

**MINISTER LIM HNG KIANG LEADS SENIOR GOVT OFFICIALS TO
ATTEND 8TH CHINA-ASEAN EXPOSITION (CAEXPO) IN NANNING,
GUANGXI**

Singapore plays a vital role in growing China and ASEAN trade

Singapore will be participating in the 8th China-ASEAN Exposition (CAEXPO) which will be starting on 21 October 2011. Mr Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for Trade & Industry will be attending the opening ceremony in Nanning, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, together with Mr Teo Ser Luck, Minister of State for Trade and Industry as well as Mr Sam Tan Chin Siong, Senior Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Community Development, Youth and Sports. While in Nanning, they will also call on Guangxi Party Secretary Mr Guo Shengkun to reaffirm the growing economic ties between Guangxi and Singapore.

2 The CAEXPO seeks to promote economic cooperation between ASEAN and China through activities such as investment promotion and trade exhibition. Singapore companies can take the opportunity to network and explore potential tie-ups with their business partners in China and ASEAN. The 8th CAEXPO is of particular significance this year as it coincides with the 20th anniversary of the establishment of China-ASEAN Dialogue Relations, as well as the first anniversary of the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area (ACFTA) coming into force.

3 On Singapore's role in deepening the economic relations between China and ASEAN, Mr Lim said: "Singapore can play a key role between China and ASEAN. With a world-class business infrastructure, depth of human capital and connections, Singapore can be an effective platform for companies from both sides to engage with one another and to explore potential collaborations. As more Chinese enterprises internationalise, Singapore can also be the base from which they grow globally."

4 In 2010, Singapore contributed close to one quarter of trade volume between China and ASEAN, which surged 37.5 per cent to reach US\$292.8

billion. Singapore is the second largest ASEAN trading partner of China in the same year. China-ASEAN trade continues to grow in the first six months of 2011 amounting to US\$171.1 billion, a 25.4 per cent increase over same period in 2010.

5 Over the years, Singapore has also developed strong bilateral economic relationship with Guangxi. The total trade between Singapore and Guangxi in 2010 rose 28.6 per cent to US\$239.20 million from the previous year. On the investment front, Singapore has invested in a total of 178 projects amounting to US\$525 million as at first half of 2011.

6 The Singapore Business Federation (SBF) will be leading a group of Singapore companies from sectors such as food, healthcare, education and tourism to participate in the 8th CAEXPO. Companies providing urban solutions for sustainable development, currently a key priority of China's Central Government, will also be at the event to showcase their expertise.

7 While in Nanning, Minister of State Teo Ser Luck will also represent Singapore at the inaugural China-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Cooperation on 22 October 2011. The meeting will discuss areas for cooperation between ASEAN and China to promote trade while ensuring product quality and safety standards are conformed.

8 Minister Lim Hng Kiang, Minister of State Teo Ser Luck and Senior Parliamentary Secretary Sam Tan will be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Trade and Industry, International Enterprise Singapore, Economic Development Board, SPRING Singapore, Singapore Tourism Board and Consulate-General of the Republic of Singapore in Guangzhou.

Ministry of Trade and Industry
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