity to express, on behalf of everyone concerned, including the Minister of Economic Affairs and the members of the Innovation Platform, my gratitude for your hospitality and excellent organisation of our lunch meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Jan Peter Balkenende
Prime Minister of the Kingdom of the Netherlands