

**MINISTER FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY MR LIM HNG KIANG TO ATTEND
7th ASEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING
IN PHNOM PENH, KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
1 - 2 APRIL 2012**

Minister for Trade and Industry, Mr Lim Hng Kiang, will be in Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia from 1 to 2 Apr 2012 to attend the 7th ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Council Meeting. The meeting is being held in the run-up to the 20th ASEAN Summit.

2. Mr Lim will participate in the 7th AEC Council Meeting which will discuss initiatives to facilitate business operations in the region, and review the progress made towards the vision of transforming ASEAN into a single market by 2015. At the meeting, Ministers will also address measures to integrate ASEAN into the global economy, including reviewing the progress of the work undertaken by ASEAN on the Framework for Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) which aims to broaden and deepen ASEAN's engagements with its FTA Partners, with a view towards a wider regional FTA.

3. In addition, Mr Lim will attend the 11th ASEAN Economic Ministers – EU Trade Commissioner Consultations. The ASEAN Economic Ministers and the EU Trade Commissioner will discuss ways to enhance trade, investment, and facilitation measures between the two regions. As part of the outreach initiative towards the AEC, the Ministers will undertake dialogue with the ASEAN-EU Business Council in conjunction with the 2nd ASEAN-EU Business Summit.

4. Mr Lim will also meet the EU Trade Commissioner, Mr Karel De Gucht, on the sidelines to take stock of the on-going EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement negotiations.

5. Mr Lim will be accompanied by Permanent Secretary (Trade and Industry) Mrs Ow Foong Pheng and officials from the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

**MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
30 MAR 2012**