

## **MINISTER LIM HNG KIANG TO ATTEND 41<sup>st</sup> AEM AND RELATED MEETINGS IN BANGKOK, THAILAND, 13-16 AUGUST 2009**

Minister for Trade and Industry, Lim Hng Kiang, will be in Bangkok, Thailand to attend the 41<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Economic Ministers' (AEM) Meeting and Related Meetings from 13 to 16 August 2009.

At this meeting, the AEM will discuss the progress on regional economic integration initiatives, focusing on the work towards the ASEAN Economic Community by 2015. Following signing of the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA), the ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement (ACIA), and the Protocol for the 7<sup>th</sup> Package of Commitments under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services (AFAS-7) in February 2009, the AEM will discuss ways to ensure timely entry-into-force of the agreements and effective implementation of obligations.

As part of the outreach initiative towards the AEC, the Ministers will undertake dialogue with the private sector, with the ASEAN Business Advisory Council and the US-ASEAN Business Council. There will also be sectoral dialogue with the textile and fashion industry, in conjunction with the ASEAN Fashion Plus trade fair. Textiles are one of Priority Integration Sectors for ASEAN; the existing 12 priority sectors are: agro-based products, air travel, automotives, e-ASEAN, electronics, fisheries, healthcare, logistics, rubber, textiles, tourism, and wood-based products.

The ASEAN Economic Ministers will also meet economic ministers from China, India, Korea, Australia and New Zealand to discuss issues relating to ASEAN's progress on FTA negotiations and economic relations with Dialogue Partners. The Ministers are scheduled to sign the ASEAN-China FTA Investment Agreement at the sidelines of the meeting in Bangkok.

Minister Lim will be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

**MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY  
11 AUGUST 2009**