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Sep 28, 2010

S'pore-Russian commission

It will open new doors for bilateral exchanges
By Jeremy Au Yong



SM Goh (left) and Russian Federation Deputy PM Sergey Sobyanin also spoke at the Russia-Singapore Business Forum at Marina Bay Sands yesterday. -- ST PHOTO: AZIZ HUSSIN

SINGAPORE and Russia cemented their growing friendship yesterday by agreeing to work together on a broad range of areas, from trade to the arts.

Both sides issued an eight-page joint statement outlining a myriad of ways to take the bilateral relationship further.

In the field of culture, for instance, both sides agreed to explore exchanges of artists, arts institutions and museums.

That could mean, in theory, paintings and exhibits from Russia's renowned State Hermitage Museum coming to Singapore, as items from the Asian Civilisations Museum here head the other way.

Similarly, there was talk of Singapore sharing its experience in implementing e-government with Russia, which undertook, among other things, to share its knowledge

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Similarly, there was talk of Singapore sharing its experience in implementing e-government with Russia, which undertook, among other things, to share its knowledge of nuclear power plants with Singapore.

The broad scope of cooperation - finalised during a two-hour meeting at the Istana - was a sign of the extensive achievement of an inter-governmental commission (IGC) that was officially launched yesterday.