

## **Speech by His Excellency, Mr. Chris Sanders, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, at the Official Opening Ceremony of Océ's New Offices in Singapore**

Mr. Tan Choon Shian, Assistant Managing Director EDB,  
Mr. Rokus van Iperen, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Océ,

Ladies & Gentlemen,

I am delighted to say a few words on the occasion of the official opening of the new Océ office in Singapore.

Singapore and the Netherlands are witnessing strong growth in their longstanding relationship. Investments continue to increase mutually, also Singaporean investments in the Netherlands. The Netherlands is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest Foreign Direct Investor in Singapore

Trade continues to grow, the total volume for 2008 is now at more than 16 billion S\$, two thirds of which is export from Singapore to the Netherlands.

Notwithstanding the economic downturn, the Dutch presence in Singapore is still growing. Our community stands now at 3600. Our Dutch primary school doubled in size over the last 2 years.

The Dutch Chamber of Commerce, called DutchCham, was established in the spring of 2008. In their first year they made a successful start to link up the private sectors of our two countries. They have also developed a substantial link with the EDB recently.

Technology and innovation are the key elements of our business and cooperation. This is clearly demonstrated today by Océ, a long standing partner for Singapore at a high level of technological sophistication, including an outstanding R&D effort right here in the heart of Singapore.

As a representative of the Government of the Netherlands I can be proud what has been achieved by Océ in close cooperation with the EDB. For many years Océ has been a leading Dutch company and looking around this office and laboratory I can only say that this leadership is bound to continue.