

2017 JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT ON THE FIFTH REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP (RCEP) MINISTERIAL MEETING

Adopted in Pasay City, Philippines on 10 September 2017

1. The Ministers from the 16 RCEP Participating Countries (RPCs) attended the 5th RCEP Ministerial Meeting held on 10 September 2017 in Pasay City, Philippines. The Ministers noted the progress made since they last met at the 3rd RCEP Intersessional Ministerial Meeting on 21- 22 May 2017 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, including the holding of the 19th round of negotiations on 24- 28 July 2017 in Hyderabad, India. The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to further intensify efforts in a cooperative manner for the swift conclusion of the RCEP negotiations in line with the Leaders' mandate. To this end, the Ministers reiterated their statement from Ha Noi that political commitments are now urgently needed to be translated into action, with wider mandates where necessary, and agreed to make utmost effort to achieve significant outcomes of the RCEP by end of 2017 to bring negotiation closer to its successful conclusion.
2. The Ministers appreciated the advancing of market access and rules negotiations and reiterated the objective of the RCEP for a modern, comprehensive, high-quality and mutually beneficial economic partnership agreement. The Ministers reiterated that RPCs should continue improving market access offers through positive and constructive responses to requests. The Ministers also emphasised the need to strengthen trade-facilitating rules so as to contribute to the realisation of the immense potential of the RCEP. At the same time, the Ministers underscored that successful RCEP negotiations would require arriving at a landing zone that is mutually agreeable to and doable by all RPCs, while ensuring that any final agreement is consistent with the Guiding Principles and Objectives for Negotiating the RCEP.
3. Noting that the substantial conclusion of the RCEP had been identified as a priority deliverable for ASEAN's milestone year of its 50th anniversary, the Ministers also recognised the scale of the remaining work and called on all RPCs to focus both efforts and resources to maximise progress towards significant outcomes. To this end, the Ministers welcomed the RCEP Key Elements for Significant Outcomes by End of 2017 as agreed by the RCEP Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC), and instructed officials to focus all efforts to achieve these outcomes for reporting to Leaders in November 2017 that RCEP remains on track.
4. The Ministers also welcomed the establishment of the Working Group on Government Procurement and Sub-Working Group on Trade Remedies, which met for the first time at the 19th round.
5. The Ministers highlighted that the successful conclusion of the RCEP will lead to the creation of the world' largest trade bloc, covering nearly one third of the global economy in 2016, and underscored the immense potential for the RCEP to serve as an engine for global growth. The Ministers reiterated the commitment by RPCs to effective stakeholder engagement, so as to ensure that RCEP is inclusive and beneficial to all stakeholders.

LIST OF MINISTERS

- (a) **The Hon. Steven Ciobo MP**, Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment, Australia;
- (b) **H.E. Dato Paduka Lim Jock Hoi**, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam (representing **The Hon. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng**, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam);
- (c) **H.E. SOK Sopheak**, Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Commerce, Cambodia (representing **H.E. Pan Sorasak**, Minister of Commerce, Cambodia);
- (d) **H.E. Wang Shouwen**, Vice Minister of Commerce, People's Republic of China (representing **H.E. Zhong Shan**, Minister of Commerce, People's Republic of China);
- (e) **H.E. Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu**, Minister of Commerce and Industry, India;
- (f) **H.E. Enggartiasto Lukita**, Minister of Trade, Republic of Indonesia;
- (g) **H.E. Hiroshige Seko**, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan;
- (h) **H.E. Hyun Chong KIM**, Minister for Trade, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy, Republic of Korea;
- (i) **H.E. Mrs. Khemmani Pholsena**, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR;
- (j) **H.E. Datuk Seri J. Jayasiri**, Secretary General, Ministry of International Trade and Industry (representing **H.E. Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed**, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia);
- (k) **H.E. Kyaw Win**, Union Minister for Planning and Finance, Myanmar;
- (l) **Hon. Chester Borrows**, Member of Parliament, New Zealand (representing **Hon. Todd McClay**, Minister of Trade, New Zealand);
- (m) **H.E. Ramon M. Lopez**, Secretary of Trade and Industry, the Philippines;
- (n) **H.E. Lim Hng Kiang**, Minister for Trade and Industry (Trade), Singapore;
- (o) **H.E. Mrs. Apiradi Tantraporn**, Minister of Commerce, Thailand;
- (p) **H.E. Tran Quoc Khanh**, Vice Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam (representing **H.E. Tran Tuan Anh**, Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam); and
- (q) **H.E. Lim Hong Hin**, Deputy Secretary General of ASEAN for ASEAN Economic Community (representing **H.E. Le Luong Minh**, Secretary-General of ASEAN).